**Iowa Graduated Driver’s License Program**

**I. Instruction Permit**

An instruction permit is the first step on the road to a driver’s license.

**1. HOW DO I GET AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT?**

- Be at least 14 years old.

- Your parent or guardian must provide written consent (either in-person at a driver’s license site).

- Pass the written and vision test.

- Provide a primary form of identification proof of residency, and proof of Social Security number.

**2. WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS PERMIT?**

- Drive at any time with adult supervision. Adult supervision means your parent, guardian, custodian,

an immediate family member at least 21 years of age, a driver education instructor, or a person at

least 25 years with written permission from your parent, guardian, or custodian. The supervising

adult must possess a valid driver’s license.

**3. WHAT CAN’T I DO WITH THIS PERMIT?**

- Drive without adult supervision.

- Use a cell phone, smartphone, tablet, or other electronic communication or entertainment device

while driving. This doesn’t apply to equipment permanently installed in your vehicle.

- Carry more passengers than the number of seat belts in your vehicle, even when driving with adult

supervision.

**4. HOW DO I MOVE TO THE NEXT STEP : AN INTERMEDIATE LICENSE?**

- Be at least 16 years old.

- Complete an Iowa-approved driver education course.

- Must hold an instruction permit for a total of at least 12 months and maintain a clean driving record

for at least six consecutive months immediately before applying for an intermediate license.

- Your parent or guardian must provide written consent (either in-person at a driver’s license site).

- Compete 20 hours of supervised driving in addition to any driving you completed in driver’s

education. At least two of those hours must be between sunset and sunrise.

**5. WHAT IF I MESS UP?**

*Your permit may be suspended if you are convicted of a moving traffic violation (examples include,*

*but are not limited to, speeding, reckless driving, failure to obey a traffic signal), violate any of the*

*restrictions on your permit, or are involved in a crash you caused or contributed to.*

- **First Conviction, Violation, or Crash** : Your permit may be suspended or you may receive a safety

advisory letter

- **Second Conviction, Violation, or Crash** : Your permit will be suspended for 30 days.

*Any time you have a conviction, violation, or crash, or any time your license gets suspended or*

*revoked, your six-month period to have a clean driving record will start over.*

**II. Minor School License** (OPTIONAL)

Driving yourself to school is an adult responsibility that you need to take seriously to keep you and others safe and protect your privilege to drive.

**1. HOW DO I GET A MINOR SCHOOL LICENSE?**

- Be at least 14 ½ years old.

- Complete an Iowa-approved driver education course.

- Hold an instruction permit and a clean driving record for at least six consecutive months

immediately before applying for your minor school license.

- Live 1 mile or more from the school you are enrolled in, unless special need exists. If you

have more than one residence, where you live is the location you reside the majority of the time.

- You must have your school superintendent, principal, or school board chair AND your

parent or guardian sign the Affidavit for School License available at any driver’s license site (or online).

- You may be required to complete a drive test at the driver’s license site.

**2. WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS LICENSE?**

- This license allows you to drive without adult supervision between the hours of 5 am and

10 pm for the following :

- Drive from your home to your school(s) of enrollment or school-sponsored

activities using the most direct and accessible route. Activities must be at the

school(s) you are enrolled in.

- Drive to a school that is not your school of enrollment to participate in

extracurricular activities. Activities must be in a contiguous (bordering) school

district and must be held at a site, facility, or school designated for the activity

under a sharing agreement between schools or conducted at a site or facility that

the school district you are enrolled in has designated to accommodate extracurricular activities.

- Drive to and from your home to the closest school bus stop.

- Stop for fuel while on route or at the closest filling station off route.

- You may also drive at any time with adult supervision. Adult supervision means your

parent, guardian, custodian, an immediate family member at least 21 years of age, a driver

education instructor, or a person at least 25 years of age with written permission from your

parent, guardian, or custodian. The supervising adult must possess a valid driver’s license.

**3. WHAT CAN’T I DO WITH THIS LICENSE?**

- Use a cell phone, smartphone, tablet, or other electronic communication or entertainment device

while driving.

- Carry more than one minor passenger that is not a relative when driving without adult

supervision. A relative means someone that is your brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister,

or another minor living in your household.

- Drive to a school that is not your school of enrollment to participate in extracurricular

activities if the activities are not contiguous (bordering) school district and are not held at a

site, facility, or school designated for the activity under a sharing agreement between

schools or are not conducted at a site or facility that the school district you are enrolled in

has designated to accommodate extracurricular activities.

- Carry more passengers than the number of seat belts in your vehicle, even when driving

with adult supervision.

**4.** **HOW DO I MOVE TO THE NEXT STEP : AN INTERMEDIATE LICENSE?**

- Be at least 16 years old.

- Complete an Iowa-approved driver education course.

- Hold an instruction permit (or instruction permit and minor school license) for a total of at least 12

months.

- Maintain a clean driving record for at least six consecutive months immediately before applying for

an intermediate license.

- Your parent or guardian must provide written consent (either in-person at a driver’s license site).

- Compete 20 hours of supervised driving in addition to any driving you completed in driver’s

education. At least two of those hours must be between sunset and sunrise.

**5. WHAT IF I MESS UP?**

*Your license will be suspended if you are convicted of a traffic violation (including, but not limited to speeding, reckless driving, failure to obey a traffic signal), violate any of the*

*restrictions on your license, or are involved in a crash you caused or contributed to.*

- **FIRST OFFENSE** : Your license will be suspended for 30 days and you must pay a fee to

reinstate your minor school license.

- **SECOND OFFENSE** : Your license will be revoked for 30 days and you must pay a fee to

reinstate to an instruction permit for six months before you are eligible for a minor school license.

*Any time you have a violation, or any time your license gets suspended or revoked, your*

*six-month period to have a clean driving record will start over.*

**6.** **MAY A HOME-SCHOOLED & DUAL-ENROLLED STUDENT GET A MINOR SCHOOL LICENSE?**

- If the student has completed an Iowa-approved driver education course, the student is

eligible for a minor school license for the limited purpose of driving to the district academic

program or activity that takes place 1 mile or more from the student's home, unless school

transportation is an option. The minor school license is not valid for driving to home school

academics or activities.

**7.** **CAN A MINOR WHO HAS COMPLETED DRIVER EDUCATION IN ANOTHER STATE**

**GET AN IOWA MINOR SCHOOL LICENSE?**

- To obtain an Iowa minor school license, the student must provide an Iowa driver education

completion certificate from their Iowa school. If a student completed driver education in

another state, they can ask their Iowa school district if the course meets the same program

requirements as the Iowa school district’s course. If it does, the Iowa school may issue a

driver education completion certificate. This decision is made by the local school district

and is at their discretion.

**III. Intermediate License**

An intermediate license is an important step on the road to a full license. This license gives you more driving freedom and also more responsibility. Know how to keep you and others safe, and protect your privilege to drive.

**1. HOW DO I GET AN INTERMEDIATE LICENSE?**

- Be at least 16 years old.

- Complete an Iowa-approved driver education course.

- Have had an instruction permit for a total of one year and a clean driving record for at least

six consecutive months immediately before applying for your intermediate license.

- Your parent or guardian must provide written consent, either in-person at the driver’s

license site or complete the Parent’s/Guardian’s Written Consent Form.

**2. WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS LICENSE?**

- Drive without adult supervision between 5 am and 12:30 am.

- You may also drive at any time with adult supervision. Adult supervision means your

parent, guardian, custodian, an immediate family member at least 21 years of age, a driver

education instructor, or a person at least 25 years of age with written permission from your

parent, guardian, or custodian. The supervising adult must possess a valid driver’s license.

**3. WHAT CAN’T I DO WITH THIS LICENSE?**

- Drive without adult supervision between 12:30 am and 5 am. Your parent, guardian, or

custodian can complete a Waiver of Intermediate Driver’s License Hour Restriction Form

to waive this restriction for school or work purposes. Once completed, the form needs to be

carried in the vehicle when driving after hours.

- Use a cell phone, smartphone, tablet, or other electronic communication or entertainment

device while driving. This doesn’t apply to equipment permanently installed in your vehicle.

- If the back of your license says you have a passenger restriction, for the first six months you

have your intermediate license, you cannot carry more than one minor passenger that is not

a relative when driving without adult supervision. A relative means someone that is your

brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, or another minor living in your household.

- Carry more passengers than the number of seat belts in your vehicle, even when driving

with adult supervision.

**4. HOW DO I MOVE TO THE FINAL STEP : A FULL LICENSE?**

- Be at least 17 years old.

- Keep your intermediate license for at least 12 consecutive months immediately before

applying for a full license.

- Maintain a clean driving record for at least 12 consecutive months immediately before

applying for a full license.

- Complete 10 hours of supervised driving while holding your intermediate license. At least

two of those hours must be between sunset and sunrise.

*Once you turn 18 you can obtain a full license without meeting these requirements.*

**5. WHAT IF I MESS UP?**

- Your license will be suspended if you are convicted of a traffic violation (examples include,

but are not limited to, speeding, reckless driving, failure to obey a traffic signal), violate any

of the restrictions on your license, or are involved in a crash you caused or contributed to.

- **First Conviction, Violation, or Crash** **:** Your license may be suspended or you may

receive additional restrictions. Additional restrictions may include, but are not limited to,

additional passenger restrictions and additional reductions on the hours you may operate

without supervision.

- **Second Conviction, Violation, or Crash :** Your license will be suspended for 30 days.

- Any time you have a conviction, violation, or crash your 12-month period to have a clean

driving record will start over. Any time your license is suspended or revoked, your 12

month period to hold an intermediate license will start over.

**IV. Full License**

- Available at age 17.

- Must meet all conditions of intermediate license.

- Written approval of parent/guardian.

- Full driving privileges with no restrictions.

- For drivers under age 18 or 21, the license will have the words “under eighteen” or “under twenty-one”.