



# HELP US PROTECT YOUR CHILD

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### Teen Crash Statistics

- Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for American teenagers.
- In 2008, 9.5 percent of all fatality accidents in Georgia had young drivers (age 15-20). Twenty-four percent of the young drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking.
- In 2008, over 17 percent of all accidents involving serious injuries involved young drivers.
- In 2008, over 50 percent of young drivers (age 15-20) who died in passenger vehicle crashes were not wearing seat belts.
- In the last decade, over 68,000 teens have died in car crashes nationwide.
- Sixty-five percent of teen passenger deaths occur when another teenager is driving.
- Nearly half of the fatal crashes involving 16-year-old drivers were single vehicle crashes.

## Below are Several Georgia Laws that relate to Teen Driving

### Class CP License - 40-5-24

- Must be at least 15 years of age.
- Pass a written examination.
- Instructional permit valid for two years.
- While operating a motor vehicle, must be accompanied by a person at least 21 years of age who is a licensed class C driver and who is fit and capable of exercising control over the vehicle, and who is occupying a seat beside the driver.

### Class D Driver's License - 40-5-24

- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- Held a valid instructional permit for 1 year plus one day and passed a comprehensive road test.
- In the previous 12 consecutive months, driver has not been convicted of DUI, hit and run, leaving the scene of an accident, racing on highways or streets, using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer, reckless driving or convicted of any offense for which four or more points are assessable.

### Class D Restrictions - 40-5-24

- Drivers with a Class D License shall not drive a motor vehicle on the public roads between the hours of 12:00 am and 6:00 am. **No Exceptions.** Restrictions apply for Class D regardless of age.
- Any Class D license holder shall not drive a vehicle upon the public roads when more than three other passengers in the vehicle who are not members of the driver's immediate family are less than 21 years of age.
- During the first six months immediately following Class D license issuance, passengers shall be driver's immediate family only.
- During the second six-months any Class D license holder shall not drive upon the public roads when more than one other passenger in the vehicle is not a member of the driver's immediate family is less than 21 years of age.

## Joshua's Law

- Law took effect on January 1, 2007.
- To get a Class D driver's license at age sixteen (16) applicants must have completed a driver education course approved by the Department of Driver Services.
- A cumulative total of at least forty (40) hours of other supervised driving practice, including at least six (6) hours at night, with a parent or guardian's sworn verification that these requirements have been met, is ALWAYS required (REGADLESS OF AGE) for a Class D Driver's license.
- Major violations/convictions PREVENT UPGRADE from Class CP to Class D
  - DUI
  - Fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer
  - Racing
  - Reckless driving
  - Hit and run
  - Any violation with four (4) or more points

### Class CP or Class D can be SUSPENDED for One (1) Year or Until Age 18 for:

- Dropping out of school and remaining out for 10 consecutive days
- Having 10 or more (not consecutive) unexcused absences in any semester
- Threatening, striking or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel, including another student
- Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school property
- Possession of a weapon on school property
- Any sexual offense

### Major violations/convictions will result in SUSPENSION with Class D (Under 21)

- Hit and run or leaving scene of an accident
- Racing
- Fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer
- Use of false identification
- Purchase of alcoholic beverages
- DUI
- Accumulating four (4) or more points in a 12-month period (Under 18)
- Any moving violation with four (4) or more points
  - Unlawful passing of school bus (6 pts.)
  - Exceeding the speed limit by 24 mph or more (4 pts.)
  - Aggressive driving
  - Improper passing on a hill or curve (4 pts.)

## Driver's Licenses and Suspension from School – 40-5-22

- No person under the age of 18 can obtain a driver's license or instructional permit unless he or she is attending a public school, a private school or is enrolled in home schooling, authorized by law or has graduated from high school, has received a GED, has received a special diploma, has received a certificate of high school completion, or has terminated his or her secondary education and is enrolled in a postsecondary school or is pursuing a GED.
- If a student under 18 drops out of school and has remained out of school for 10 days, or has 10 or more days of unexcused absences in any semester or combination of two quarters, notice will be given by the school to DDS. The student's driver's license will then be suspended until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The license will not be suspended if the student has obtained and delivered to the school written permission from the student's parents or guardian authorizing the student to drop out of school.

### A Student's Driver's License will be Suspended for:

- Threatening, striking, or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel.
- Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school property or at a school sponsored event.
- Possession or use of a weapon on school property or at a school sponsored event.
- Any sexual offense prohibited under Chapter 6 of Title 16 of the Georgia Code.
- Causing substantial physical or visible bodily harm to or seriously disfiguring another person, including another student.
- The license holder may be reinstated after 90 days if the student has re-enrolled in school.

A student could obtain a temporary driving permit from DDS to drive to and from work if he or she demonstrated the necessity for such a permit, but such a permit would only be granted if the license is suspended for a school related infraction or dropping out of school.

## **Writing, Sending, or Reading Text Messages While Operating a Motor Vehicle Prohibited – 40-6-241.2**

- No person who is 18 years of age or older or who has a Class C license shall operate a motor vehicle on any public road while using a wireless telecommunications device to write, send, or read any text based communication, including but not limited to a text message, instant message, e-mail, or Internet data.
- Any conviction for a violation of the provisions of this Code section shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$150.00.

## **Operating a Motor Vehicle While using a Cell Phone (Wireless Communications) – 40-6-241.1**

- No person who has an instruction permit or a Class D license and is under 18 years of age shall operate a motor vehicle on any public road or highway of this state while engaging in a wireless communication using a wireless telecommunications device.
- This Code section shall not apply to a person who has an instruction permit or a Class D license and is under 18 years of age who engages in a wireless communication using a wireless telecommunications device to do any of the following:
  - Report a traffic accident, medical emergency, or serious road hazard;
  - Report a situation in which the person believes his or her personal safety is in jeopardy;
  - Report or avert the perpetration or potential perpetration of a criminal act against the driver or another person; or
  - Engage in a wireless communication while the motor vehicle is lawfully parked.
- Any conviction for a violation of the provisions of this Code section shall be punishable by a fine of \$150.00.