

# DDS

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF DRIVER SERVICES

# 2023-2024

# DRIVERS' MANUAL



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# DRIVERS MANUAL

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DRIVER SERVICES

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### DDS MISSION & CORE VALUES

#### Our Mission

To provide secure driver and identity credentials to our customers with excellence and respect.

#### Our Core Values:

- Trusted Service
- Accountable to All
- Ethical Actions
- Motivated to Excellence

#2023ReimaginingDriverServices

#### Title VI Policy Statement

The Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) is committed to compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all related nondiscrimination authorities. DDS assures that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity. DDS further assures that every effort will be made to ensure nondiscrimination in all programs and activities, whether or not those programs and activities are federally funded. In addition, DDS will take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services for persons with Limited English Proficiency. Finally, DDS agrees to abide by the Title VI Program Assurances and to ensure that written agreements with any party for federally funded programs or services will include the applicable Title VI language as provided in the Title VI Program Assurances.

The DDS Title VI Program Coordinator is responsible for oversight of the Title VI Program and ensuring compliance with the requirements provided in 49 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 21 and 49 C.F.R. Part 303. The Title VI Program Coordinator and all Division Directors are authorized to effectively implement the Title VI Program on behalf of the Department.

### DDS ONLINE SERVICES

Be certain to take advantage of DDS Online Services and avoid an unnecessary trip to a Customer Service Center.

DDS Online Services enable thousands of Georgia drivers to conduct many transactions via [dds.georgia.gov](https://dds.georgia.gov) and eliminate a visit to a DDS Customer Service Center (CSC). This saves customers valuable time and money. DDS does not charge an additional fee for choosing Online Services. A \$5.00 discount may apply for eligible license types that are renewed on the internet.

For more information visit the DDS website at:  
[dds.georgia.gov](https://dds.georgia.gov) and like DDS on Facebook!



The information contained in this manual is not intended to be an official legal reference to the Georgia traffic laws. It is intended only to explain, in everyday language, those laws, driving practices, and procedures that you will use most often. It should be noted that the material in this manual is subject to change to comply with amended State and Federal legislation. The department's primary statutory responsibilities are set forth in Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) This publication is produced by the DDS Governmental Affairs & Communications Division.

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



"I wish you safe passage and encourage you to exercise good judgment, follow driving laws, and prioritize safety for yourself, fellow motorists, and passengers."

**Brian P. Kemp**  
Governor



GEORGIA.GOV

## COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

"Operating a vehicle is a tremendous responsibility, and we want you to be fully prepared to meet the challenges! Please pay particular attention to the sections on Traffic Laws, Teen Driving Laws and Safety Guidelines. By obeying all traffic laws and never driving distracted, we can ensure that our roads are safer for drivers and passengers alike."



**Spencer R. Moore**  
Commissioner



**DDS 2 GO**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

### Board of Directors

**David W. Connell**  
Chair

**Jeff Markey**  
Vice Chair

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Secretary

Tony Guisasola-Member

Rachel Little-Member

Christie Moore-Member

Bob Pierce-Member

Sheriff Frank Reynolds-Member

Kat Satterfield-Member

The Department of Driver Services (DDS) Board of Directors would like to remind our customers that driving in Georgia is a privilege that carries many responsibilities. Please be a safe and dependable driver to ensure that this privilege will not be lost. This manual has two main purposes:

- (1) to help you qualify for a Georgia driver's license; and
- (2) to help you become a safer driver.

This guide is designed to provide you with the information to obtain and keep this type of license. Other manuals are available for commercial drivers and motorcycle operators.



## What to Do and Expect When Pulled Over by Police (Revised January 2021)

Police officers are responsible for conducting traffic stops when they have reasonable suspicion of a traffic violation or a criminal violation. Being stopped by an officer can be a stressful experience for the driver, any passengers, and for the officer, too. Knowing what to do during the stop will help ensure your safety and the safety of others.

When you see emergency lights behind you, it is important for you and your passengers to stay calm and cooperate.

Remember to:

- Activate your turn signal and pull off or to the side of the roadway as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Turn off the engine and any audio devices.
- Stay in your vehicle unless directed by the officer to exit.
- Turn on your interior lights if you are pulled over at night to assist with visibility. Officers may use a spotlight for additional visibility.
- Keep your hands on the steering wheel or in a visible location so they are easily observable.
- Follow all instructions the officer gives you or your passengers.

The officer may approach either side of the vehicle. When the officer approaches the vehicle, remember to:

- Lower the corresponding window so you and the officer can better communicate.
- Let the officer know if you have a weapon in the vehicle upon first contact.
- Wait for the officer's instructions before reaching for your driver's license or vehicle documents.

When conducting the stop, the officer will typically:

- Show their law enforcement credentials if they are not in uniform. If they do not show their credentials, you may ask to see them.
- Explain why you were stopped/ask questions about your trip.
- Ask for your driver's license, proof of insurance, and vehicle registration. If the documents are out of your reach, tell the officer where they are and wait for the officer's acknowledgement before reaching to retrieve the documents.

In some cases, the officer may:

- Ask you to exit the vehicle. In this case, keep your hands visible, exit the vehicle, and stand in a location as directed by the officer.
- Impose a sanction such as a warning, traffic ticket, which may include a fine, or arrest. The officer will typically explain whatever action is being taken. If they do not, you may ask them to do so.

If you have questions, respectfully ask the officer to clarify. If you disagree with the officer's decision or course of action, do not prolong the contact by arguing with the officer. Rather, you may seek to contest the decision in court through established legal channels. **Your acceptance and signature on a traffic ticket is not an admission of guilt.** However, the **refusal to sign a traffic ticket may result in your arrest.**

If you believe the officer acted inappropriately or have questions regarding their conduct you may request to speak to a supervisor. This is best done as soon as possible after the stop.

Following these procedures can help make a traffic stop a safe experience for all parties involved.

*This guidance was approved by the AAMVA Driver and Law Enforcement Standing Committees, by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.*



## GENERAL LICENSING INFORMATION

### This Section Covers

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### Requirement to obtain a Georgia Driver's License

Georgia law requires that any person wanting to operate a motor vehicle on the roadways of this state obtain a Georgia driver's license or permit within 30 days of becoming a resident. A person meeting at least one of the following criteria is considered a Georgia resident according to Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §40-5-1):

- A person who has a permanent home or abode in Georgia and, when absent, has the intent of returning;
- A person who accepts employment or engages in any trade or occupation in Georgia or who enters his/her children in school;
- Any person that has been in the state for 30 days or more.

### Not required to obtain a Georgia Driver's License/Permit

- Any employee of the United States government who is operating a motor vehicle owned by or leased to the United States government or that is being operated on official business. This exemption does not apply if the employee is required by the United States government or any agency of the United States Government to have a state driver's license;
- A nonresident who is at least 16 years of age and who has in his or her immediate possession a valid license issued to him or her in his or her home state or country. However, any restrictions that would apply to a Georgia driver's license as a matter of law would apply to any person who has an out-of-state license.
- A nonresident who is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States if he or she

has a valid license issued by his or her home state. This includes their spouse or dependent son or daughter who has a valid license issued by their home state;

- Any person who is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and who has in his or her immediate possession a valid license issued in a foreign country by the armed forces of the United States. However, this license will only be accepted for a period of not more than 45 days from the date of his or her return to the United States;
- Any person temporarily driving or operating a farm tractor or farm equipment on a highway for the purpose of conducting farm business;
- Any member of the reserve components of the armed forces of the United States who is operating a motor vehicle owned by or leased to the United States government. However, the motor vehicle must be operated in accordance with the duties of the person as a member of the reserve components of the armed forces;
- Any person seeking to obtain a driver's license while he or she is taking the driving examination to obtain a license. This person must be accompanied by a Responsible Adult with a valid driver's license and be at least 21 years of age or a certified driver examiner or agent of the department;
- Any migrant farm worker who works in this state less than 90 days in any calendar year and who possesses a valid driver's license issued by another state;
- Any resident who is 15 years of age or over while taking actual in-car training in a non-commercial training vehicle and while under the direct personal supervision of a DDS-licensed driving instructor. A driving instructor must test the eyesight of any unlicensed person who will be receiving actual in-car training prior to the training, and the person must meet the vision requirements listed on page 8 of this manual;
- Any person who is operating a personal transportation vehicle on any roadway publicly maintained for the use of personal transportation vehicles only, or when crossing a street or highway used by other types of motor vehicles at a location designated for such crossing by a motorized cart;
- A nonresident of Georgia who is attending a school in this state, as long as:
  - a. He or she is at least 16 years of age and has in his or her immediate possession a valid license issued to him or her in his or her home state or country and a valid international driving permit if the license is in a language other than English; provided, however, that any restrictions which would apply to a Georgia driver's license apply to the privileges given to this person; and
  - b. He or she is currently enrolled or was enrolled during the immediately preceding period of enrollment in a school in this state, has paid the tuition charged by the school to nonresidents of Georgia for the current or immediately preceding period of enrollment, and has in his or her possession

proof of payment of such tuition paid for the current or immediately preceding period of enrollment.

### Applicants under age 18 – automobile or motorcycle

In addition to the requirements listed above, applicants under 18 years of age must present proof of the following:

- All applicants under 18 years of age must have a parent, legal guardian or responsible adult present to sign the application and complete a Responsible Adult Affidavit;
- Completion of Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAAP);
- Satisfaction of school enrollment; see page 30 for requirements;
- For a Class D license or for a Class M Instructional Permit (MP) at age 16 or age 17 proof of completion of a DDS approved driver education program plus evidence of at least forty (40) hours of supervised driving, six of which must be at night. Additional details concerning these requirements can be found on page 26 of this manual or on our website at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

### Previous Licenses, Instructional Permits or Identification Cards

In most cases, when applying for renewal, replacement or transfer of any license, instructional permit, or identification card (ID Card) previously issued in Georgia or any other state or foreign jurisdiction, customers must surrender, the previously-issued license/permit/ID to DDS. In some cases, surrender of all valid licenses/permits/ID cards will be required.

Most non-citizen customers with a valid out of country driver's license, permit, or ID, may retain their out of country document upon issuance of a Georgia-equivalent document. U.S. citizens will not be allowed to retain any licenses, permits, or identification cards issued to them by foreign countries.

### Vision Requirements

Customers for initial issuance of a driver's license must demonstrate the ability to meet minimum vision requirements. The minimum acceptable vision for a non-commercial license is 20/60 in one eye, with or without corrective lenses, and a horizontal field of vision of at least 140 degrees. If you are unable to pass the vision screening administered at the DDS Customer Service Center, you will be given a Vision Report Form (DS-274) which must be completed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist and submitted to DDS. The completed form will be evaluated to determine if you are eligible to obtain a driver's license. This form may also be used to document the need for bioptic lenses for driving and is available on our website, [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

## SECTION 1: GENERAL LICENSING INFORMATION

If you must wear glasses or contacts to pass your initial vision screening, a corrective lenses restriction will be placed on your license when it is issued. Each time you complete a transaction, you will be required to indicate whether you require glasses or contacts for driving. If your answer differs from the response in our records, you may be required to complete another vision screening or submit a current DS-274 for verification.

Customers age 64 and over must successfully complete a vision screening every eight years. Customers who have obtained a license with a bioptic lenses restriction must provide updated medical information to the Department every two years.

### Classes of Licenses

The issuance of licenses and permits in Georgia is based on their categorization by Class. The various classes are associated with the types of vehicles that may be driven and the restrictions that apply to operation of those vehicles. Listed below are the non-commercial classes used in Georgia, along with a description of their purpose.

Pursuant to House Bill 136 (2017), three-wheel autocycles will not require a Class M Motorcycle Operator's License. Autocycles are defined as three-wheel motor vehicles that are

equipped with a steering wheel and not handlebars. DDS will not administer road tests that involve the use of an autocycle.

Georgia also issues Class A, B, and C commercial licenses. Information concerning these licenses is included in the Georgia Commercial Drivers Manual, available at all DDS Customer Service Centers and on our website at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

### Fees/Forms of Payment

The fees for obtaining non-commercial driver's licenses, permits, and ID cards in person are listed below. This fee schedule is not adjusted to reflect the \$5.00 discount for those who choose to renew online or via DDS 2 Go. All DDS Customer Service Centers accept cash, Visa and Mastercard credit and debit cards with a bank logo, and Discover and American Express credit cards and mobile pay options. **We do not accept checks, money orders, or cashier checks.**



License, permit and ID card holders are allowed one free name or address change per issuance term. Other changes can also be made

at the time of the free name or address change at no charge. Any subsequent modifications require a full renewal at regular cost. Name changes must be in accordance with the requirements listed on page 16.

A replacement driver's license, permit or ID card is a duplicate of the replaced document (no modifications or changes) and may be provided at a cost of \$5.00 per occurrence. The replacement license/permit/ID card will expire on the original expiration date. However, if a replacement is requested within 150 days of the original expiration date (or within 30 days of the original expiration date for a motorcycle instructional permit), the license/permit/ID must be renewed for a new term at full cost.

### License Restrictions

When issuing a driver's license, DDS is authorized to impose restrictions on your driver's license, whenever there is good cause, to assure the safe operation of a motor vehicle. Any restrictions imposed will appear on your driver's license. If no restrictions are imposed, the letter "A" will appear in the License Restrictions area on your license. The chart to the right lists the restriction codes used by DDS. Licenses may be issued with multiple restriction codes.

### NON-COMMERCIAL CLASSES

| Class          | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| C              | Non-commercial license for drivers age 18 and older. (Also for drivers new to Georgia who are age 17 and who hold a valid Class C equivalent from another state.)                               |
| D              | Provisional license issued to drivers ages 16 and 17.                                                                                                                                           |
| M              | License for motorcycle operators.                                                                                                                                                               |
| E, F           | Non-commercial license for drivers who operate commercial motor vehicles and who are exempt from commercial licensing requirements. (Class E & F licenses are free for volunteer firefighters.) |
| CP, MP, EP, FP | All instructional permits are issued with the class designation followed by the letter "P."                                                                                                     |

### LICENSE, PERMIT, AND IDENTIFICATION CARD FEES

| Type                                                                                      | Term                             | Fee                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver's License (Class A, B, C, E, F, and M)                                             | 8 yr                             | \$32               |
| Driver's License (Class E and F) for Volunteer Firefighters                               | 8 yr                             | No Fee             |
| Provisional License (Class D)                                                             | 5 yr                             | \$10               |
| Instructional Permit (Class A, B, C and M)                                                | 1 yr                             | \$10               |
| Replacement Duplicate License/Permit/ID Card*                                             | Original Expiration Date         | \$10               |
| National Guard License                                                                    | 8 yr                             | No Fee             |
| Veteran License (Combat Veteran)                                                          | 8 yr                             | No Fee             |
| Veteran License (Non-Combat) Class A, B, C and M                                          | 8 yr                             | \$32               |
| Honorary License                                                                          | 8 yr                             | No Fee             |
| Controlled Substance Permit                                                               | Up to 3 yr                       | \$25               |
| Habitual Violator Probationary License                                                    | Up to 3 yr                       | \$210              |
| Limited Permit                                                                            | Up to 1 yr                       | \$32               |
| Georgia ID Card                                                                           | 8 yr                             | \$32               |
| Georgia ID Card for Voting Purposes Only (must provide proof of valid voter registration) | 8 yr                             | No Fee             |
| HVPL/Limited Permit Replacement                                                           | Original Term                    | \$20               |
| Limited Permit Renewal                                                                    | Equal to Original Term of Permit | \$10               |
| Veteran ID Card (Combat Veteran)                                                          | 8 yr                             | No Fee             |
| Veteran ID Card (Non-Combat Veteran)                                                      | 8 yr                             | No Fee             |
| Handicap ID Card                                                                          | 8 yr                             | \$5                |
| Address or Name Change                                                                    | Original Expiration Date         | Free Once per Term |

\*If a replacement license/permit/ID card is requested within 150 days of the original date, the license/permit/ID card must be renewed for a new term at full cost.

## Expired License

To renew a driver's license that has been expired more than two years, you must pass a vision test, a driving test, and an exam to test your knowledge of road signs and road rules. You must also meet Real ID documentation requirements if you have not already done so. See the information below for more information about Real ID requirements.

## Carrying and Displaying Your License

You must have an appropriate driver's license or permit in your possession while operating a motor vehicle in the State of Georgia. If stopped while driving, you must display your driver's license/permit to any law enforcement officer upon his or her request.

### DDS License Restriction Codes

|   |                                     |   |                                              |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------|
| A | no restrictions                     | S | power brakes or steering required            |
| B | corrective lenses required          | T | accompanied by disabled parent               |
| C | vehicle mechanical aids required    | U | accompanied by visually impaired parent      |
| D | prosthetic aids required            | V | medical variance                             |
| E | no manual transmission equipped CMV | W | valid farm waiver required                   |
| F | right exterior mirror required      | X | no cargo in CMV tank vehicle                 |
| G | daylight hours only                 | Y | hearing aid required                         |
| H | employer vehicle only               | Z | no full air brake                            |
| I | left exterior mirror required       | 1 | bioptic lenses required                      |
| J | automatic transmission required     | 2 | Pursuant to Court Order                      |
| K | intrastate commerce only            | 3 | Ignition Interlock Device restrictions apply |
| L | no air brake equipped CMV           | 4 | HPVL restrictions apply, no interlock        |
| M | no class A passenger buses          | 5 | business purpose only                        |
| N | no class A or B passenger buses     | 6 | to and from medical only                     |
| O | no tractor trailer CMV              | 7 | to and from school only                      |
| P | no passengers in CMV bus            | 8 | Ignition Interlock required                  |
| Q | no passengers allowed               | 9 | limited permit, no interlock                 |
| R | no highway/intersate                |   |                                              |

## Real ID Documentation Requirements

The following are examples of acceptable documents to bring with you to be issued a Real ID.

- Identity Document - An original or certified document to prove WHO YOU ARE such as an original or certified Birth Certificate, US Passport, Certificate of Naturalization, I-551, etc.
- You must know your full Social Security Number. It will be verified with the Social Security Office electronically.
- Two Documents showing Georgia residence (e.g. utility bill, phone bill); Must be dated within the last six (6) months.
- Name Change - If your name is currently different than the "identity document" presented (such as birth certificate, passport, etc), you must provide a certified copy with seal; legal name change document (e.g. marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc.). NOTE: A Document is required even if your name is correct on current license/id.
- Minor's may present passport; however, proof of guardianship requires original/certified birth certificate or certified court ordered documents.
- Original immigration documentation must be submitted each time service is requested pertaining to a driver's license or identification card.
- Gender change - A gender update requires applicants to submit a court order or physician's letter certifying gender change. The letter or court order shall state the person's name, date of birth, date of gender reassignment operation and other identifying information.

Once you are issued a Real ID with a star in the upper right corner, you should be eligible to conduct future transactions without visiting a center. Download the DDS mobile app, DDS 2 GO, for free to have a licensing office in your pocket!

**Important Notice:** Beginning May 7, 2025, you will need a Real ID compliant card (with a star in the right corner) to fly within the U.S. or enter federal buildings or any nuclear power plant [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).

If you would like to review and/or print a list of acceptable documents, please visit the DDS website at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).



# SECTION 2

## OBTAINING A LICENSE, PERMIT OR IDENTIFICATION CARD

### This Section Covers

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| Motorcycle Operator's License .....                                           | 10        |
| <b>Licenses for Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their Spouses .....</b> | <b>10</b> |
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## CURRENT GEORGIA RESIDENTS

### Class C Instructional Permit (CP)

**For first-time issuance of a Class C Instructional Permit (CP), you must meet all requirements to obtain a Secure DL/ID if you have not already done so. See page 6 for complete requirements.**

#### Obtaining a Class C Instructional Permit (CP)

Upon reaching age 15, or anytime thereafter, you may apply for a Class C Instructional Permit (CP). The following information will help you prepare for your visit to a DDS Customer Service Center:

- You will be required to present documents verifying your identity, U.S. citizenship or lawful presence, and Georgia residency as explained on page 6.
- You must know your Social Security Number or provide proof of your ineligibility to obtain a Social Security Number. See the DDS website at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov) for more information.
- If you are under age 18, you will be required to present proof of school enrollment; see page 26 for requirements;
- If you are under age 18, a parent, legal guardian or responsible adult will have to sign the application, thereby giving their consent for you to obtain a permit. The individual who signs your application may, for any reason, revoke your permit until you reach the age of 18;
- You will be required to pass a vision test. Your eyes will be tested by means of a mechanical device;
- You will be required to pass a knowledge exam related to Road Signs and Road Rules.

Please refer to page 12 for more information related to the knowledge exam;

- The test fee is \$10.00 and must be paid prior to testing. If any part of the test is failed, no refund will be issued. The permit fee must be paid prior to every testing attempt.

#### Conditions of a Class C Instructional Permit (CP)

- Once issued a Class C Instructional Permit (CP), you may operate any Class C vehicle when accompanied by a person at least 21 years of age who is licensed to drive a Class C vehicle, who is fit and capable of exercising control over the vehicle, and who is occupying a seat beside the driver;
- Class C Instructional Permits (CP) are valid for up to 2 years.

### Class D Provisional License

**For first-time issuance of a Class D License, you must meet all requirements to obtain a Secure DL/ID if you have not already done so. See pages 10-11 for complete requirements.**

#### Obtaining a Class D Provisional License

Upon reaching the age of 16, and after having held a valid instructional permit for one year and one day, you may apply for your Class D license.

-The following information will help you prepare for your visit to a DDS Customer Service Center.

You will need to make a road test appointment (see page 12);

- You must surrender your Class C Instructional Permit (CP) or affirm on your application that you are unable to surrender the permit. See page 15 for details concerning lost licenses and permits;
- You will be required to present proof of school enrollment; see page 26 for requirements;
- You must present proof of completion of the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP). This program is taught in most schools, and is also available online. For information about ADAP, you may visit [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov);
- A parent, legal guardian or responsible adult will have to sign the application, thereby giving their consent for you to obtain a license. The individual who signs your application may, for any reason, revoke your license until you reach the age of 18;
- You must pass a road test designed to evaluate your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. See pages 12-13 for more information related to the Road Test;
- You must satisfy the driver education requirements listed under Driver Education Requirements. (NOTE: Teens with parents active in the U.S. Military can use an out of state driver's education certificate provided that it is within 9 months of their 16th birthday.)

\*A 17-year-old will be exempt from holding their learners permit for one year and one day with proof that they are enlisted in the military. They will be issued a Class C license at issuance.

#### Driver Education Requirements

To obtain a Class D license at the age of 16 or 17 you must complete both a driver education course approved by DDS and the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP).

An approved driver education course consists of:

- either 30 hours of classroom instruction OR completion of an equivalent online virtual course; AND
- 6 hours of on-the-road experience with a certified instructor OR completion of the DDS *Parent Teen Driving Guide* available Online or at any CSC. You must also have completed a cumulative total of at least 40 hours of other driving experience, including at least 6 hours at night. A DDS provided affidavit must be signed at the time of road testing to certify that this requirement has been met.

NOTE: If the teen obtains the on-the-road component of driver's education from a certified instructor, a separate document affirming that this requirement has been met must be completed at the time of the road test.

• If you have not completed the driver education requirements, you cannot obtain a Class D license. For information on approved driver education courses, see the DDS website, [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

• The Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP) is taught in most schools and is also available online via [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

#### Conditions of a Class D Provisional License

- A Class D license holder may not drive between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. NO EXCEPTIONS;
- During the first six months following issuance, only immediate family members may ride in the vehicle. 'Immediate family member' includes the driver's parents and step-parents, grandparents, siblings and step-siblings, children, and any other person who resides at the driver's residence;
- During the second six months following issuance, only one passenger under 21 years of age who is not a member of the driver's immediate family may ride in the vehicle;
- After the first and second six-month periods, only three passengers under 21 years of age who are not members of the driver's immediate family may ride in the vehicle;
- A Class D license holder must, for the 12 months preceding application for their Class C license, be free from any convictions for major traffic violations that result in the mandatory suspension of a driver's license.

## Class C License

For first-time issuance of a Class C License, you must meet all requirements to obtain a Real DL/ID if you have not already done so. See page 6 for requirements.

### Obtaining a Class C License – Exchanging a Class D license

A Class D license holder may apply for a Class C license upon reaching the age of 18. The applicant must have held a valid Class D license until the age of 18, or for one year and one day, without having been convicted of any major traffic violations in the 12 months preceding his/her application. Upon surrender of the Class D license or affirmation on the application that the customer is unable to surrender the license, the applicant will be issued a Class C license at the cost of \$32 for an 8 year license. No other documentation or testing is required for U.S. citizens. See pages 19-20 for details concerning lost licenses and permits.

### Obtaining a Class C License – Exchanging a Class C Instructional Permit (CP)

A Class C Instructional Permit (CP) holder may apply for a Class C license only if he or she has reached the age of 18.

## NEED A PEACH PASS?

Register for one today at  
[www.peachpass.com](http://www.peachpass.com)



To obtain a Class C license, you must surrender your previously issued Class C Instructional Permit (CP) or affirm on your application that you are unable to surrender the permit. You must also pass a road test designed to evaluate your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. See pages 1-16 for more information related to the road test. Upon surrender of the Class C Instructional Permit (CP) or affirmation on the application that you are unable to surrender the permit, you will be issued a Class C license at the cost of \$32 for a 8 year license. You must sign an affidavit verifying that you have completed 40 hours of supervised road driving which includes 6 hours of night driving. See pages 15-16 for details concerning lost licenses and permits.

### Obtaining a Class C License – Applicant Is Not Currently Licensed

If you are at least 18 years of age and would

like to apply for a driver's license in Georgia for the first time, you have two options:

- Immediately apply for a Class C Driver's License. You must meet all documentation requirements listed on page 6, and successfully complete the knowledge and road test examinations (see pages 12-13). You must also sign an affidavit affirming that you have completed 40 hours of supervised road driving which includes 6 hours of night driving;
- Apply for a Class C Instructional Permit (CP), which allows you to obtain practical driving experience under the supervision of a licensed driver. If you would like more information related to a Class C Instructional Permit (CP) Knowledge test, please see page 12.



## SECTION 2: OBTAINING A LICENSE, PERMIT OR IDENTIFICATION CARD

### State ID Card

**For first-time issuance of a State ID Card, you must meet all requirements to obtain a Real ID DL/ID if you have not already done so. See page 6 for requirements.**

A State of Georgia ID Card may be obtained at any DDS Customer Service Center. The cost of this card varies depending on the type of card obtained.

- An 8-year ID card is \$32;
- All previous ID cards must be surrendered;
- If you no longer have possession of your previous driver's license/ID card/permit to surrender, you must provide a certified copy of your Motor Vehicle Report (MVR), from the previous state.

Upon submission of a referral from a DDS-approved non-profit agency, the applicant will be permitted to obtain an ID card at a cost of \$5.00.

A special ID card for persons with permanent disabilities is available for a term of eight years at a cost of \$5.00. A card for persons with temporary disabilities is also available for a term of six (6) months at a cost of \$5.00. This card serves as proof of the need for special transportation services, seating accommodations, and other facilities for the handicapped. Verification from a licensed physician may be required to obtain a permanent Handicap ID, and is always required to obtain or extend a temporary Handicap ID. The fee for this card is waived for those who meet the qualifications listed on this page for a veteran's driver's license.

Customers can also have the handicap symbol placed on any other type of license, permit, or identification card. Customers have the option to include certain medical information on the back of their card as well. This information is also available at our website, [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

A voter registration ID is also available at no cost for any individual who swears under oath that the ID is needed in order to vote in an election in Georgia.

All applicants for ID cards must provide proof of identity, proof of U.S. Citizenship or lawful presence, proof of Social Security Number or ineligibility for a Social Security Number, and proof of Georgia residency. See pages 10-11 for further information concerning these requirements.

### Other License Types

#### Commercial Driver's License

Detailed information concerning licensing requirements for Commercial Driver's Licenses can be found in the Commercial Drivers Manual as well as on the DDS website at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

#### Motorcycle Operator's License

Detailed information concerning licensing requirements for Motorcycle Operator's Licenses can be found in the Motorcycle Operators Manual as well as on the DDS website at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).



### Licenses for Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their Spouses

**Important:** Veterans must bring their DD214 to any DDS Customer Service Center to be issued a free Veteran's License. If they do not have a DD214, obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516) from the State Department of Veterans Service.

Applicants must meet the following requirements for eligibility of a veteran's license:

- All veterans who are GA citizens, actively served, and released with any discharge other than dishonorable, are eligible for a free Veterans License/ID Card.
- The veteran should present their original DD214 or a DS-516 issued by the State Department of Veterans Service to any DDS Customer Service Center along with any other documentation needed to prove identity, lawful presence, and residency for issuance of the license (see page 6).
- The State Department of Veterans Service will denote eligibility on the DS-516;
- Successfully pass a vision test for the initial issuance of a Class C veteran's license. To obtain any other class of license, you must successfully complete examinations for the class of license desired.

#### Honorary License – NO FEE

The spouse of a disabled, honorably separated veteran who does not have a driver's license, or the unmarried surviving spouse of a deceased honorably separated veteran, is entitled to the same license available to the veteran. An applicant for this type of license must meet the same requirements as those required for a veteran's license. For the unmarried surviving spouse, the death certificate along with the DD-214 must be submitted to the State Department of Veterans Service to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility.

### National Guard License

A free, distinctive, license may be issued to any member of the Georgia National Guard or active reserves in good standing who has had active duty.

A Certificate of Eligibility (DS-318) form must be obtained from the local National Guard Commanding Officer and presented to any DDS Customer Service Center. This license is renewable during the time of service in the National Guard or reserves until they are entitled to a Veteran's License. The form DS-318 must be presented to the DDS upon every renewal of a National Guard license.

### New Georgia Residents

#### General Information

You must apply for a Georgia driver's license or permit within 30 days of becoming a Georgia resident if you wish to drive upon the highways of this state. Please see page 4 for more information.

tion about requirements to obtain a license or permit and exemptions for certain individuals.

#### **New Georgia Resident Without a Valid License or Permit Issued by Another State**

Please see the appropriate chapter of this manual for obtaining a license or permit for the first time in Georgia.

- Under 18 – see Teen Licensing Requirements on pages 26;
- 18 or Older – See page 6.

#### **Transferring from Another State or District of Columbia**

##### **Under Age 18 with valid out of state license or permit**

If you hold a valid driver's license or instructional permit issued by any other state of the United States or by the District of Columbia, you will normally be eligible to obtain a comparable license or permit issued by Georgia. All Georgia requirements including school registration, driver education and ADAP are required before the out of state license can be transferred.

##### **18 or Older with a valid out of state license or permit**

- You must surrender a valid license issued by another state or territory of the United States or by

the District of Columbia (expired less than 2 years). If you are unable to surrender a valid driver's license, you must present a certified Motor Vehicle Report/Driving History from the state of issuance, dated within 30 days, showing your status as valid. Non-citizens are not required to surrender their foreign non-commercial license or permit;

- Be at least 18 years of age, or 17 years of age if surrendering a valid license equivalent to a Georgia Class C license with no time, route, purpose or passenger restrictions;
- You must know your full Social Security number which will be verified with the Social Security Administration.
- Provide proof of identity. For a complete list of acceptable documents, see page 6;
- Provide proof of citizenship or lawful presence in the United States (see page 6). All documents must be originals or certified copies. Faxed copies will not be accepted;
- Provide two documents to prove Georgia residency. For a complete list of acceptable documents, see page 6.
- Pass a vision test.

#### **Transferring a License/Permit/ID From Another Country or U.S. Territory**

- If you do not have the out of country license/permit/ID in your possession, you must pro-

vide a Motor Vehicle Report/Driving History (printed in English) dated within the last 30 days, from the country of license issuance;

- Most non-citizen customers with a valid out of country driver's license, permit, or ID may retain their out of country document upon issuance of a Georgia-equivalent document. U.S. citizens will not be allowed to retain any licenses, permits, or identification cards issued to them by foreign countries;
- Successfully complete the knowledge, road, and vision exams;
- Present mandatory documents to prove identity, citizenship or lawful presence, Social Security Number, and residency. See page 6 for the complete list;
- If under the age of 18, additional requirements will apply. Please see pages 8-9 for more details on teen licensing requirements;
- Licenses, permits and IDs issued outside the District of Columbia or any other state of the United States are non-transferable. A customer holding any document issued outside of the 50 States or District of Columbia must complete the full process for issuance of a new document in Georgia, including all tests required for the class being requested, if applicable.
- Citizens of certain foreign countries may be exempt from knowledge and skills testing. For a list, visit [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

# **DANGER**

## **ALL DMVs are not Alike!!!**

Beware of fake DMV websites that charge for training materials or informational material. Most customers arrive at these sites by doing a browser search for "Georgia DMV," "Georgia License Renewal" or similar generic searches.

Please read the pages of these sites carefully, because by law they are required to inform users that the site is not affiliated with any State or Government Entity.

They are privately owned sites that will have .com or .org at the end of their website address (url). The official state of Georgia websites will have .gov as is the case with [www.dds.georgia.gov](http://www.dds.georgia.gov).

# SECTION 3

## TESTING INFORMATION

### This Section Covers

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### Knowledge Exam

Knowledge exams are given on a walk-in basis at every DDS Customer Service Center statewide. To ensure that an applicant has adequate time to complete the knowledge exam, customers must begin taking the written test at least 30 minutes prior to closing. Please check the hours of operation before you visit on our website at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

We offer special assistance for customers with reading disabilities and hearing impairment. Please visit your local CSC to schedule an appointment for an oral exam or to schedule an interpreter for the hearing impaired.

The road rules tests are available in some non-English languages, but all drivers must show ability to read and understand simple English such as is used in highway traffic and directional signs. Road signs and the actual driving test are conducted in English only.

These basic rules must be followed while a knowledge exam is being given:

- You may not bring pens, pencils, paper, or any other items into the testing area;
- All cell phones, text messaging devices, and other types of wireless devices are prohibited in the testing area;

- You may not speak to anyone during the test other than the examiner administering the test.

**Any violation of these rules is considered misconduct.** If misconduct occurs during the administration of the knowledge exam, the exam session will be counted as a failure.

The questions on the knowledge exam pertain to topics discussed in this manual and consist of the following components:

#### Road Signs

A set of questions on the meaning of standard highway signs will be given. This test is given in English only. You will be asked to identify certain signs, signals and markers. You must correctly answer 15 out of 20 questions to pass. You may take a practice test at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

#### Road Rules

The road rules test consists of a set of questions about driver responsibility, knowledge of laws, and safe driving practices applicable to the class of license for which you are applying. You must correctly answer 15 out of 20 questions to pass. You may take a practice test at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

### Road Test

#### Making Road Test Reservations

The Road Skills Test is administered by appointment only. Appointments allow us to maximize our resources and to serve all of our customers more efficiently. To make an appointment, please visit DDS Online Services at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

#### Advanced Driver Assistance Systems

Drivers may perform the skills test in vehicles equipped with advanced driver assistance technology. However, the applicant must demonstrate their ability to operate the vehicle without such technology.

#### Road Test For Class C or D

- DDS will only administer a Class C or D road test in a four-wheel vehicle;
- You must provide the vehicle for the road test;
- All road test vehicles must have a valid registration/license plate, or if equipped with a temporary dealership tag, the applicant must provide the bill of sale for proof of purchase within the last 30 days (7 days if the vehicle is purchased from a third party);
- Your non-commercial road test may be administered in a virtual or traditional format.

#### Virtual Road Test

Conducted remotely by an Examiner who administers the test via a dual-facing camera and a hands-free cellular device. A parent, guardian, or other responsible adult; 21 years of age or older must serve as a passenger in the testing vehicle. They must have a valid driver's license.

#### Traditional Road Test

Conducted by an Examiner who administers the test while being seated in the passenger seat of the testing vehicle.

- All road test vehicles must be covered by liability insurance (you must show a valid insurance card or Motor Vehicle registration card that shows the VIN) and pass a safety inspection;
- If the vehicle is not equipped with illuminated turn signals, you must be able to pass the road test using hand signals;
- You may take the test in a rental vehicle. Please be advised that many rental agreements do not allow vehicle use for driver training or testing. Additionally, you must meet the following conditions:
  - » You must provide a copy of the rental contract (the contract will be reviewed to determine if testing is allowed);
  - » You must be listed as a driver on the rental contract;
  - » You must provide proof of valid insurance for the vehicle.

The driving test will not be conducted if weather conditions or any other conditions are determined to be unsafe for the driver or examiner. DDS will make every effort to ensure that impacted customers are rescheduled as soon as possible.

For the driving test you will be expected to demonstrate your ability to do all of the following:

- **Parallel Parking:** Park midway between two standards so that your car is not more than 18 inches from the curb. The standard parallel parking dimensions utilized in the driver's license test are 22 feet in length by 10 feet in depth;
- **Straight Line Backing:** Back your car for a distance of approximately 50 feet at a slow rate of speed (not more than 10 miles per hour) as straight and as smoothly as possible. You must turn your head and look behind the vehicle while backing. No boundary lines should be encroached;
- **Stop for Signs or Traffic Signals:** Give the proper hand or brake signal; approach in the proper lane; stop before reaching a pedestrian crosswalk and remain stopped until all pedestrians have cleared the crosswalk on the side of the roadway upon which you are traveling; move through the intersection only when you may do so safely;
- **Turn About:** Turn your car in a narrow space using a three-point turn;
- **Use of Clutch:** If your car has a manual transmission, you must shift smoothly and correctly;
- **Approaching Intersections and Corners:** You must be in the proper lane and look in both directions;
- **Yielding Right-of-Way:** Always yield right-of-way to pedestrians, vehicle operators, and bicyclists who move into the intersection before you by stopping and remaining stopped until they have cleared the intersection;
- **Turning:** Move into the proper lane and signal an adequate distance before the turn;

- **Passing:** Always check in front of and behind your vehicle to make sure you can safely pass without interfering with other traffic;
- **Following:** Do not follow other cars too closely. Follow at a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you in order to maintain control of the vehicle in case of any emergency situation or abrupt stops or turns;
- **Maintaining Good Posture:** Keep both hands on the steering wheel. Do not rest your elbow on the window and do not attempt to carry on a conversation with the examiner because he/she will be busy giving instructions and recording your score.

At the end of the Class C/D road test, the license examiner will gladly show you your score sheet and will provide you an opportunity to discuss the results if you wish to do so. You must achieve a minimum score of 75% to pass.

## Road Test For Class M

You must furnish a motorcycle for the test and pass a safety inspection of the motorcycle by the license examiner before the driving test is given. All road test vehicles must have a valid registration/license plate or if equipped with a temporary dealership tag, the applicant must provide the bill of sale for proof of purchase within the last 30 days.

Motorcycle operator testing information is covered in the Motorcycle Operators Manual, which is available at all DDS Customer Service Centers and online at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

If you hold a motorcycle permit, you may schedule a motorcycle skills test appointment online at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

Motorcycle road tests cannot be conducted when the weather conditions make it unsafe for the driver or examiner, including when it is raining or when the pavement is damp.

## Road Test For Class E and F Non-Commercial

There is no driving test for Classes E & F Non-Commercial; however, you must present an Application for Issuance of Non-Commercial E/F License (DS-36), establishing your ability to operate vehicles within the particular class, and pass a knowledge test for that particular class. You must also possess or be eligible to obtain a Class C Driver's License. Class E & F licenses are available to volunteer firefighters at no charge. Customers who wish to take the non commercial Class E/F exam should study the Commercial Drivers Manual. The Commercial Drivers Manual can be located online at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov) or customers can obtain a hard copy at any DDS Customer Service Center.

## Road Test For Class A, B, and C Commercial

Commercial vehicle operator's testing information is covered in the Georgia Commercial Drivers Manual, which is available at all DDS Customer Service Centers and online at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov). You may schedule a Commercial skills test appointment Online at [www.dds.georgia.gov](http://www.dds.georgia.gov). Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §40-5-25 and DDS Rule 1-1-.09(7), the \$50.00 Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Road Skills Test fee is now required for each testing attempt.

## Results of Pass/Fail

If you pass all the tests, you will be issued a temporary license/permit. Your permanent license/permit will be mailed to you

If you fail any part of the **Class C or D** knowledge or road test, and it is your:

- **1st Failure:** You must wait until the next day before retaking the portion you have failed.
- **2nd or Subsequent Failure:** You must wait 7 days before retaking the portion you have failed.

For CDL Testing information please consult the *Georgia CDL Manual*.

## Location Information

**For a complete list of customer Service Centers and their hours of operation, please visit the DDS website at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov) or <https://dds.georgia.gov/locations/customer-service-center>.**

*Please remember that Tuesday is always the busiest day and the best time to visit in person is the middle of the week during the middle of the day.*



## SECTION 4

### OTHER SERVICES & INFORMATION

#### This Section Covers

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#### Renewal for Individuals Temporarily Located Out of the State of Georgia

Renewal by mail is offered for certain groups of individuals who must be away from the State of Georgia at the time renewal of their license is required. Supporting documentation, a completed application and payment of fee (if required) must be submitted to verify that the applicant is eligible to renew in this manner. This service is available to the following groups:

- Customers stationed out of state on active military duty, their spouse and any dependents living with them;
- Full-time students attending school outside Georgia, their spouse and any dependents living with them;
- Customers who are physically incapacitated and unable to visit a DDS Customer Service Center may be issued an ID Card only.

#### This service is subject to the following restrictions:

- The renewal will be granted for an 8-year renewal period, at the end of which the license holder must appear in person for renewal;
- A driver's license that has been expired for two (2) or more years cannot be renewed by mail.

- Changes (name, address, etc.) must be made in person at a DDS Customer Service Center. Changes cannot be made using the mail method of renewal.

Customers who choose to renew their license in this manner will not receive a RealDL/ID. To download the application package and complete instructions, please visit our website at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov).

#### License, Permit, or Identification Card Number Changes

No licenses or identification cards may be issued in Georgia with a Social Security Number as the document number. If your license, permit or identification card number is identical to your Social Security Number, a randomly generated document number will be assigned to your document during the issuance/renewal process. Once your number has changed, you will need to ensure that any companies or entities using your driver's license, permit, or identification card number for tracking or verification purposes, such as insurance companies, are aware of this change.

## Interest in Registering to Vote

DDS does not register customers to vote. DDS does confidentially transmit customer information needed to begin the voter registration process to the Georgia Secretary of State's Office (SOS).

Ultimately, each county voter registrar is responsible for completing voter registration including the issuance of a voter registration card.

There is a voter registration section on each DDS license/ID issuance application, as required by law. In that section, customers are notified that their information will be used for voter registration purposes unless they choose otherwise. There is also a clear 'opt-out' box that the customers can check if they do not wish to register to vote or update their information.

Once the information is transmitted to the SOS, it is made accessible to the county registrars for processing and updating their voter records.

#### Important Points:

- If you do not receive your voter registration card within 30 days, contact your county voter registration office to determine the status of your application;
- Choosing this option does not guarantee that your voter registration information will be processed in time to meet specific election deadlines;
- If you want to register to vote for a particular election, please contact your county voter registration office to ensure that your most current registration information is recorded prior to the applicable voter registration deadline. Visit <http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections> for information.

<https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections>



## Lost or Stolen License Replacement

Customers may apply for a replacement driver's license and/or ID card at a local DDS Customer Service Center or online. If you choose to apply online, you will go through an authentication process in order to verify identity. If you wish to apply at a DDS Customer Service Center, you will be required to show proof of identity. The fee online and at a DDS Customer Service Center is \$10.00.

The following documents will be acceptable proof of identity for a replacement Georgia driver's license, permit or identification card:

### ONE of these documents:

- Certified Copy of Birth Certificate with raised or impressed seal;
- Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship;
- Expired Georgia Driver's License, Permit or Identification Card;
- U.S. Passport or Passport Card-Must Be Valid
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad;
- Expired Georgia Interim;

(Continued on next page)

## DDS ONLINE SERVICES

### Save Time, Go Online—Try DDS Online Services!

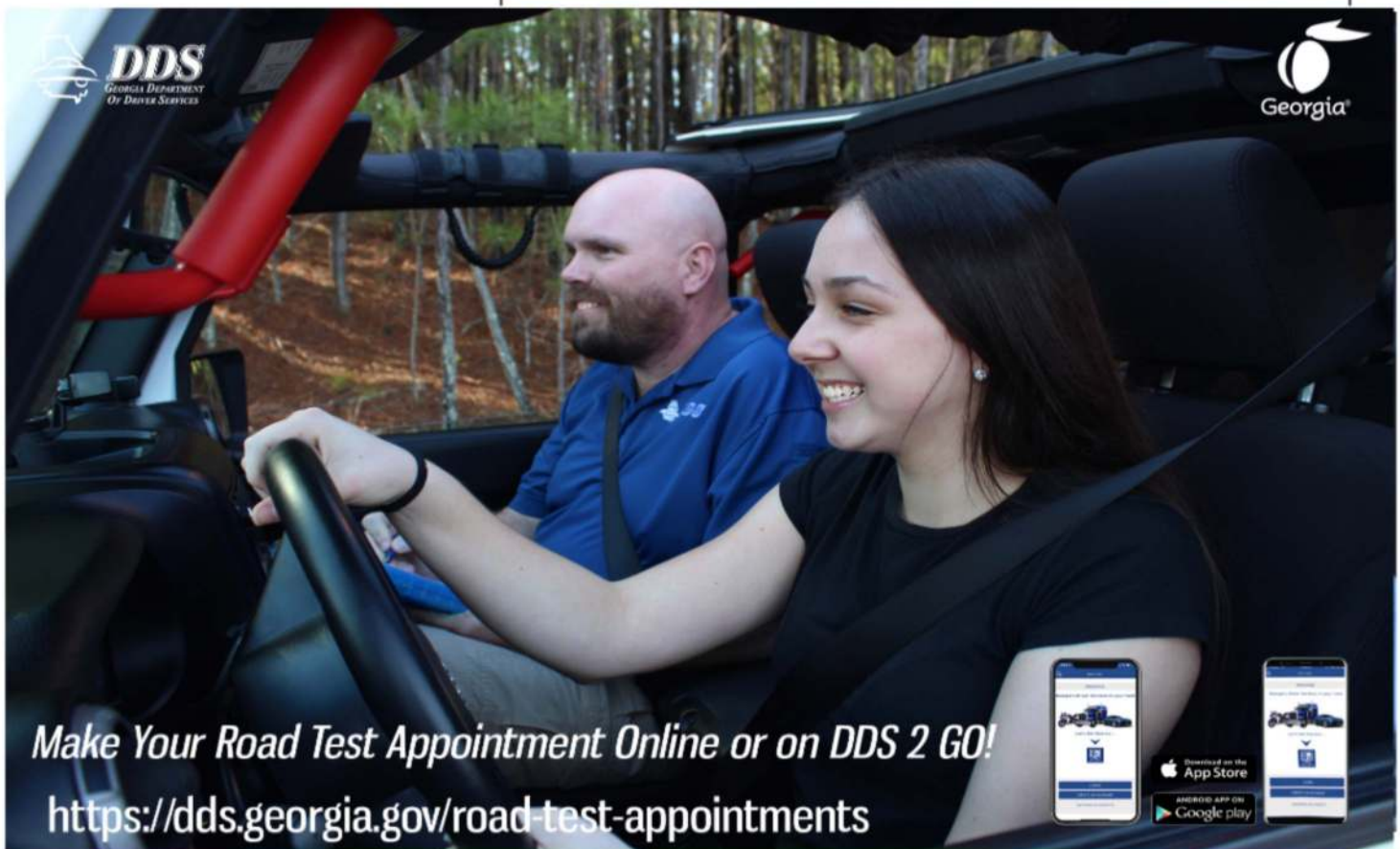
#### License, Permit, and ID Card Services\*

- Make a road test appointment;
- Reinstate your driver's license;
- Renew your driver's license, permit or ID card;
- Replace a lost driver's license, permit, or ID card;
- Upgrade a Class D license to a Class C license;
- Change your address;
- Request an ID card (must have valid license or permit on file);
- Check license status and moving violation points;
- Check CDL Self Certification and Medical Documents status;
- Get suspension information.

#### Other Services Available

- Immediately create a secure user account and track updates to your license status;
- Conduct multiple services at one time;
- View and/or download a copy of your driving history (MVR);
- Request a certified driving history (MVR);
- Pay 'Failure to Appear' fee or reinstate a 'Failure to Appear' suspension;
- Pay 'Super Speeder' fee or reinstate a 'Super Speeder' suspension;
- Take a practice written test for a regular driver's license;
- Download the most recent version of the *Drivers Manual*;
- Complete and Submit form to DDS before arriving for service.
- Apply for For-Hire license endorsement;
- Register for a Motorcycle Safety course.

\*Some online services are available if all requirements are met, including completion of Real ID requirements (see page 6 for details).



**DDS**  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF DRIVER SERVICES

**Georgia**

**Make Your Road Test Appointment Online or on DDS 2 GO!**

<https://dds.georgia.gov/road-test-appointments>

## SECTION 4: OTHER SERVICES & INFORMATION

- Non U.S. Citizens
  - Valid foreign passport with valid I-94;
  - Valid permanent resident card (I-551);
  - Valid employment authorization card (I-766 or I-688A or I-688B) with proof of pending application to adjust status;

**or TWO of these documents** (only if replacing license, permit, or ID card):

- Social Security Card (original or copy);
- Original or Certified Copy of Marriage Certificate;
- Previous Year's Income Tax Return or W2;
- Current Auto, Home, Life or Health Insurance Policy (Cards Not Accepted);
- Current Auto Registration Receipt;
- Voter Registration Card;
- Valid or Expired Military ID Card and/or Military Orders;
- Valid Georgia Gun Permit.
- TWIC
- Check Stub

To change the number on your replacement Georgia driver's license, permit or identification card, you will be required to present a police report indicating that the license was stolen unless your license number and your Social Security number are the same. If the two numbers are the same, no police report is required.

### Address Change

- You must update your record with DDS anytime your address changes. DDS correspondence will not be forwarded to new addresses by the U.S. Postal Service.
- If you have moved, you must visit a DDS Customer Service Center within 60 days to update your mailing and/or residential address, or you may visit our website at [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov) to change your address. If you change your address in person, you must provide proof of the change in address. If you change your address online, your new address will be verified through USPS.

### Name Change

- Name changes must be completed in person at a DDS Customer Service Center;
- If you change your name by marriage or other legal action, you must obtain a new license showing the correct name within 60 days. A free replacement license valid for the current term will be issued once in a license term;
- In order to change your name on your license or identification card, you must present a certified copy of a marriage license application (if the marriage occurred in Georgia), marriage license, state-issued marriage certificate, or court-ordered name change;
- You may change to a hyphenated surname on your license or identification card if the marriage occurred in the State of Georgia on or after November 1, 1982. A certified copy of

the marriage license application reflecting the selection of the hyphenated surname must be presented at the time of the request.

### Motor Vehicle Reports (MVR)

MVRs are available in 3-year, 7-year, or lifetime formats. A 3 year report is \$6.00; a 7 year report is \$8.00. A lifetime report is \$8.00. Individuals may obtain a copy of their MVR in any of the following ways:

#### 1. Via Internet

A non-certified copy of your Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) can be downloaded by using DDS Online Services. Please visit [dds.georgia.gov](http://dds.georgia.gov) for further details. You will be required to create an account if you have not already done so.

#### 2. In Person

A certified copy of your Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) can be purchased in person at any DDS Customer Service Center. Proper identification will be required.

If obtaining a motor vehicle report other than your own, the following is required:

- Completion of the Request for MVR form (DDS-18) from the licensee naming the person authorized to receive the record, including the full name, date of birth, and Georgia driver's license number of the licensee;
- The person receiving the report for another individual must also show proper identification.

#### 3. Via Mail

You can obtain a certified copy of your MVR by submitting the Request for MVR form (DDS-18) OR a letter requesting either a 3-year, 7-year, or lifetime MVR, including the following:

- Your full name as it appears on your driver's license;
- Driver's license number;
- Date of birth; and
- Complete mailing address.

Requests may be mailed to: Georgia Department of Driver Services, MVR Request, Post Office Box 80447, Conyers, Georgia 30013. When requesting a MVR, please include a money order, cashier's check, or personal check made payable to the Department of Driver Services in the amount of \$6.00 for a 3-year or \$8.00 for a 7-year or lifetime MVR.

### Selective Service Registration

At the time of any license or identification card transaction, DDS is required to ask males age 18 whether they have registered with the U.S. Selective Service System and to report the responses to the U.S. Selective Service System.

### Blindness Donation

When you obtain your driver's license, permit, or ID, you will have the opportunity to make a voluntary donation of \$1 to Georgia's Blindness Education, Screening, and Treatment Program, which is administered by the Georgia Depart-

ment of Public Health. Donations currently fund vision programs which provide screenings to save children's vision, eye exams for needy adults, training for people who have lost vision, and public education about eye donation. Your voluntary donation will be added to the total cost of your service.

### Organ and Tissue Donation

The Donate Life Georgia Organ, Tissue and Eye Donor Registry was created in 2008 to allow Georgians an easy and user-friendly means of joining the state's donor registry. Georgians can join the registry through the website at [www.donatelifegeorgia.org](http://www.donatelifegeorgia.org), when renewing their driver license or ID online, or when obtaining/renewing their license or ID at a local DDS Customer Service Center. You can also join the Donor Registry by calling Donate Life Georgia directly at 1-866-57-SHARE (1-866-577-4273) and requesting a donor registry form.

#### Other things to Remember:

- Organ donation can occur only after every measure has been taken to save your life, and only after death has been legally and medically declared;
- Georgia law prohibits the physician who declares a patient dead from participating in the removal or transplantation of that patient's donated organs or tissues;
- There is no cost to the donor's family for any expenses related to organ tissue/eye donation. Also, there is no delay in funeral arrangements;
- Georgia law requires hospitals to notify an organ/tissue/eye recovery center when a donation is possible;
- Recipients are selected by urgency of need, compatibility of blood type, body size, and tissue type, regardless of sex, race or creed. More information concerning organ and tissue donation can be found at [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov).

### GSFA Donation

DDS offers the opportunity to make a voluntary charitable contribution of \$1, \$5, or \$10 to the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) during the license issuance or renewal process. Pursuant to HB 54 (2016), this donation will help to provide financial assistance toward the post-secondary educational costs of the children of law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and prison guards employed by the state or other public employer who were permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty. The children of High-way Emergency Response Operators who were permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty are also included.

## TRAFFIC LAWS

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## 3 MOST BASIC TRAFFIC LAWS

### The three most basic traffic laws require drivers to:

1. Obey traffic control devices (lights and signs);
2. Obey the traffic directions of a law enforcement officer or firefighter, even if it goes against what the traffic control devices tell you to do;
3. Never drive on a roadway that has been closed for construction, for the purpose of a special event, or for any other official reason.

Traffic laws are necessary to prevent crashes by defining the orderly movement of vehicles, pedestrians, and other users of public highways. Remember, traffic laws exist for your safety; failure to obey them can result in crashes that may seriously injure or kill you or others. To obey the laws, you must first know and understand them.

### Laws Governing Right-of-Way

Right-of-way is a phrase used to describe who has the lawful authority to enter a roadway, change lanes within a roadway, make a turn from a roadway, travel through an intersection, or make any other traffic related movement. Georgia law establishes right-of-way in all situations. Vehicle drivers (including bicyclists) and pedestrians should always understand the rules related to right-of-way, and remember that right-of-way is something to be given, not taken. There may be instances in which you as a driver or pedestrian have the legal right-of-way over someone else, even though the other person does not realize it and is not obeying the rules of the road. In those instances, the right-of-way should be yielded in order to prevent a crash.

The following is a list of the most common situations in which right-of-way questions are faced in real life:

- When traveling on a roadway that intersects with another roadway, if you are faced with a stop sign, but other traffic is not, you may proceed only after stopping and yielding the right-of-way to any other vehicle or pedestrian either in the intersection, or so close to the intersection as to make it dangerous to travel through the intersection;
- At intersections where there are no stop signs, yield signs or other traffic signals, if two vehicles come to the intersection at the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield to the driver of the vehicle on the right;
- At a four-way intersection where all drivers are faced with stop signs, all drivers must yield to pedestrians; otherwise the vehicles should proceed through the intersection in a "first to arrive, first to proceed order." If two vehicles reach the intersection at approximately the same time, yield to any vehicles on your right.

#### Important points to remember:

- Take your turn when it comes if it is safe to do so; do not unnecessarily delay traffic;

- If another driver tries to take your turn, even if you have the right-of-way, let the other driver proceed. It might prevent a traffic crash;
- Care, courtesy and common sense should govern your actions.
- When making a left turn at an intersection, or into an alley or driveway, yield the right-of-way to all traffic coming from the opposite direction;
- When approaching a yield sign, slow down to a safe speed and be prepared to stop. If necessary, stop and only proceed when it is safe to do so;
- When the roadway you are traveling on is merging into other traffic without stopping, adjust your speed and vehicle position to allow you to merge into the new lane safely. If traffic from another roadway is merging into the roadway you are traveling on, safely change lanes away from the merging traffic if possible. If it is not possible to change lanes away from the merging traffic, adjust your speed and vehicle position to safely allow the traffic to merge;
- At intersections with traffic control lights, wait until the intersection is clear of traffic or approaching traffic before entering. Do not proceed "just because" you have the green light;
- If you are about to enter or cross a highway from an alley, private road or highway, you must stop and yield the right-of-way to all other pedestrians and vehicles already traveling on the roadway or sidewalk you are entering or crossing;
- If emergency vehicles are using their emergency lights (blue or red) and sirens, safely maneuver your vehicle out of their way. You should slow your vehicle and move over to the shoulder of the road, or if that is not possible, as far to the right of the roadway or lane as you can, and stop. You should always use caution to ensure that you do not endanger other motorists, bicyclists, or pedestrians while doing so. Do not position your vehicle so that it blocks an intersection or otherwise prevents the emergency vehicle from making a necessary turn;
- Yield to all highway maintenance vehicles and workers in a construction zone;
- Unless a sign posted at that intersection prohibits doing so, it is permissible to make a "right turn on red" at an intersection con-

trolled by a traffic control light. You may proceed only after making a complete stop, yielding to all traffic and pedestrians, and making the determination that you can safely complete the turn;

- Unless a sign posted at that intersection prohibits doing so, it is permissible to make a “left turn on red” from the left lane of a one-way street onto a one-way street on which the traffic moves toward the driver’s left. You may proceed only after making a complete stop, yielding to all traffic and stopping for pedestrians, and making the determination that you can safely complete the turn;
- When a school bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children, the driver of the bus will activate flashing yellow lights. When these flashing yellow lights are activated, all drivers approaching the school bus should slow down and be prepared to stop. All drivers should pay special attention to children who may be walking along or crossing the roadway. Once the flashing lights have turned red and the stop signs have extended from the side of the bus, it is unlawful for any vehicle to pass the stopped school bus while it is loading or unloading passengers. On a

highway divided by a median, cars traveling on the opposite side from the stopped school bus are not required to stop, however drivers should remain attentive for children walking along or crossing the roadway.

## Passing

### How To Pass On A Two-Lane Road

- Wait for a passing zone to begin. A passing zone is indicated by striped lines to the right of the center line of the roadway. If the line nearest your vehicle is solid, you are not in a passing zone. Look ahead along the roadway to determine the length of the passing zone and if there is traffic approaching from the opposite direction. You must have sufficient time and space to execute your passing maneuver and return your vehicle completely to the right lane before the passing zone ends, before entering an intersection, and before oncoming traffic is within 200 feet of your vehicle;
- Before leaving your lane to begin passing, check your rear view and side mirrors, and turn your head and look back to check your

“blind spot.” Be certain that no one is passing you;

- Activate your left turn signal as you begin passing;
- Pass on the left and do not return to the right lane until your vehicle is safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. Wait until you can see the car you have just passed in your rear view mirror;
- Activate your right turn signal before returning to the right lane. Be sure to turn your signal off once you have returned to the right lane.

### Passing is prohibited on two-lane roads:

- In areas marked by a solid yellow line on the right of the center line, or a “Do Not Pass” sign, or double yellow lines;
- Within 100 feet of a railroad crossing;
- Within 100 feet of a bridge, viaduct or tunnel;
- When a car approaching from the opposite direction makes passing unsafe or will be

## THE “MOVE OVER” LAW

All 50 States have “Move Over” laws to protect law enforcement officers and other workers stopped on our nation’s roads. Georgia’s “Move Over” Law helps ensure highway safety for motorists, emergency personnel, active sanitation workers, and utility service workers when their vehicles are stopped on the side of the roadway.

This law was created to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities to police officers, paramedics, firefighters, wrecker operators, and highway construction workers by maintaining an open buffer lane between passing highway traffic and authorized roadside emergency vehicles displaying flashing yellow, amber, white, red, or blue lights. It was amended to include active sanitation workers and utility service workers who are utilizing traffic cones and/or vehicles displaying flashing lights.



In Georgia, this law requires motorists to:

- Move over to the next lane if safely possible.
- If unable to move over, then slow down below the speed limit and be prepared to stop.

This law applies to any emergency, sanitation, or utility service vehicle parked on the shoulder of the roadway.

### Why was the “Move Over” Law Passed?

- It saves lives. The “Move Over” Law helps maintain traffic flow and protect the safety of motorists, emergency personnel, active sanitation workers, and utility service workers.
- Vehicles parked on the side of the roadway are vulnerable to crashes even when emergency lights are flashing.
- More police officers are killed by traffic crashes than in any other line-of-duty cause of death. More than one fourth of those killed are struck by passing vehicles while they work outside their patrol cars.
- Providing a buffer lane for these vehicles when parked on the roadway shoulder actually reduces the risk of another crash.
- When the required clearance is given to these types of vehicles, the margin of safety is increased, not only for public safety, emergency personnel, active sanitation workers, and utility service workers, but for motorists and their passengers as well.

### It's the Law!

- Violations can result in a fine of no more than \$500 for the first offense.
- The “Move Over” Law is another reason to slow down on the highways and interstates.



**Safely change lanes when approaching any emergency, sanitation, or utility service vehicle.**

### How does the “Move Over” Law make a difference?

- Thirty percent of all crashes occur as the result of another crash.

within 200 feet of your vehicle prior to the completion of a passing maneuver;

- On a hill or curve where it is not possible to see oncoming vehicles which might be close enough to be a hazard;
- On the shoulder of the road;
- When a school bus is stopped to load or unload passengers.

## Passing is Permitted When:

- Lawfully overtaking and passing another vehicle going in the same direction;
- An obstruction makes it necessary to drive to the left of the center line, but only after yielding to oncoming traffic;
- A roadway includes two or more marked lanes in the same direction;
- A roadway with more than one lane is restricted to one-way traffic. Upon a multi-lane, two way highway, you must never drive to the left of the center line except when authorized to do so by traffic control signals or signs or when making a left turn into an alley, private road or driveway.

## Passing On The Right

You may pass on the right of another vehicle which is making or about to make a left turn if there is sufficient pavement width for both your vehicle and the vehicle making the left turn. You may also pass on the right when traveling on a multi-lane highway carrying two or more lanes of traffic in the same direction.

## When Someone Passes You

When a driver behind you is overtaking your vehicle, be alert for any unsafe actions by the other driver. It is considered courteous to reduce your speed slightly, making it easier for the other vehicle to pass you. It is unlawful to increase your speed before you have been passed completely by the overtaking vehicle.

## Passing Stopped Cars



Whenever any vehicle is stopped to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle. When stopping to allow a pedestrian to cross in front of you, leave sufficient room between your vehicle and the crosswalk so that approaching traffic can see the entirety of the crosswalk.

Slow down and prepare to stop if you are approaching an intersection where other vehicles are stopped, even though the traffic control devices indicate they are authorized to proceed. If they are stopped because they are allowing

a pedestrian to cross the roadway, their vehicle may block your view of the pedestrian.

## Passing Bicycles

Motorists should approach bicycles with due caution and shall proceed as follows: (Violation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$250.00).

Make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the bicycle if possible in the existing road and traffic conditions OR

If a lane change is impossible, prohibited by law, or unsafe, reduce the speed of the motor vehicle to a reasonable and proper speed for the traffic conditions, which speed shall be at least ten miles per hour less than the posted speed limit or 25 miles per hour, whichever is more and proceed around the bicycle with at least three feet between the vehicle and the bicycle at all times.

## Passing Motorcyclists

A motorcyclist legally occupies the full width of a single lane when traveling. When passing a motorcyclist, a driver must pass in an adjacent lane. Drivers are not permitted to occupy the same lane as a motorcyclist while passing them.

## Weaving

It is unlawful to weave from one lane of traffic to another in order to move faster than the flow of traffic. A motorist may change lanes on a multi-lane highway and pass slower moving vehicles only when it is safe to do so. A driver's signaling to change lanes should be clearly indicated so as to warn vehicles of the movement.

## Turn Signals and Making Turns Safely

Turn movements by motor vehicles are regulated by law, and failure to observe or comply is a violation. Drivers must know and understand the law in order to turn safely and avoid crashes.

### STOP



### RIGHT TURN



### LEFT TURN



A turn signal must be given whenever a turn is made to the right or the left. You must give a continuous turn signal for an adequate distance to alert other drivers before turning. Never decide to make a turn at the "last minute." Turning quickly or erratically can be dangerous to you and other drivers.

## Illegal Signals

It is against the law to flash turn signals as a courtesy or "do pass" signal to other drivers in the rear.

## How To Make A Right Turn

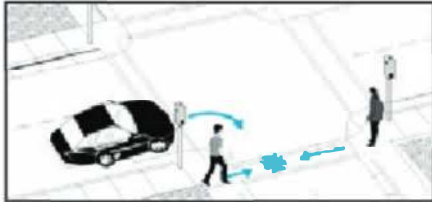
- Using appropriate signals, and giving drivers ahead of and behind you adequate notice, activate your right turn signal;
- Approach the intersection in the right lane, staying as close as practicable to the curb or edge of the roadway;
- If there is a bicycle lane on the road on which you are traveling, you must yield to bicyclists traveling straight through the intersection before making a right turn;
- Make the turn in such a way as to end up in the right lane of the street into which you have turned and avoid entering any other lane of traffic. If there are multiple turning lanes on the street you are turning from, complete the turn so that your vehicle ends up in the corresponding lane on the street you are turning onto.

## How To Make A Left Turn

- Using appropriate signals, and giving drivers ahead of and behind you adequate notice, activate your left turn signal;
- Move into the far left lane of the direction in which you are traveling, or into the turning lane if one is provided;
- Keep your wheels straight until you begin making the turn;
- Yield the right-of-way to all vehicles, including bicycles, which are approaching from the opposite direction, and pedestrians crossing either roadway;
- When safe to do so, and when traffic signals/signs permit, make your turn so that your vehicle ends up in the lane closest to the center lane(s) in your direction of traffic on the street you turned onto, or closest to the center line if there is no center lane;
- If there are multiple turning lanes on the street you are turning from, complete the turn so that your vehicle ends up in the corresponding lane on the street you are turning onto;
- Once you have entered an intersection to make a left turn, you cannot change lanes in the intersection;
- You must stop and remain stopped for any pedestrians in the crosswalk of the road you are turning onto until they have cleared the lanes of traffic that you are traveling on.

### Watching for Pedestrians When Making Turns

At most intersections where there is a pedestrian signal, the "Walk" signal of the crossing street corresponds to the green light of the roadway you are traveling on. This means that when you are authorized to turn, pedestrians are authorized to cross the street onto which you are turning at the same time. Therefore, before making your turn, you must stop and remain stopped for any pedestrians in the crosswalk of the road onto which you wish to turn until they have cleared the lanes of traffic upon which you are traveling.



### U-Turns

Do not make a U-turn on a curve or near the top of a hill if you cannot be seen by other drivers approaching from either direction. Do not make a U-turn where signs prohibit doing so.

### Making Turns on Multi-Lane Highways

On a multi-lane, two-way highway, you must never drive to the left of the center line except when making a left turn. If traffic control signals or signs are present, you may only complete the turn when authorized to do so by the traffic control signals or signs. When making left turns, you must always yield to oncoming traffic, and wait for pedestrians to clear the lanes of traffic, driveway, sidewalk, or alley you are turning into.

### Stopping, Standing, and Parking

It is against the law to park on a highway. If the vehicle is disabled, you should make every practical effort to park off the highway, leaving free passage and a clear view of your vehicle for 200 feet in each direction.

**Stopping, Standing or Parking is not permitted under the following conditions at any time:**

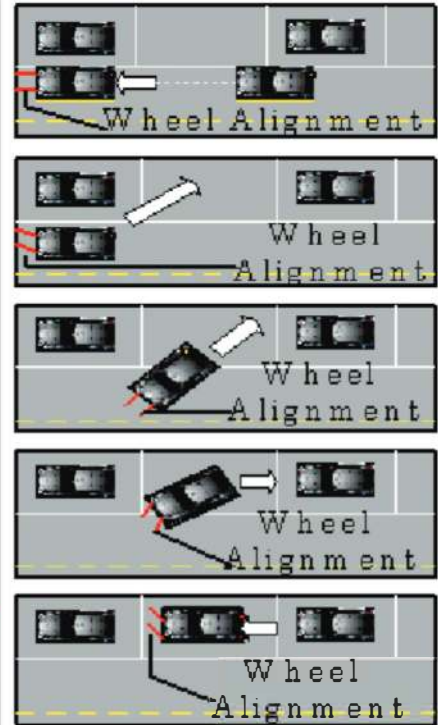
- On the street side of any parked vehicle;
- On a sidewalk;
- Within an intersection;
- On a crosswalk;
- Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb;
- Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic;
- Upon a bridge or overpass, or within a highway tunnel;
- On any railroad tracks;
- On a controlled access roadway;
- In the area between roadways on a divided highway, including crossovers;
- At any place marked by a no-parking sign.

**Stopping, Standing or Parking is permitted only momentarily to pick up or drop off passengers under the following conditions:**

- In front of a public or private driveway;
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
- Within 30 feet of a stop sign, yield sign, or traffic control signal;
- Within 20 feet of a fire station driveway;
- Within 75 feet of the spot across the street from a fire station driveway;
- Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing;
- At any place where official signs prohibit standing.

### Steps to Parallel Parking

When attempting to parallel park, drive past the parking space you wish to use and stop when you are approximately even with the car ahead of the space (you should be approximately 2 feet from the other car – door to door).



Parallel Parking Diagram

## KEEP RIGHT, EXCEPT TO PASS

### The "Slow Poke" Law (House Bill 459)

Slower drivers must move out of the passing lane (most left-hand lanes) and over to the right to allow faster-moving traffic to proceed. Regardless of the speed you are traveling, you must move from the lane when faster traffic is approaching. The only exceptions are:

- When traffic conditions make it necessary to drive in the passing lane;
- When inclement weather, obstructions, or hazards make it necessary to drive in the passing lane;
- When compliance with a law of this state or with an official traffic control device makes it necessary to drive in the passing lane;
- When your vehicle must be driven in the passing lane to exit or turn left;
- When it is necessary to pay a toll or use a pass on toll highways;
- Authorized emergency vehicles engaged in official duties; or
- Vehicles engaged in highway maintenance and construction operations.



**IT'S THE LAW!**

## SECTION 5: TRAFFIC LAWS

- Turn your wheels sharply to the right and back slowly toward the car behind the space you wish to use;
- As your front door passes the back bumper of the car ahead of the space you wish to use, quickly straighten your wheels and continue to back diagonally into the space in a straight line;
- When your front bumper is completely clear of the car ahead of you, turn your wheels sharply to the left and back slowly toward the car behind you;
- Stop before making contact with the car behind you. Place the car in drive, turn your wheels sharply to the right and pull toward the center of the parking space;
- Always give the appropriate turn signal prior to beginning your parking maneuver and when you exit from a parallel parking space.

### Backing Up

- Before backing, check all sides of your vehicle to make sure it is safe to do so. You should turn your head and look over your right shoulder while backing; do not depend on your mirrors;
- For buses and large vehicles, the driver should use all mirrors and utilize a reliable person to observe and direct while backing the vehicle.

### Traveling Speed

#### Super Speeder

Any driver convicted of speeding 75 mph or more on a two-lane road or 85 miles per hour or more on any road in Georgia, will be assessed a \$200 state fee. The state fee will be in addition to any local fines imposed in the jurisdiction where the speeding offense occurs. Failure to pay the state fee on time will result in a license suspension and additional \$50 reinstatement fee.

#### Speed Limits

Maximum traveling speeds are determined based on the following general rules in Georgia unless otherwise posted:

- 30 miles per hour in any urban or residential district;
- 35 miles per hour on an unpaved county road;
- 70 miles per hour on a rural interstate;
- 65 miles per hour on an urban interstate or on a multi-lane divided highway;
- 55 miles per hour in all other areas.

These are only general rules. Local jurisdictions, the Georgia Department of Transportation, or the Georgia Department of Public Safety may deem it necessary to adjust speed limits based on local conditions, whether temporary or permanent.

**Always watch for speed limit signs while driving.** Some areas, such as school zones or construction zones may be posted for lower maximum speed limits at certain

times of the day or for a short period of time. It is important to pay close attention to road signs while driving to ensure that when you approach a speed zone, whether temporary or permanent, you will have sufficient time to adjust your speed accordingly.

#### Driving Too Slowly

Drivers are prohibited from driving a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic except when a reduced speed is necessary for safe operation. On road with two or more lanes, drivers cannot continue to operate a motor vehicle in the passing lane if that driver is being overtaken by a motor vehicle traveling at a higher rate of speed from behind. Penalties include fine up to \$1000 and/or 3 points on the driving record.

When there are two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction, slower vehicles should use the right lane except when passing or making a left turn. Driving too slowly is dangerous because it impedes the regular flow of traffic. Minimum speed limits are posted on certain highways. If you are unable to drive at the minimum speed, you should seek an alternate route.

### Railroad Crossings

You must always stop within 50 feet, but not less than 15 feet, from the nearest rail of a railroad crossing when any of the following apply:

- The signal is flashing;
- The crossing gates are lowered;
- A flagman is giving a signal;
- A train is approaching so closely as to create an immediate hazard;
- A train gives a warning signal and is an immediate hazard due to its speed or nearness to the crossing;
- A stop sign is posted.

Under no circumstances should a motorist drive through, around or under any crossing gate while the gate is lowered. After stopping, remain stopped until all tracks are clear, all railroad crossing warning signals stop flashing, the crossing gates are raised, and it is safe to proceed.

#### 7 Steps for Safety at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings:

1. Approach with care.
2. Prepare to stop.
3. Look both ways and listen carefully.
4. If it won't fit, don't commit. Do not enter a crossing unless you can drive completely through without stopping!
5. Look again.
6. Cross tracks with care.
7. Keep going once you start.

If your vehicle stalls on the tracks, do the following:

- Get out immediately
- Move away
- Locate Emergency notification Systems (ENS) sign containing emergency contact information.
- Call for help! Tell them a vehicle is on the tracks.



## Highway Work Zones

In an effort to minimize inconvenience, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) conducts most road construction and maintenance without closing roads to traffic. This poses a traffic hazard to drivers and their passengers, as well as the crew members working on the road. Over half of all fatal injuries to road workers are caused by being struck by a motor vehicle, and a third of these by vehicles intruding into the work space. Since 1973, 169 GDOT workers have lost their lives in work zones. However, motorists are more likely to be killed or injured in work zone crashes than GDOT workers. The general public accounts for 82% of work zone fatalities nationwide.

Highway work zones are defined as portions of a highway or street where construction, reconstruction, or maintenance work is being done to the road, its shoulders, or any other areas near the roadway. This definition also includes mobile work such as underground and overhead utility maintenance, snow removal, and land surveying activities. Highway work zones are set up according to the type of road and the work to be done on the road. Signing, roadway markings, and flaggers are used to direct drivers safely through work zones or carefully marked detours. Motorists are responsible for knowing how to read and react to these directions. Paying attention and driving cautiously and courteously are the most important steps to preventing crashes while driving through a work zone. Watch for the color orange. It means road work.

### Obey the Signs

Warning signs in work zones have an orange background and black letters or symbols. They are used with other traffic control devices or flaggers to help direct traffic safely through work areas and to protect drivers, their passengers, and highway workers.

### Reduce Your Speed

For safety reasons, the speed limit in most work zones is reduced. If the speed limit is not reduced in a work zone, drivers should obey the normal posted speed limit for the road on which they are traveling, but be more cautious of road conditions, lane position, and the presence of workers.

Advisory speed limits are used to identify safe speeds for specific conditions within a work zone. These black and orange signs are always used with warning signs. Official speed limit reduction requirements will be indicated with the standard black and white speed limit signs. Motorists who disobey regulatory speed limits in a work zone may be found guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and will be punished by a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$2,000.00, or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed 12 months, or both.

### Obey Flaggers

Flaggers are people used to direct traffic through and around work zones. In a work zone, a flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign. Do not disobey a flagger's traffic control directions.

### Yield to Amber Lights in Work Zones

Work vehicles and heavy equipment will typically have flashing or revolving amber lights. You must yield the right-of-way to these vehicles. Reduce your speed as you approach any work zone where vehicles have amber lights displayed.

### Adjust Your Lane Position

Travel lanes are likely to be closed in work zones, and lane patterns may change as the work progresses. Sometimes, workers must operate within inches or feet of an open lane of traffic. When lanes are closed or narrowed, or workers are operating on the roadway near traffic, change lanes away from them if possible or shift slightly within the boundaries of your lane to give added distance between your vehicle and the workers. This will provide extra protection for you, your passengers and the workers along the roadway.

### Yield to Mobile Work Vehicles

Some road work can be performed without actually closing lanes of travel. Pavement maintenance, debris removal, paint striping, utility work, and snow removal are examples of work accomplished while moving in traffic. Vehicles used in performing this type of work will have flashing amber lights and may have flashing arrows directing traffic to merge left or right. The vehicles may also display signs for the purpose of directing traffic or indicating hazardous conditions.

These vehicles usually work at very slow speeds, such as 5 miles per hour, and may occasionally be stationary in the road way. For your safety, and the safety of others, slow down, yield the right-of-way to these work vehicles, and follow any directions displayed by the work vehicles.



Common signs seen in and around work zones cautioning drivers.

## WORK ZONE DRIVING TIPS

### When you travel through a work zone, remember these four tips:

1. Reduce your speed.
2. Watch for speed limit signs. Fines are increased in most work zones.
3. Adjust your lane position away from workers.
4. Prepare for the unexpected!

**DO YOUR PART TO HELP PROTECT THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WORK HARD TO MAKE GEORGIA ROADS AMONG THE BEST IN THE NATION.**



## Other Laws

### Controlled-Access Roadways

- You are prohibited from entering or leaving any controlled-access roadway at unauthorized entrances or exits;
- Certain types of vehicles may be prohibited on controlled-access roadways if signs are posted to this effect;
- Backing up is prohibited on controlled-access roadways.
- An example of a controlled-access roadway includes any tolled facility in Georgia such as the I-85 Express Lanes or the reversible I-75 Express Lanes. Tolled lanes in Georgia require motorists to mount a registered Peach Pass transponder in their vehicle in order to access the lanes. Peach Pass can also be used in Florida and North Carolina. Registered owners of the vehicle that enters the tolled lane without an active Peach Pass will receive a violation notice in the mail.
- You are prohibited from entering the reversible Express Lanes when the access control gates are closed or closing.

### Coasting

The driver of any motor vehicle, when traveling down a hill, must not coast with the gears or transmission of the vehicle in neutral.

### Driving Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol

- It is unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug (prescription or illegal), or any other substance which impairs his/her ability to safely do so;
- A person 21 or more years of age is considered "Under the Influence of Alcohol" when 0.08 gm or more by alcohol weight is present in the blood;
- A person under 21 years of age is irrefutably considered "Under the Influence of Alcohol" when 0.02 gm or more by alcohol weight is present in the blood;

Certain drugs or other substances can also make a person irrefutably "under the influence." Having a prescription for certain medication is not a defense if the medication impairs your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Penalties for driving under the influence of intoxicants are severe, with fines up to \$1000, jail sentences up to 12 months, and mandatory suspension of your driving privileges.

### Reckless Driving

Reckless driving is defined as driving any vehicle in reckless disregard for the safety of persons or property. Examples of reckless driving include but are not limited to speeding, weaving in and out of traffic, improperly passing, etc. Penalties for reckless driving can include a fine of up to \$1000, imprisonment for up to 12 months, and, if the driver is under 21 years of age, conviction will result in a suspension of all driving privileges.

### Racing

The following behaviors are considered racing on highways and streets:

- When two or more people compete or race on any street or highway;
- When one motor vehicle is beside or to the rear of another driver, and one driver tries to prevent the passing or overtaking of the competing driver by acceleration or maneuver; or
- When one or more persons compete in a race against time.

### Aggressive Driving

- A person commits the offense of aggressive driving when he or she operates any motor vehicle with the intent to annoy, harass, molest, intimidate, injure, or obstruct another person;
- Examples of aggressive driving include but are not limited to tailgating, cutting in front of another driver, blocking other drivers from passing or changing lanes, etc.
- A conviction for aggressive driving is considered a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature; The penalty for committing this violation may include imprisonment, fines, and, if the driver is under 21 years of age, conviction will result in a suspension of all driving privileges.

### Drag Racing/Reckless Stunt Driving

"Reckless Stunt Driving" is operating "any vehicle while drag racing, in violation of Code Section 40-6-186, or laying drags, in violation of Code Section 40-6-251, in reckless disregard for the safety of persons on a highway or upon private property without express authorization from the owner of such property."

### Penalties:

#### 1st Conviction within 5 years

- 12-month suspension
- Eligible for early reinstatement at the end of 120 days
- Restoration Fee \$210/\$200 by mail
- Limited Permit Available

#### 2nd Conviction within 5 years

- 3-year suspension
- Eligible for early reinstatement after 18 months from the date of conviction
- Restoration Fee \$310/\$300 by mail
- Limited Permit Available

#### 3rd and Subsequent Conviction Within 5 years

- Habitual Violator (HV) Revocation
- No Limited Permit Available
- May apply for a probationary license per O.C.G.A. § 40-5-58

### Trucks and Vehicles Pulling Trailers

When traveling upon a roadway outside of a business or residential district, drivers of trucks and vehicles pulling trailers must leave sufficient space between themselves and other vehicles of the same kind, so that the driver of an overtaking vehicle can enter and occupy the space without danger. This law prohibits the act commonly known as "caravanning."

Trailers wider than 8 feet, 6 inches are not permitted on Georgia's highways.

### Riding in Trailers

Riding in a house trailer, or any other vehicular drawn trailer, is not allowed while it is being moved upon a street or highway. There is a high likelihood of injury or death if passengers are unrestrained in the trailer and the vehicle is involved in a crash or the trailer becomes disconnected from the vehicle.

### Median Strip

It is unlawful to drive across a dividing section, barrier, or unpaved strip which separates two roadways at any point other than at an authorized opening or crossover.



### Impaired Hearing and Vision

It is unlawful to operate a motor vehicle while wearing a headphone, headset, or any other device which would impair the driver's ability to hear. Also, the driver must not wear anything which would obstruct his or her vision while driving a motor vehicle. Not only is wearing these devices illegal, it is also unsafe.

### Obstructing the Driver's View

If a vehicle is overloaded with passengers or freight so as to obstruct the view of the driver or interfere with the mechanical operation, it cannot be legally driven. Passengers must not ride in a position that interferes with the driver's view or his or her control of the vehicle.

### Opening Vehicle Doors

Opening the doors of a vehicle on the side on which traffic is moving is prohibited unless it is safe to do so and unless it can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic, including bicyclists that may be operating close to the lane of parked cars.

### One Way Streets

Unless directed to by a traffic control device, authorized emergency personnel or construction workers, it is unlawful for a vehicle to be driven contrary to the direction posted on a one-way street or highway, except in situations where police vehicles or authorized emergency vehicles find it necessary to do so.

### Stopping

When stopping or slowing down suddenly, the proper hand, arm, or brake operated stop signal must be given.

### Use Headlights Properly

Use high-beam headlights only when driving in rural areas and when other cars are not nearby. You must use your headlights between one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise; at any time when it is raining; or when visibility is limited.

You should dim (lower) your headlights when:

- You are within 500 feet of an approaching vehicle so as not to blind the driver;
- You are following closely (within 200 feet) behind another vehicle;
- You are driving on lighted roads;
- You are driving in rain, fog, snow, or smoke;
- Your vision is reduced to less than 200 feet.

### Night Driving

Because of decreased vision at night and the glare of oncoming headlights, night driving presents its own unique challenges. Unfamiliar roads and unexpected situations are more likely to cause hazardous driving conditions. You can help ensure safe driving in several ways.

- Make sure your headlights are working properly and the lenses are kept clean. Periodically have them checked for correct aim/alignment;
- Don't "overdrive" your headlights. When traveling at night or in other situations that make the use of headlights necessary for safe travel, do not drive at a speed that requires a stopping time greater than the distance illuminated by your headlights;
- Slow down when oncoming traffic is approaching or when you are nearing a curve;
- If visibility is greatly reduced, use the edge line as a guide to maintaining your lane of travel. If there is no edge line, use the center line to guide yourself;
- Keep your windshield clean;

- Do not drive if you are tired. More frequent stops, more fresh air, lively radio programs and other measures can help you to avoid drowsiness and inattention;
- Watch carefully for highway signs; they are harder to see at night;
- Watch carefully for pedestrians and for vehicles stopped along the edge of the road;
- Do not stop on the roadway.

### Safety Belts

Georgia law states that each occupant in the front seat of a passenger vehicle traveling on Georgia roads and highways must be secured by a seat safety belt (lap and shoulder). All occupants of any passenger vehicle must utilize a seat safety belt if they are under the age of 18.

Safety belts are needed because they are the most effective occupant protection in all types of vehicle crashes. According to Crash Stats from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, seat belts saved 12,802 lives in 2014. Georgia Department of Transportation reports that the risk of fatality in a crash is reduced by about 45% when seat belts are used. Using safety belts correctly is a preventable health care habit that:

- helps you keep control of the vehicle;
- helps keep your head from striking the dash or windshield;
- helps keep people in the vehicle from hitting each other;
- helps spread the crash force across the stronger parts of the body;
- helps protect you from injury;
- helps keep you from being ejected from the vehicle.

When used correctly, safety belts are effective at helping reduce the risk of death or serious

injury. Georgia has a "primary" safety belt law, meaning that officers may stop and cite violators without observing another violation.

### Safety Restraints for Children

Every driver transporting a child who is under eight years of age, except in a taxicab or public transit vehicle, must properly restrain the child in a child passenger restraining system appropriate for the child's height and weight. The restraint system must comply with the United States Department of Transportation Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213. Under limited circumstances, a child under eight may be exempt from this requirement. For further information, contact the Governor's Office of Highway Safety <http://www.gahighwaysafety.org>.

### Distracted Driving

Distracted driving is one of the fastest growing safety issues. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 3,142 people were killed on U.S. roadways in 2019 because of distracted drivers. Distracted driving is doing another activity while driving. This takes the driver's attention away from the primary task of driving and increases the risk of crashing. Common distractions include but are not limited to talking on a cell phone, texting, reading, eating, grooming, using a navigation device, and adjusting the stereo system. The presence of a passengers and pets can also increase crash risk. Georgia law requires drivers to exercise due care in operating a motor vehicle and prohibits any action that distracts the driver from the safe operation of such vehicle.

### Following Emergency Vehicles

The driver of any vehicle, other than one on official business, must not follow any fire fighting apparatus traveling in response to a fire alarm, or other emergency vehicles, closer than 200 feet, or park any vehicle within 500 feet of any fire apparatus stopped in answer to a fire alarm.

## GEORGIA'S LITTER CONTROL LAW

Each year, municipal, county and state government agencies spend thousands of dollars to clean up litter from the streets and highways of Georgia. Individuals who litter cause harm to the beauty of the state and impact the health, welfare and safety of others.

It is unlawful to dump, deposit, throw or leave litter on any public or private property in the State of Georgia, or any waters in the State of Georgia.

- "Litter" means all sand, gravel, slag, brick bats, rubbish, waste material, tin cans, refuse, garbage, trash, dead animals or discarded materials of every kind and description;
- "Public or private property" means the right-of-way of any road or highway, any body of water or watercourse of the shores or beaches thereof, any park, playground, building refuge or conservation or recreation area and residential or farm properties, timberlands or forest.

Whenever litter is thrown, deposited, or dropped from any motor vehicle, the operator of the vehicle shall have violated the Litter Control Law. All Georgia law enforcement agencies are authorized to enforce compliance of the Litter Control Law.

Georgia's Litter Control Law classifies littering as damage to property. A conviction under this law is considered a misdemeanor in Georgia. Persons convicted of this law may be assessed a fine up to \$1000 and a 12 month jail term. In addition, if convicted of littering, a judge could order the convicted person to pick up and remove litter from any designated area.

**LITTER.**

It costs you.



[litteritcostsyou.org](http://litteritcostsyou.org)

## Passing a Postal Carrier or Sanitation Workers

The operator of a motor vehicle approaching a postal service vehicle or a vehicle with active sanitation workers that is displaying flashing yellow, amber, white, or red lights shall approach the vehicle with due caution and shall (unless directed by a peace officer) proceed as follows:

- Make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the vehicle if possible in the existing safety and traffic conditions; or

- If a lane change would be impossible, prohibited by law, or unsafe, reduce the speed of the motor vehicle to a reasonable and proper speed for the existing road and traffic conditions, which speed shall be at least ten miles per hour less than the posted speed limit or 25 miles per hour, whichever is more, and be prepared to stop.

- Violation of subsection (b) of this Code section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$250.00.

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## TEXTING & CELL PHONES

### Texting and Cell Phone Use While Driving

Georgia has a hands Free Law (HB 673) that mandates that drivers are not allowed to hold or support a phone for any reason. A phone can only be used with headphones, a wireless device, phone holder or mounted device. Penalties are fines and points added to your driving record increasing for each conviction.



## Hands Free Georgia Law (HB 673)

Pursuant to 40-6-241(c), passed in 2018, all drivers operating a motor vehicle on any highway of this state. Holding or supporting, with any part of the body, a wireless telecommunications device or stand-alone electronic device.

- Writing, sending or reading any text-based communication, including a text message, instant message, e-mail or internet data.
- Watching, recording, or broadcasting a video or movie.

### Penalties

- 1st conviction – 1 point and fine not more than \$50.00
- 2nd conviction – 2 points and fine not more than \$100.00
- 3rd or more convictions – 3 points and fine not more than \$150.00