

TEEN DRIVING LAWS

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In 1997 The Teenage and Driver Responsibility Act (TADRA) established a graduated driver's licensing program for teens ages 15 to 18 in Georgia. This means that teens progress through a licensing process in three phases. As teens reach a certain age, complete certain requirements and have demonstrated their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle, they are allowed to progress to the next phase. Successful progression to the next phase also requires a demonstration of responsibility on the part of the teen by avoiding any violations during the term of the license held. TADRA also includes school enrollment requirements and license suspension/revocation provisions for dangerous behaviors (e.g. DUI, excessive speeding, etc.).

School Enrollment Requirements

Anyone younger than 18 years of age must present one of the following in order to obtain a driver's license or instructional permit:

1. Certificate of School Enrollment (DS-1- obtained from school personnel);
2. High School Diploma;
3. General Education Development (GED);
4. Special Diploma;
5. Certificate of High School Completion;
6. College or vocational school transcript dated within the last thirty days (official transcript with seal required);
7. Certificate of Adult Literacy proving pursuit of a GED (available from the Technical College System of Georgia for those currently enrolled in a GED program);
8. Declaration of Intent for Home Schoolers.

Responsible Adult Requirements

All applicants under 18 years of age must have a responsible adult present to sign the application and complete the Responsible Adult Affidavit. A responsible adult is a person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, competent to verify the application, and has personal knowledge of the applicant. He or she may be:

- A parent or legal guardian of the applicant (must provide school or military documents, tax information or a driver's license/permit/ID card to show relationship to applicant),
- A social worker who has worked with the applicant (must provide an employee ID or a letter from the state agency),
- Certified Driver Training instructor authorized to act on behalf of the parent, legal guardian or responsible adult of the applicant with notarized documentation to verify,
- An employee of a homeless shelter where the applicant resides (must provide an employee ID or a letter from the shelter),
- A stepparent of the applicant;
- Other persons who can be identified by a state agency or official, school official or certified school records, or documentation from a federal agency or entity.

Joshua's Law

Joshua's Law promotes increased teen driving safety. The highlights of Joshua's Law include:

- Approved driver education training required to obtain a Class D Provisional license at ages 16 and 17;
- Approved driver education training required to obtain a Class M Instructional Permit (MP) at age 16;
- You must be 17 years of age to obtain a Class M Motorcycle Operator's License.
- The first stage of the graduated licensing program is a Class C Instructional Permit (CP).

Class C Instructional Permit (CP)

For first-time issuance of a Class C Instructional Permit (CP), 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 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 pages 10-11;
- You must know your full Social Security Number or provide proof of your ineligibility to obtain a Social Security Number. See page 10 for a list of acceptable documents;
- If you are under age 18, you will be required to present proof of school enrollment as explained in this section;
- 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 16 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 2 years.

Class D Provisional License

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

Obtaining a Class D Provisional License

Upon reaching age 16 and after having held a valid instructional permit for one year and one day, you may apply for a Class D Provisional License by:

- You will be required to present proof of school enrollment as explained in this section;
- 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;
- A parent, legal guardian or responsible adult will have to sign the application, thereby giving their consent for you to obtain a license. This person may, for any reason, revoke your license until you reach age 18.
- You must pass a road test designed to evaluate your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- You must satisfy the Driver Education/Joshua's Law listed below. (Note: Teens with parents active in the U.S. Military may use an out of state driver's education certificate provided that it is within 9 months of their 16th birthday.

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.

Teens Moving to Georgia

The following information applies to teens moving to Georgia from another state who wish to obtain a driver's license or permit in Georgia.

Under Age 18 without a valid license issued by another state

If you do not already hold a valid driver's license or instructional permit issued by another state, you will be subject to the licensing requirements of Georgia residents. Please see the preceding sections for more information.

Under Age 18 with valid out of state license

If you hold a valid driver's license or instructional permit issued by another state, you will normally be eligible to obtain a comparable license issued by Georgia. However, the state of issuance may have requirements for teenage drivers that differ from Georgia. For more information, please call the Customer Contact Center at (678) 413-8400.

Revocation of Minor's License/ Permit

The parent, legal guardian or responsible adult who signed a minor's application for an

instructional permit or driver's license may request revocation of the license or permit at any time prior to the minor's eighteenth birthday. The person requesting revocation of a minor's instructional permit or driver's license must submit his or her request for the revocation on the form designated by the Department. The form requires the person's notarized signature. The person requesting revocation of a minor's instructional permit or driver's license must pay a non-refundable fee of \$10.00.

License/Permit Suspensions

Convictions Other Than DUI

The State of Georgia applies strict penalties to teens who fail to obey the laws regarding operation of a motor vehicle. The instructional permit or driver's license of any person under 21 years of age convicted of any of the following offenses shall be SUSPENDED for a period of six months for a first conviction, or for a period of twelve months for a second or subsequent conviction.

- Hit and run or leaving the scene of a crash;
- Racing on highways or streets;
- Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer;
- Reckless driving;
- Aggressive driving;
- Any other offense for which four or more points are assessed:
 - » Unlawful passing of a school bus;
 - » Improper passing on a hill or curve;
 - » Exceeding the speed limit by 24 miles per hour or more.
- The accumulation of four or more points in any 12-month period while under 18 years of age.

A limited permit may be available only if the suspension resulted from a conviction for speeding 24-33 mph over the speed limit and the applicant is at least 18 years old.

Convictions for Driving Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol (DUI)

First DUI Suspension:

- If your Blood Alcohol Concentration was .02 or greater, but less than .08; or your implied consent test results were suppressed; or no test was given, your license will be suspended for a minimum period of 6 months, unless you have a previous conviction for an offense in the above list, in which case your license will be suspended for a minimum period of 12 months;
- If your Blood Alcohol Concentration was .08 or greater or you refused implied consent testing, your license will be suspended for a minimum period of 12 months;
- No limited driving permit is available.

Second DUI Suspension:

Your license will be suspended for a minimum period of 18 months, with ignition interlock permit eligibility after 120 days.

Driver Education Requirements

- To obtain a Class D license at the age of 16 or 17 you must complete a driver education course approved by DDS. 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 approved Parent/Teen Driver Guide;
 - » You must also have completed a cumulative total of at least 40 hours of other driving experience including at least 6 hours at night. Completion of the DDS approved Parent/Teen Driving Guide will serve as an affidavit certifying that this requirement has been met;
- If the teen obtains the on-the-road component from a certified instructor, a separate document affirming that this requirement has been met must be completed at the time of the road test.
- 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;
- Exception

Any 17-year-old is exempt from holding their Class CP/instructional permit for one year and one day with proof that they are enlisted in the military. They will be issued a Class C license after successfully passing the road test.

SIGNS, SIGNALS & MARKINGS

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It's the Law

Georgia law requires that all drivers, including bicyclists, obey official highway signs and traffic control signals unless otherwise directed by a police officer or emergency worker.

Road Signs

Shapes of Signs

The State of Georgia uses seven basic shapes of signs to convey traffic control instructions. Drivers should know signs by their shapes and colors so that they may recognize them from a distance and begin reacting timely and appropriately.



Vertical Rectangle signs are generally used for regulatory signs, which tell you what you must do. You must obey them in the same manner as traffic laws.



Horizontal Rectangle signs are generally used as guide signs. They show locations, directions, or other special information.



An Octagon (eight-sided shape) always means stop. When you come to it, you must make a complete stop at a marked stop line. If there is no stop line, stop before the crosswalk on your side of the intersection. If there is no crosswalk, stop at a point from which you can best see oncoming traffic. You must not start again until all pedestrians have finished crossing on the side of the roadway you are traveling on, and you have yielded the right-of-way to closely approaching traffic.



Triangle signs mean yield. You must slow down to a speed that is reasonable for existing conditions and stop if necessary. If you must stop, do so at a marked stop line, if it exists. After slowing or stopping, you must yield the right-of-way to other vehicles in the intersection or approaching closely on another roadway or auxiliary road leading into a major highway.



Diamond shaped signs warn of existing or possible hazards on roadways or adjacent areas. They are yellow with black words indicating the potential hazard, or black symbols visually describing the potential hazard.



A round sign means you are approaching a railroad crossing. This sign is posted a few hundred feet in front of the tracks and alerts you to slow down, look, listen and prepare to stop. If necessary, roll down a window and listen carefully for an approaching train. If a train is approaching, stop! Do not try to calculate whether you can "make it" across the track. Never try to beat a train through the intersection. Passing is prohibited at all railroad crossings.



Pentagon shaped signs mean you are approaching a school zone and/or school crossing. When used, they will be erected not less than 150 feet nor more than 700 feet in advance of the school grounds or school crossing. (These signs can sometimes be fluorescent green in color.)

Regulatory Signs

Regulatory signs tell drivers what they may or may not do. Drivers, including bicyclists, must obey them in the same manner as traffic laws. Remember, a red circle with a red slash from upper left to lower right means "No." The picture within the circle shows what is prohibited.



This marks a one-way road. If you are facing this sign traffic is coming toward you. You must not continue down the road.



You are approaching a one-way highway or ramp. Driving on the highway or ramp in the direction you are traveling is not allowed.



You may travel only in the direction of the arrow.



Traffic is required to keep to the right of medians or obstructions.



You cannot turn around to go in the opposite direction at this intersection.



You cannot make a right turn at this intersection.



55 miles per hour is the maximum speed limit permitted in this area.



You are approaching an area where a reduced speed limit has been established.



When two or more traveling lanes are available in the direction you are traveling, slower traffic should travel in the right (outside) lane(s).



A right turn on red is prohibited, even after coming to a complete stop.



You are approaching a school zone. A reduced speed limit is in effect when the yellow lights are flashing.



Bicycles are prohibited from entering this roadway.



Trucks are prohibited from entering this roadway.

SECTION 7: SIGNS, SIGNALS & MARKINGS

Warning Signs

Warning signs are usually yellow with black markings. (Warning signs can also be fluorescent green with black markings.) They alert you to conditions that are immediately ahead. There may be road hazards, changes in traffic direction, or some other potentially hazardous situation that requires action on your part.



Sharp turn to the right.



Curve to the right.



Sharp turn to the right and then sharp turn to the left.



Winding road ahead.



Side road enters highway ahead.



Side road enters highway ahead at an angle.



Another road crosses the highway ahead.



The road you are traveling on ends straight ahead. Slow down and prepare to yield or stop before turning right or left.



The bridge ahead allows room for only two lanes of traffic. Approach with caution.



There is a dip in the road ahead. Slow down!



There is a bump in the road ahead. Slow down!



Shoulder of the road is soft. Drive on the shoulder only in emergencies.



Divided highway begins. Prepare to change lanes or shift lane position.



Divided highway ends. Prepare to change lanes or shift lane position.



Warning that you are leaving a separated one-way highway and will soon be driving on a two-way highway.



Approaching a low underpass. Do not enter if your vehicle or cargo exceeds the maximum height indicated on the sign.



Steep hill ahead. Slow down and be ready to shift to lower gear to control speed and protect brakes from damage.



Presence of traffic signals at intersection ahead. Slow down!



There is a yield sign ahead. Slow down and prepare to stop if necessary.



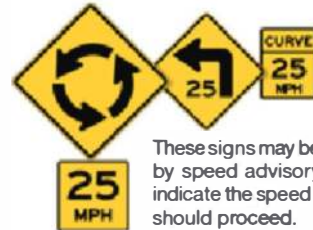
This sign is on the left side of the highway and marks the beginning of a no passing zone. Any passing maneuver must be completed before reaching this sign.



Roadway is slippery when wet. Remember, the first half-hour of rain is most hazardous.



There is a stop sign ahead. Begin to slow down and be prepared to stop.



These signs may be accompanied by speed advisory plaques that indicate the speed with which you should proceed.



Traffic merging from the right. Prepare to allow traffic to safely merge.



These signs alert drivers in advance of areas where animals, people, and vehicles may be crossing.



Drivers must stop and stay stopped when pedestrians are in the crosswalk.



Number of lanes reduced ahead.

ONE TEXT OR CALL COULD

WRECK

IT ALL

Guide Signs

Guide signs may indicate what road you are on, and how to get to your destination. Many guide signs are rectangular, but some have other shapes. There are several different kinds of guide signs — route markers, information, destination, distance, and location signs. These signs may be accompanied by a “To” sign or an arrow, indicating the highway, facility, or location that can be reached by following the signs. Here are some examples:



The numbers on these signs designate specific exits, interstates or highways.



Intersection of U.S. Route 47 & Ga. Highway 38. These roads are going to cross or meet the highway you are traveling on.

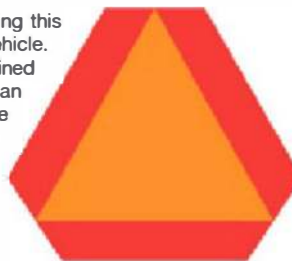


This sign marks an officially designated bicycle route. Be cautious of bicyclists while traveling on this road.



Milepost markers are placed each mile along the edge of the roadway from one end of the state to the other. Zero always starts at the south or west border where a route begins.

Caution - a vehicle displaying this emblem is a slow-moving vehicle. A slow-moving vehicle is defined as any vehicle moving less than 25 miles per hour. They are required by law to display this emblem.



This sign means there is a public parking area in the direction of the arrow.



The cross-buck is placed at all railroad crossings. Yield to any approaching trains. Slow down, look and listen before crossing. A sign below the cross-buck indicates the number of tracks. A complete stop is required when a red light is flashing.



Construction and Maintenance Warning Signs

Warning signs for construction and maintenance projects are used to alert you to dangers ahead and give you enough time to adjust your speed accordingly. These signs are orange with black markings.



Service Signs

While traveling along Georgia's highways, the following blue and white signs will give directions to service facilities.



EXPRESS LANES

Express Lanes offer motorists the option to pay a toll to bypass congestion in certain areas on the interstate. All vehicles with no more than two axles or up to six wheels can use Express Lanes if they have a registered Peach Pass. When the vehicle travels through the Express Lane, the toll amount will automatically be deducted from the pre-established account. There are currently two sets of Express Lanes in Georgia.

The I-85 Express Lanes are HOT Lanes along I-85 North in Gwinnett County. They are open 24-hours per day. On the I-85 Express Lanes, registered transit, three or more person carpools, motorcycles, emergency vehicles, and Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) with the proper AFV license plate are allowed to use the lanes toll-free.

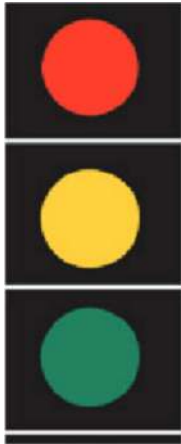
The I-75 South Metro Express Lanes are reversible lanes along I-75 South in Henry and Clayton counties. Reversible lanes change directions during the day to provide additional travel options during peak travel periods. When the travel direction is being reversed, signs will show the lanes are closed. On the I-75 South Metro Express

Lanes, all vehicles, including motorcycles and electric vehicles, are required to pay a toll. Public transit buses, registered vanpools and emergency response vehicles may use the lanes toll-free if they have a Peach Pass.



Traffic Signals and Signs

Traffic signals are placed at intersections to control the orderly movement of traffic and to prevent crashes. Drivers (including bicyclists) and pedestrians must obey these signals except when an officer is directing traffic. If a traffic signal is not functioning at all at an intersection, all drivers must treat the intersection as if a stop sign is posted for all directions. If a traffic signal is malfunctioning and flashing, drivers must proceed based on the color of the flashing signal they are facing: if the driver is facing a yellow flashing signal, the driver may proceed with caution; if the driver is facing a red flashing signal, the driver must stop and wait until it is safe to proceed.



A red light means you must make a complete stop before entering the crosswalk or intersection and wait until the light turns to green before proceeding.

A yellow light warns that the light is changing from green to red. Slow down and prepare to stop.

A green light means you may proceed if it is safe to do so after stopping for pedestrians and yielding to vehicles within the intersection.



A green arrow means you may proceed carefully only in the direction the arrow is pointing after stopping for pedestrians and yielding to vehicles within the intersection. In this case you may go straight ahead only.

A green arrow, in this case, means you may turn in the direction of the arrow after stopping for pedestrians and yielding to vehicles within the intersection.

A yellow arrow may appear after a green arrow and warns you to clear the intersection.

A red flashing light means you must stop completely (treat as you would a stop sign). Proceed with caution only after yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians and to other vehicles at the intersection.

A yellow flashing light means you must slow down and exercise caution before proceeding through the intersection.



A flashing yellow arrow means you may turn left after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians (oncoming traffic still has the green light).

Lane Control Signals

Some roadways are designed to accommodate different traffic demands during the day through the use of a reversible lane system. Appropriate travel lanes on a roadway utilizing a reversible lane system are indicated as follows:



No travel allowed in this lane in the direction you are going.



"Steady" - clear the lane
"Flashing" - left turn permitted.



Travel in lane.

Overhead Lane Signs



Left turn only.



Straight or left turn only.



Right turn only.

Pedestrian Signals



Leave the curb to cross the street.



Do not leave curb.



Flashing - do not leave curb, but complete walking across the street if already started.



Pedestrian-Hybrid Beacons (PHB)

This signal is known as a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB), and it is designed to help pedestrians safely cross busy streets. Pedestrians push a button to activate the overhead beacon and stop road traffic. When WALK appears on the Pedestrian signal, pedestrians can cross the street.



Dark

The PHB remains DARK for traffic unless a pedestrian activates the push-button.



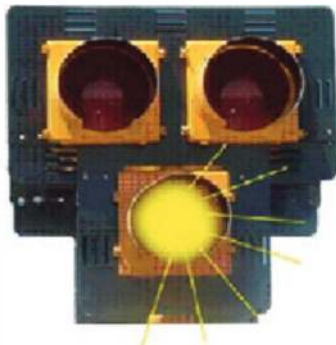
Solid Red

The solid yellow is followed by double SOLID RED signals, requiring drivers to stop.



Flashing Red

The double solid red signals are followed by alternating FLASHING RED signals. This requires drivers to come to a full STOP, and proceed when pedestrians have cleared the crosswalk. The signal will then go dark until activated again by a pedestrian.



Flashing

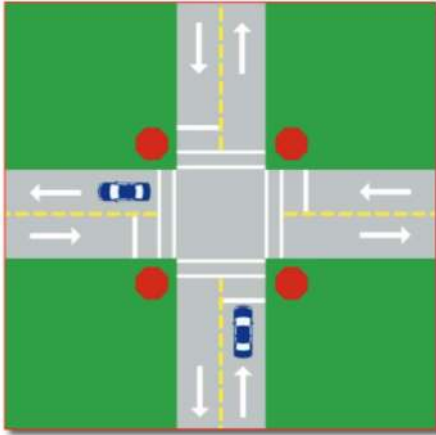
When a pedestrian presses the button, the signal is activated. Approaching drivers will see a FLASHING YELLOW signal for a few seconds.



Solid Yellow

The flashing yellow is followed by a SOLID YELLOW signal, indicating drivers should reduce speed and be prepared to stop.





Pavement Markings

Pavement markings, like highway signs, are used to warn and direct drivers and to regulate traffic.

Stop Lines

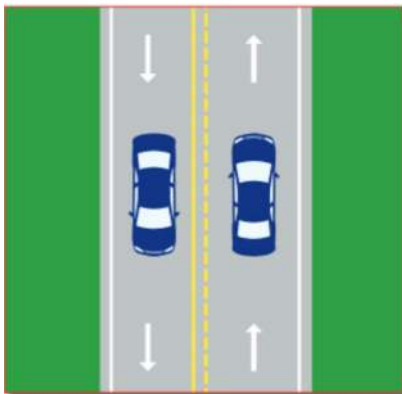
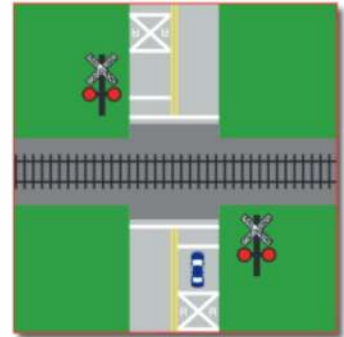
Stop lines are white lines painted across the pavement at intersections indicating the point beyond which your vehicle should not cross if you are stopping for a traffic control device. In urban areas, the line is usually located about four feet before the crosswalk. Drivers must come to a complete stop at the stop line, when present, not at the actual stop sign or traffic signal.

Crosswalk Lines

These white lines are painted across, or partially across the pavement. Sometimes they will be painted in a ladder pattern. When pedestrians are in the crosswalks, they have the right-of-way over motor vehicles. Crosswalks are sometimes in the middle of a block in residential areas, and in some cases, a pedestrian crossing signal is located at the white line.

Railroad Crossings

When a road is crossed by a railroad crossing, the pavement is usually marked with a large X and two R's. At railroad crossings, a yellow line is always placed on the right side of the center line to prevent passing. The crossing is sometimes equipped with control arms and/or emergency lights, to warn drivers of approaching trains. The driver of the vehicle must stop if warning signals indicate a train is approaching.



Center Lines

These are used to separate traffic moving in opposite directions on paved roadways. Broken yellow lines are used when there are only two lanes and it is safe to pass in either direction.

No Passing Lines

Single Lines

These single, solid yellow lines on two-lane roads indicate zones where passing is prohibited. They will be located on the right of the broken yellow line when they apply to the lane in which you are traveling. In some instances, both yellow lines will be solid, indicating it is not safe for passing in either direction.

Double White Lines

These are double white line (dashed or solid) pavement markings on roadways that indicate where vehicles can or cannot cross to access the adjacent lane. When the double white lines are dashed, vehicles are allowed to cross over to the adjacent lane. When the double white lines are solid, lane changes are prohibited.

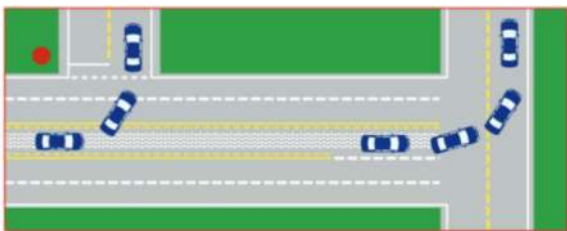
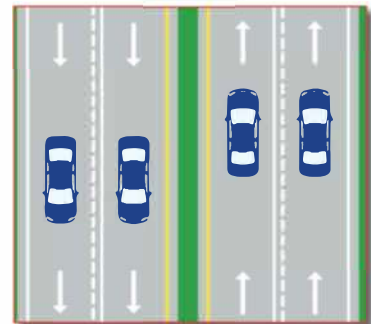
Edge Lines

These are the solid white lines along the side of the pavement. They serve as safety guides, especially at night when it is difficult to see the edge of the road. A yellow edge line may be used on the left side to warn of narrow or raised medians.

Lane Lines

These are the white dashes that mark the individual lanes of travel on streets and highways having more than one lane for traffic moving in the same direction.

When there are four or more lanes with traffic moving in opposite directions, two solid yellow lines mark the center of the roadway. You may cross these lines only to make a left turn into or from an alley, private road, driveway, or another street. When traveling on a multi-lane road, stay in the right lane except to pass other vehicles traveling in the same direction.



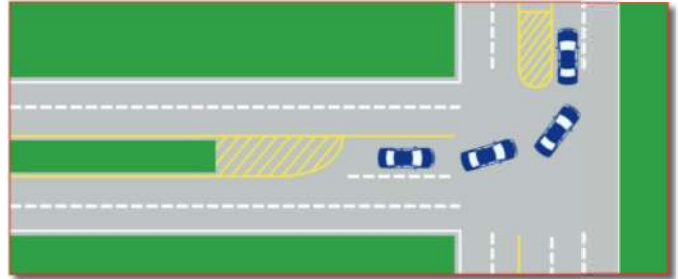
Traffic Striping

These markings, created by diagonal yellow lines, are on streets and highways indicating that the road is narrowing or there is an obstruction on the roadway. The area is similar to a triangle with solid yellow diagonal lines within the outside lines. Always keep to the right of these markings.

Turn Lanes

These lanes, bordered by solid yellow and/or broken yellow lines, is in the center of many streets and highways to make left turns. A motorist desiring to turn left should proceed to the turn lane just prior to making a left turn. Georgia law prohibits the use of this lane for any purpose other than making a left turn. You may enter this lane no more than 300 feet from the location of the left turn.

When a turning lane is provided for vehicles traveling in both directions, you should use extreme caution before entering the turning lane to make a left turn. There may be a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction also entering the turning lane to make a left turn. This is especially problematic in congested areas.



Bicycle Lanes

These are solid white lines typically located between the farthest right traffic lane and the curb or edge of the roadway. If there is a right-turn-only lane present, the bicycle lane will be located to the left of the right-turn-only lane in order to safely accommodate bicycles traveling straight through the intersection. Bicycle lanes may also be marked with painted symbols of a bicycle. Drivers of motor vehicles are prohibited from driving or parking in the bicycle lane, except to cross over it to make a turn. When crossing over a bicycle lane to make a turn, motorists must yield to bicyclists that are present.

ROUNDBABOUTS

Navigating a roundabout

Roundabouts are sometimes used at intersections instead of stop signs. The purpose of a roundabout is to allow the intersection to handle heavier traffic flow without the need for a signal or a four-way stop. When entering a roundabout, traffic laws concerning right-of-way still apply. **You must yield to other traffic that is already in the roundabout.** You will always enter a roundabout to the right, and continue circling until you have reached the roadway onto which you want to turn. When reaching the desired road, you will always exit to the right.

PEDESTRIANS

- ① **Approach:** At the pedestrian crosswalk, look to make sure cars stop for you. Use pedestrian crossing signal if available.
- ② **Cross:** Cross to the pedestrian refuge. Look to make sure cars stop for you. Finish crossing to the opposite sidewalk. Never cross to the center island.

CYCLISTS

Experienced cyclists may navigate roundabouts like motorists. Do not hug the curb. Ride in the middle of the lane to prevent vehicles from passing you. Stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

Children or cyclists who are not comfortable entering the flow of traffic should walk their cycles and act as pedestrians.

Navigating a Single Lane Roundabout

MOTORISTS

- ① **Approach:** Slow down to the posted advisory speed. Stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk; they have the right of way.
- ② **Enter:** When entering the roundabout, yield to all circulating vehicles. Wait for a gap and then merge into traffic in the roundabout. Traffic in a roundabout always circulates counterclockwise.
- ③ **Proceed:** Continue circling through the roundabout until you reach the roadway onto which you want to turn.
- ④ **Exit:** Signal, then bear right to exit the roundabout. Stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Single Lane Roundabout



Navigating a Multilane Roundabout

MOTORISTS

- ① **Approach:** Follow the lane use signs & pavement marking arrows. Get into the correct lane before entering the roundabout. Slow down to the posted advisory speed. Stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk; they have the right of way.
- ② **Enter:** When entering the roundabout, yield to all circulating vehicles in both lanes. Wait for a gap and then merge into traffic in the roundabout. Traffic in a roundabout always circulates counterclockwise. Maintain your lane as you enter the roundabout.
- ③ **Proceed:** Continue circling through the roundabout until you reach the roadway onto which you want to turn. Do not change lanes in the roundabout.
- ④ **Exit:** Signal, then bear right to exit the roundabout. Stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Multilane Roundabout



*Please note that these roundabout diagrams are examples only and do not represent all roundabout designs.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

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TIRE PRESSURE

Prior to entering vehicle check tire pressure using recommended psi located in the door jam of the vehicle. Use a tire pressure gauge to check your psi. If your psi is above the number listed on your door jam, let air out until it matches. If below, add air (or have a retailer help you) until it reaches the proper number.

You may also measure tread depth using the penny test. Once every month, or before you embark upon a long road trip, check your tires for wear and damage problems. One easy way to check for wear is by using the penny test.

1. Take a penny and hold Abraham Lincoln's body between your thumb and forefinger.
2. Select a point on your tire where the tread appears the lowest and place Lincoln's head into one of the grooves.
3. If any part of Lincoln's head is covered by the tread, you're driving with the legal and safe amount of tread. If your tread gets below that (approximately 2/32 of an inch), your car's ability to grip the road in adverse conditions is greatly reduced.

Traffic laws alone cannot regulate every type of driving situation that may occur. There are some general rules which drivers should understand and follow. Read this chapter with care. Someday these safety tips might help you avoid a crash, serious injury, or even death. These are only general statements and cannot dictate your actions in *all* situations. It is up to you to evaluate the situation and make a determination as to the best course of action.

Entering the Car

- Develop a routine for entering the car safely and preparing for your trip. If you are parked on the street, enter from the curb side of the vehicle. If this is not possible, wait until your entry can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with the flow of traffic;
- Have your keys ready, and approach the vehicle facing traffic;
- Adjust your seat and mirrors;
- Check passengers to be sure they are properly seated and do not interfere with your view;
- Before starting your ignition, fasten your seat belt and make sure your passengers do the same;
- After starting your vehicle, check around your vehicle for hazards or approaching traffic, including bicyclists and pedestrians, give the proper signal and move cautiously into the stream of traffic.

Steering

Good posture while driving is important because it allows a better view of hazards and more control of the vehicle. As a general rule, when gripping the steering wheel, place your left hand at the 9 o'clock position and your right hand at the 3 o'clock position on the wheel. Some manufacturers recommend placing your hands at 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock positions when the vehicle is equipped with air bags. Check your owner's manual or contact your vehicle manufacturer to determine which position is best for your vehicle. Always keep both hands on the wheel unless you are safely performing another driving-related task, such as activating your turn signal.

Fog

If possible, avoid driving in heavy fog. If you must drive, follow these guidelines:

- Reduce driving speed;
- Reduce speed further when you see headlights or red tail lights. These indicate the presence of another vehicle and, due to fog, it may be more difficult to accurately judge the distance between your vehicle and others;
- Dim your headlights. Bright lights produce a glare in heavy fog, actually making it more difficult to see than when using regular headlights;
- Do not drive with parking or hazard lights on.

Hydroplaning

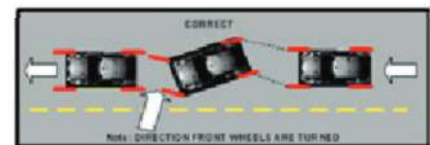
Hydroplaning occurs when there is standing water on a roadway. At speeds up to 35 mph, most tires will channel water away from the tire similar to the way a windshield wiper cleans the windshield. As your speed increases, tires cannot channel the water as well, and your tires may start to lose contact with the road and ride over the water like a set of water skis. In a standard passenger car, partial hydroplaning can begin at speeds as low as 35 mph. At 55 mph, the tires may lose all contact with the road. If this occurs, there is no friction available to brake, accelerate, or steer. It is possible for the vehicle to go into an unpredictable and uncontrollable skid. If this occurs, take your foot off of the accelerator, letting the car slow down. To prevent hydroplaning, maintain good tires with adequate water-channeling thread on your vehicle. Most importantly, slow down when there is water on the roadway.

Skidding

A car skids when its tires lose their grip on the road surface. When a car skids, both the power that the engine sends to the wheels and the braking ability of the wheels are lost. Slick surfaces can exaggerate normal movements. If brakes are applied too hard, or the wheel is turned too sharp, a skid can occur.

If you start to skid:

- ease your foot off of the accelerator;
- begin turning the steering wheel in the direction of the skid;
- once you have regained control of the vehicle, you can lightly apply brakes and steer in a safe direction.



Remember, the first half-hour of rainfall is the most dangerous because roadways become extremely slippery when the water mixes with oil and other chemicals on the road surfaces.

Curves

Curves in a roadway are potential sources of hazard for drivers. Because of the maneuvering involved, it is more likely that a less cautious driver may fail to maintain their lane while driving through a curve. When roadways are slick because of rain or other hazards, curves can be especially dangerous and require much lower speeds than when the road is dry. Sharper curves are usually marked with a safe miles-per-hour sign. Usually less than the posted speed limit, these advisory signs indicate that the reduced speed shown will make driving through a curve safer.

Reduce your speed before entering these curves. If, while driving through the curve, you realize that you are traveling too fast, do not forcefully apply brakes because this may cause your vehicle to skid. Instead, take your foot off the accelerator, carefully apply the brake, and continue steering in the lane of travel.

Leaving the Roadway

Uneven terrain and obstacles make it difficult to safely maneuver a vehicle once it has left the roadway. Serious injury or death can result from a crash if this happens.

To avoid leaving the roadway while driving, pay attention to road conditions. Drive at or below the speed indicated on a regulatory sign or an advisory sign indicating potential hazards. Drive defensively, being mindful of the actions of drivers around you.

If your vehicle leaves the roadway, try to follow these guidelines:

- Don't panic;
- Take your foot off the accelerator;
- Grip the steering wheel tightly and be prepared to withstand sudden shocks;
- Don't hit the brake pedal suddenly and hard; use your brakes carefully;
- Don't try to turn back onto the pavement immediately. Overcompensating ("jerk" the wheel) when returning to the roadway can cause you to lose control of your vehicle by skidding or flipping, or may also cause your car to go into other lanes of traffic;
- Wait until your speed has reduced, check the traffic, and look for a place to safely return to the roadway by merging into traffic. If necessary, come to a complete stop before re-entering the roadway.

Tire Blow-Out

Unlike a slow leak which may cause a tire to go flat over time, a blow-out occurs when the tire ruptures and goes flat immediately. If this occurs while your vehicle is in motion, it can cause you to lose control.

If you experience a sudden tire blow-out, do not panic. Follow these guidelines to maintain control of the vehicle.

- Apply brakes lightly if necessary and safe to do so;
- Grasp the steering wheel firmly and take your foot off the accelerator to allow the vehicle to roll to a stop;
- Do not move to the shoulder of the road until the car has slowed greatly. If the blow-out causes the car to swerve on to the shoulder, do not try to get back on the pavement. Let the car coast to a stop. See the guidelines above for what to do when your vehicle leaves the roadway.

Winter Driving

Winter weather can create many driving hazards. Because of the usually mild climate, most Georgians are not experienced in driving in winter weather. Here are several suggestions to help you drive safely in winter weather:

- Use chains or snow tires if road conditions require extra traction. Always check the manufacturer's instruction manual for your vehicle, the tires, and the chains before installing them on your vehicle and operating on a roadway;
- Keep windows clear. Remove snow and ice from all window surfaces before operating the vehicle on a roadway;
- When you first enter the roadway, and if it is safe to do so, get a "feel" for the road. Test your brakes gently. Determine how your vehicle will respond to turning the wheel by making slight adjustments. Never apply sudden braking. Instead, slow down gradually before you come to an intersection, make a turn, or stop;
- Keep a safe distance between you and other vehicles;
- Reduce speed according to conditions;
- Watch for hazards or changing road conditions ahead.

Tips for Safe Winter Driving

- Get your car serviced routinely.

- Check your battery.
- Check your cooling system.
- Fill your windshield washer reservoir.
- Check your windshield wipers and defrosters.
- Verify floor mat installation to prevent pedal interference.
- Inspect your tires.
- Check the age of your tires.
- Know your car.
- Plan your travel and route.
- Stock your vehicle with necessary tools and supplies.
- Learn what to do in a winter emergency.

Carbon Monoxide

Cars produce carbon monoxide, a deadly odorless and colorless gas. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are sudden weariness, yawning, dizziness, and nausea. Simple precautions to avoid carbon monoxide are:

- Don't leave the car motor running in a garage;
- Don't leave the car motor running and the windows closed while the car is parked;
- Don't operate the heater or air conditioner in a parked car with the windows closed;
- Don't drive with a defective muffler or exhaust system.

DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE

A Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) shifts traffic flow to the opposite side of the road to allow vehicles to enter the freeway by turning left onto an on-ramp without stopping. This reduces points of conflict and improves traffic flow and safety. The DDI is a proven, cutting edge, low-cost design that provides immediate traffic relief. Under normal, free-flowing traffic conditions on surrounding highways, the DDI can reduce delays in evening rush hours up to 20 percent.

Scan this QR code to view an informative video about Diverging Diamond Interchanges



Move a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning to fresh air, contact emergency medical services, and give artificial respiration if it is necessary and you are trained to do so.

Steering Locks

Steering locks are anti-theft devices found in most cars manufactured since 1969.

Steering locks can cause dangerous situations for drivers who are not familiar with their operation. If a vehicle's ignition is placed in the lock position while the vehicle is in motion, the steering capability of the vehicle will be disabled, and the driver will be unable to steer the vehicle.

Further information concerning steering locks is available from the Automobile Safety Foundation at www.carsafe.org.

Following Too Closely

A rear-end crash is caused by following another vehicle too closely. When following another vehicle on any street or highway, there must be enough distance for you to safely stop if the vehicle in front of you suddenly slows down or stops. One way to determine if there is enough distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you is to measure the amount of time between when the vehicle in front of you passes a reference point and when your vehicle passes the same reference point. Watch the car ahead of you. When it passes a reference point, such as a telephone pole or street sign, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two." If you pass the same spot before you are through counting, you are following too closely. During inclement weather, during construction, during heavy traffic, and always at night, the distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you should be even greater.

Speed and Stopping Distance

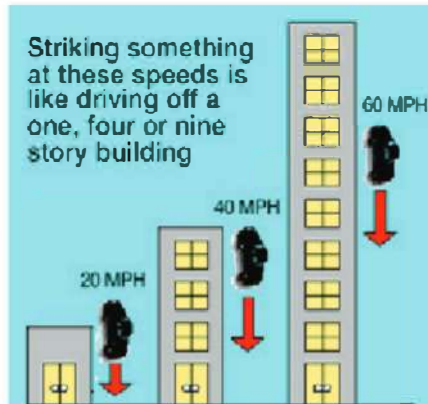
The distance it takes to stop your vehicle is important in determining a safe driving speed. The chart below may be used as a guide, but actual stopping distance can depend on the following factors in addition to vehicle speed:



- Mental and physical reaction of the driver;
- Type and condition of the pavement;
- Kind of tires and tread composition;

- Chassis (frame) design;
- Type of brakes, condition, and balance of brakes;
- Wind direction and velocity.

Speed is a leading factor in serious injury and death as a result of traffic crashes. The greater the speed, the greater the force of impact. The illustration below conveys the relative force of impact when you strike a fixed object.



Expressway Driving

An expressway differs from normal roads or highways in that access to it is controlled. Vehicles can only enter and exit the expressway at specific places known as interchanges. Most expressways in Georgia are free, but there are a few that require a toll.

With the exception of the controlled enter/exit points and HOV lanes, expressways are similar to traveling on a divided highway. There is a median separating traffic traveling in opposite directions; lanes are marked with dashed lines, and the edge of the roadway is marked with a solid line; slower traffic should keep to the right; and all traffic laws and guidelines associated with safe driving still apply.

Entering Expressways

The entrance ramp is a short one-way road that leads to the expressway. From the entrance ramp, you should move into the acceleration lane. This is the lane that runs alongside the main roadway. In the acceleration lane, you can adjust your speed to the speed of the expressway traffic. When safe to do so, you should merge into traffic. Vehicles on the expressway have the right of way, but courteous drivers will permit you to move into the expressway traffic.

Exiting Expressways

Prepare to exit a controlled access highway by safely moving to the right lane for an exit on the right, or the left lane for an exit on the left. Guide signs will tell you of the approaching exit. At the exit, deceleration lanes are provided for slowing down when leaving the expressway. Posted exit speeds are usually low due to the design of the roadway. Drivers should use either brake lights or a turn signal to indicate a change in speed to the drivers behind if slowing down in the traveling lane when preparing to exit.

Use of Lanes on Expressways

Drivers operating vehicles on divided highways must drive to the right of the median unless directed to do otherwise by a sign, traffic control device, or police officer. Drivers must obey the yellow or white striping on the roadway that indicates lanes, the convergence of lanes, or areas in which vehicles should not operate. Drivers may only access or exit controlled-access roadways at designated entrances and exits.

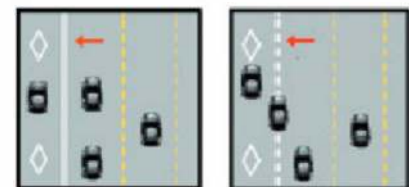
Gores

The term "gore" means the area of convergence between two lanes of traffic. The gore is the area, usually similar to a triangle, formed by solid white lines between an existing lane of travel and a merging lane of travel. Gores are most often seen at the convergence of an acceleration lane and the adjacent travel lane on a controlled access highway. The gore is the area bounded by solid white lines between the acceleration lane and the adjacent travel lane. Drivers entering the controlled access highway are prohibited by law from crossing this solid white line, and are required to continue traveling in the acceleration lane until the solid white line disappears.



HOV Lanes

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes are travel lanes that are restricted to vehicles with more than one occupant, buses, motorcycles, and vehicles with Alternative Fuel Vehicle license plates. The lanes are marked with a diamond symbol and the hours of restriction are posted. The penalty for violating HOV lane restrictions is a fine up to \$75 for a first offense; up to \$100 for a second offense; up to \$150 for a third offense; and up to \$150 plus one point added to the violator's driving record for a fourth or subsequent offense.



HOV LANES
Double White Lines (No Entry)
Dashed White Line (You May Enter)

HOT Lanes

High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes are I-85 Express Lanes that allow registered transit, three or more person carpool, motorcycles, emergency vehicles, and Alternative Fuel Vehicles to use the lanes toll-free.

Tips For Expressway Driving

- Plan your trip carefully. Mark the map to indicate all entrances, service areas, and exits

OTHER HIGHWAY EMERGENCIES

Fire	Accelerator Jammed	Brakes Fail	Wet Brakes
• Apply mud, dirt, dust or snow. Check ditch for water. • Use hub cap to carry water to wet apparel. • Loosen dirt with tire tool to throw on fire.	• Slap the pedal with foot. • Shift to neutral. • Concentrate on steering. • Use brakes. • Turn off ignition (not to lock).	• Shift to lower gear. • Use parking brakes. • Rub tire on the curb. • Look for a safe area to slow to a stop.	• Test brakes lightly after driving through deep water. Brakes may pull to one side or may not hold at all. • Dry brakes by driving slowly in low gear while applying brakes lightly.

you plan to use. Doing these things will help you to have a safe, fast, and pleasant journey. You can check the website www.511ga.org for road construction, road closures, exit numbers, and other information to help plan your trip;

- Check your car before you start. Because expressways are designed for faster and smoother flowing traffic, there are fewer places to exit. It is important to check your gasoline gauge and make sure you have enough fuel. Also check the water, oil, and tires of your vehicle;
- Be alert. Use your rear view mirror and side mirror to constantly check the traffic around you. Always make visual traffic checks before you change lanes;
- Stay out of another driver's blind spot. Traveling in a position where the driver ahead of you cannot observe your vehicle in the rear view or side mirrors is a dangerous practice; the driver might pull out in front of you to pass a car. Either stay far enough behind so that the other driver can see you, or pass the vehicle. This is especially true for driving near large vehicles. Tractor-trailer combinations, also known as "eighteen-wheelers", are limited in their visibility because of their size;
- Use turn signals. Be sure to activate your right or left turn signal to indicate that you are changing lanes BEFORE you begin the maneuver;
- Allow plenty of room when passing. Returning to your lane of travel before you have passed another vehicle and provided enough safe distance between the two can cause a crash. Carefully check the left lane behind you before pulling out to pass. Don't pull back into the right-hand lane until you can see the car that you just passed clearly in your rear view mirror;
- Always obey the posted maximum and minimum speed limits. These laws exist to regulate the flow of traffic and to create a safe environment for all drivers;
- In metro areas, expressways will usually have a dramatically increased amount of traffic during the hours that most drivers are traveling to and from their places of employment. The number of cars on the expressway during this time will lead to delays. During this time, drivers should be particularly cautious. Driving defensively, allowing a safe distance between vehicles, and obeying all traffic control signs and devices can help ensure a safe commute;
- Don't back up. Driving in reverse on an expressway is prohibited under any circumstances;
- Stopping on the expressway is prohibited. You will find rest areas and service signs at frequent intervals; use them. Stopping on the roadway shoulder is highly dangerous and permitted only in an emergency. Switching drivers, stretching, or retrieving an item from the back of the vehicle is NOT considered an emergency. If it is necessary to stop, raise

the hood and activate your hazard lights to indicate difficulty. Don't walk along the expressway in search of help;

- Drowsiness and fatigue is a danger anytime you drive, but is especially dangerous on long trips along the expressway. Stop driving if you feel drowsy. Don't rely on stimulant drugs (also called Stay Awake Drugs). They are likely to make your driving even more hazardous. Expressway drivers are subject to "highway hypnosis," a condition of drowsiness or unawareness brought on by monotony, the sound of the wind, the tires on the pavement, and the steady hum of the engine. On long trips it is a good idea to "exercise your eyes" to help keep you alert. Keep shifting your eyes from one area of the roadway to another and focus on various objects, both near and far, left and right. Conversation with other passengers and lively radio programs may also help you remain more alert. Of course, always pay attention to the traffic around you and potentially hazardous highway conditions;
- Drive defensively. The key to defensive driving is awareness. You must keep your eyes moving so that you can keep track of what is happening around you at all times. Avoid staring at the center line on the roadway. Instead, look ahead for trouble spots which may endanger you or your passengers. A defensive driver will also frequently check the rear view and side mirrors to keep abreast of the traffic and road conditions to the rear and sides;
- Never trust other drivers to do what you think they are going to do or what you think they should do in a particular situation. The fact that a left turn signal is flashing does not necessarily mean that the driver is going to make a left turn. You should constantly be thinking of an "escape route" as you drive. For example, if you are approaching a curve, you should be looking closely at the shoulder and nearby area to determine what you would do if a car approaching from the other direction crosses to your side of the road. After a little practice this will become more instinctive.

Protecting the Air

The operation of motor vehicles has a significant impact on Georgia's air quality. Emissions from cars and light duty trucks contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, a com-

ponent of urban smog. Vehicle emissions can react with sunlight at high temperatures to produce unhealthy levels of this form of air pollution. This is especially true during warm weather. Vehicle emissions and ground-level ozone can be reduced by proper vehicle maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and by fewer trips and vehicle miles traveled.

In the thirteen-county metro Atlanta area, gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks that are less than 25 model years old must pass an emissions inspection every year prior to registering their vehicle with the county of residence (the most recent three model years are exempt from this requirement). The thirteen metro counties covered by the state's inspection and maintenance program are: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale. For more detailed information about the emissions inspection program, call the Georgia Clean Air Force at 1-800-449-2471. Remember removing or disabling a vehicle's emissions control components is a violation of federal and state law.

In addition to proper vehicle maintenance, you can help reduce air pollution and traffic congestion by limiting driving to necessary travel, by planning ahead to consolidate trips, and by using carpools, transit and ridesharing. All drivers should do their part to reduce the impact of automobiles and trucks on air quality and the environment.

Idling Engines

Minimize your idling time. Eliminating unnecessary idling can reduce fuel consumption, engine wear and air pollution. When warming up the engine, follow the manufacturer's guidelines to assure sufficient engine performance for safe driving. Idling a vehicle for 10 seconds will consume more fuel than restarting the engine.

For more information on emissions testing regulations & protecting Georgia's air quality:

- www.cleanairforce.com;
- www.cleanaircampaign.com;
- www.gefa.org

SHARING THE ROAD

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Sharing the Road With Pedestrians

While there has been an increase of motor vehicles on our roads, the number of persons traveling by foot is also growing. According to the Georgia Department of Transportation, pedestrians account for almost 15% of motor vehicles deaths. In 2016, Georgia had a 15% increase in pedestrian deaths. Distractions are believed to be a contributing factor. It is critical that pedestrians and motorists pay attention to safely share the road.

Georgia's Law Concerning Pedestrians

The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross the roadway within a crosswalk:

- When the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching and is within one lane of the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or onto which it is turning. "Half of the roadway" means all traffic lanes carrying traffic in one direction of travel;
- When making a left or right turn at any intersection;
- At stop signs, after coming to a complete stop and before proceeding;
- At traffic signals, even when the light is green, if pedestrians are still in the crosswalk;

- When entering a street or highway from an alley, driveway, or private road;
- When approaching a blind person who is crossing a street or highway if he/she is carrying a white cane or being guided by a dog.

Crosswalks

Crosswalks exist on all four corners of intersections even when they are not marked by painted lines. A crosswalk is the part of the pavement for pedestrian traffic where the sidewalk would extend across the street. Crosswalks can also exist mid-block if they are marked.



Respect Crosswalks

When pedestrians are in crosswalks, they have the right of way over motor vehicles. Do not block crosswalks. When stopping at red lights or stop signs, always stop your vehicle before the crosswalk so pedestrians can cross safely.

Even at crosswalks without traffic signals, drivers must stop and remain stopped for pedestrians in the crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway or approaching and within one lane of the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling. "Half of the roadway" means all traffic lanes carrying traffic in one direction of travel.

Blind Pedestrians

Pedestrians using guide dogs or white walking canes must be given the right of way at all times.

Always Remain Alert for Pedestrians When Driving

Look for pedestrians on both sides of the street when approaching intersections, when turning, or near schools, parks, bus stops and other places people are likely to walk. Look behind your car for children or other pedestrians before backing up in driveways and parking lots.

Turning Right at a Red Traffic Signal

Before turning right on red, drivers must come to a full and complete stop before the crosswalk. Do not block the crosswalk when waiting to make a right turn at a red light. This puts pedestrians at risk, forcing them to walk around your vehicle. After looking to your left to find a gap in traffic, you must look to your passenger side to ensure a pedestrian is not crossing in front of your vehicle.

Passing Stopped Cars in Lanes of Travel

Use extreme caution when passing stopped cars on multi-lane roads. A pedestrian you can't see may be crossing in a marked or unmarked crosswalk. This is a frequent cause of serious or fatal pedestrian injuries. When you stop at a crosswalk on a multi-lane road, stop at least 10 feet before the crosswalk so a driver in the next lane can see the pedestrian.

Exiting and Entering Driveways

When exiting or entering a driveway, alley, or parking garage, drivers must stop before the sidewalk area and proceed only after pedestrians have safely passed. Drivers waiting to turn left into a driveway must wait not only for a gap in oncoming traffic, but also for pedestrians to finish crossing the sidewalk portion of the driveway.



Vehicle Speed

Pedestrians are less protected from the harmful effects of a crash than occupants of motor vehicles. The risk of serious or fatal pedestrian injuries increase exponentially with driver speed.

The chart above illustrates the effect of speed upon a pedestrian who is struck by a motor vehicle. When a pedestrian is struck by a motor vehicle traveling 40mph, the risk of pedestrian death is at least 80%.

Sharing the Road With Bicycles

Bicycle riding is an important type of transportation, particularly for traveling to work and to school. Because bicyclists may be on any road at any time, drivers must always be alert for bicycle traffic.

Bike-car crashes often happen because drivers do not see bicyclists soon enough. In Georgia, as in other states, most crashes occur during daylight hours on straight, dry roads, typically near intersections or driveways.

Bicyclists are legally entitled to use every road in Georgia except the interstate and interstate-like highways (limited access highways). The law allows bicyclists use of the full lane. They are not required to be in a bike lane even when one is present. Although their slower pace may slow motorists occasionally, it is important for drivers to respect the bicyclist's right to be there. Yield the right of way to the bicyclist in the same way that you would yield to another motorist. If possible, make eye contact with the bicyclist, especially at intersections.

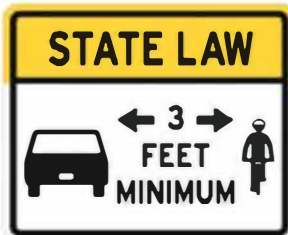
Road defects cause more problems for bicycles than for cars. When passing a bicycle rider, leave the bicyclist plenty of room in case he or she has to swerve to miss a pothole or other danger in the road. The minimum legal space for a motorist to pass a bicyclist is 3 feet.

Important Reminders Concerning Bicycle Riders

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

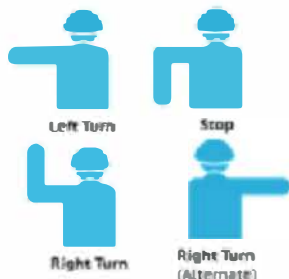
If a lane change is impossible, prohibited by law, or unsafe, reduce the speed of the motor vehicle to a reasonable and proper speed for the traffic conditions, which speed shall be at least ten miles per hour less than the posted speed limit or 25 miles per hour, whichever is more and proceed around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



- Watch for bicyclists who may appear to suddenly swerve or turn in front of you. Bicyclists sometimes forget or do not have the opportunity to merge left due to traffic speed, in order to be in the left turn position;
- Night time bicyclists will not always have lights, and some may not even have reflectors. If you meet an oncoming bicyclist, please dim your lights to avoid blinding the bicyclist.
- Bike lanes and any other bicycle infrastructure are for the use of bicycles only. Motorists are not to drive or park in a bike lane.
- Bicyclists are able to pass on the right side of motorists if there is a dedicated lane or sufficient room in a shared lane, and it is safe to do so.

Arm Signals Used by Bicyclists

Bicyclists should use their arms to signal to other motorists when they are going to make a turn, and the direction of the turn or when they are slowing or stopping. The signals used by bicyclists are listed below:



SHARING THE ROAD WITH MOTORCYCLES

Today's motorcycle riders are friends, relatives, and neighbors, but many car drivers still have not adjusted to motorcycles appearing in traffic. Traveling by motorcycle is appealing to some people; they are fuel and space efficient and can be fun to ride. Motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers. While everyone must follow the same traffic laws, motorcyclists face additional dangers because motorcycles require exceptional handling ability and motorcyclists are more vulnerable to injury and death than car drivers if involved in a crash. It is important to understand more about motorcycle operation.

From ahead or behind, a motorcycle's outline, whether 2 or 3 wheels, is much smaller than a passenger vehicle's outline, and most drivers expect to see larger vehicles on the road and are not looking for motorcycles. The small profile of the motorcycle may make it appear farther away and traveling slower than it actually is. Drivers need to take a second look, and then a third. Always make a visual check (mirrors, too) of blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections. Be alert for a motorcyclist to appear unexpectedly.

Allow a Full Lane

Motorcycles are allowed the full width of a lane in which to maneuver. Although it may seem that there is enough room in the traffic lane for a motor vehicle and a motorcycle, the motorcycle needs the room to maneuver safely. Do not share the lane. Understand that motorcyclists may adjust lane position for their own safety, not to be reckless or show off. Motorcyclists often adjust position within a lane to be seen more easily or to minimize the effects of road debris, passing vehicles, or other conditions. Often, this means riding in the left portion of the traffic lane to allow a better view of some traffic and road situations. It also makes the motorcycle more visible to other traffic. However, as traffic and road conditions change, the rider may move. This move could be to the center of the lane or even to the right side to avoid traffic or to be seen by others on the road.

Road Conditions

Remember that road conditions which are minor annoyances to motorists can pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Motorcycle riders may change speed or adjust position within a lane suddenly in reaction to road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement.

Intersections

Intersections are the most likely places for car/motorcycle crash to occur. This usually is the result of a car driver NOT SEEING the motorcycle and turning into the motorcycle's path. Misinterpreting a rider's intentions can also lead to crashes. The rider will move to one side of the lane in preparation for a turn or possibly to move away from a hazard unseen by other motorists. Do not assume the rider's intention until the maneuver is unmistakably started, such as a turn into an intersection or driveway. Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals may not be self-canceling and motorcyclists sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the rider is going to turn before you proceed.

Following Too Close

Allow more following distance -- three or four seconds -- when following a motorcycle so the motorcycle rider has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. Space between the two vehicles should be increased to avoid sudden braking. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars. Both riders and drivers are more likely to make incorrect decisions if there is not enough stopping distance or ability to see and react to conditions. This leads to crashes. A rider's chance of injury is greater if forced to avoid obstacles ahead, as well as a driver following too closely.

Passing and Being Passed

The rules for passing other vehicles are similar for motorcycles. The motorist being overtaken by a motorcycle should maintain lane position and speed. Allow the motorcyclist to complete the pass and assume proper lane position as quickly as possible. When passing a motorcycle, allow a full lane to the motorcycle. Never crowd into the same lane as the motorcycle. Returning to the original lane too soon can force a rider to swerve to the right into traffic or off the road.

Partners on the Road

What all this means is, motorcycles are full partners in the traffic mix and must be treated with the same courtesies. Watch for the unexpected and give them their share of the road; a rider may be the neighbor next door.

This section is designed to encourage drivers of all other kinds of vehicles and motorcyclists to "share the road" with each other and is provided through the courtesy of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



SECTION 9: SHARING THE ROAD

Sharing the Road With School Buses

In most cases, all drivers are required to stop when approaching or meeting a stopped school bus that has its lights flashing and is loading or unloading passengers. The exception to this rule is when highways are separated in the center by median strips. In this situation, only vehicles following or traveling alongside a school bus in the same direction must stop.

A warning will be given in advance by the flashing red or amber lights on the front and rear of the bus. After stopping, you must remain stopped until the bus resumes motion or deactivates its warning signals AND all loading or unloading passengers have cleared the roadway.

GEORGIA FINES & PENALTIES

- Mandatory court appearance;
- Up to \$1000 fine;
- Up to 6 points on driving record;
- A conviction under 21 years of age constitutes license suspension.

Sharing the Road With Commercial Motor Vehicles

Commercial motor vehicles are vital to the economy of Georgia and the United States. Most of the products used in every day life were delivered to stores by commercial motor vehicles. Drivers of commercial motor vehicles are trained, specially licensed driving professionals.

Sharing the road with commercial motor vehicles is a necessary part of travel. Heavy trucks typically weigh 80,000 pounds or more, and drivers should use caution when driving near them.

Everyone should be aware of the differences between trucks and cars and behave accordingly. These include:

- A fully loaded tractor-trailer, traveling 55 mph, needs 3 times the distance a car needs to stop;
- Large trucks are more difficult to maneuver, are longer and heavier, and require much more room to turn;
- Large trucks have larger blind spots, called "No-Zones."

The "No-Zone" represents the danger areas around trucks and buses where crashes are more likely to occur. Some No-Zones are actual blind spots or areas around trucks and buses where your car "disappears" from the view of the drivers. These blind spots are the Side No-Zone, Rear No-Zone, and Front No-Zone areas.

Tips for Trailing

For many drivers, towing a trailer is a whole new experience with many challenges — here are a few tips to stay safe on the road.

Take Your Time

If You Lose Control, Stay Calm

Stay Within Capacity

Distribute the Weight

Inspect Your Trailer

Know Your Trailer and Practice Handling It

Secure Your Load

Maintain your Trailer and Vehicle

Consider Tow Mirrors

Get the Right Equipment

Consider Additional Safety Equipment

More information can be found at AAMVA.org on Safe Trailing.

OPERATION STOP ARM™

KNOW THE LAW OBEY THE LAW

Georgia School Bus Stop Law

Two-lane roadway:

- When school bus stops for passengers, **ALL** traffic from both directions must stop.

Two-lane roadway with a center turning lane:

- When school bus stops for passengers, **ALL** traffic from both directions must stop.

Divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation:

- When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.

Four-lane roadway without a median separation:

- When school bus stops for passengers, **ALL** traffic from both directions must stop.

Roadway of four lanes or more with a center turning lane:

- When school bus stops for passengers, **ALL** traffic from both directions must stop.

A SCHOOL BUS STOP SAFETY GUIDE

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- **Side No-Zones** - Trucks and buses have big No-Zones (blind spots) on both sides. They are much larger than a car's blind spots. If you cannot see the driver's face in the side-view mirror, the driver cannot see you. The right side No-Zone is particularly dangerous because truck and bus drivers must make wide right turns.
- **Rear No-Zones** - Unlike cars, trucks and buses have huge No-Zones directly behind them. Trucks and buses have no rear view mirror. The truck or bus driver cannot see your car there and you cannot see what is going on ahead of the truck or bus. It is critical to keep a safe distance behind a truck or bus in case the driver slows or stops suddenly.
- **Front No-Zones** - Trucks and buses require more room and time to stop than cars. Because of this, more space should be given in front of trucks and buses. It is not safe to "cut in front" of a truck and then slow down. To avoid the Front No-Zone, make sure that you can see the entire front of the truck or bus in your rear-view mirror before you merge or pull into that lane of traffic.

In the illustration on the previous page, the commercial motor vehicle's blind spots, or "No Zones," are highlighted in blue. These are areas to avoid when sharing the road with a truck or bus.

THE GEORGIA TACT PROJECT

Targeting Aggressive Cars & Trucks

Law Enforcement officers are stopping people who drive unsafe around commercial motor vehicles, whether they are driving a car or commercial motor vehicle.

What to do to avoid getting a citation:

- Don't cut off commercial motor vehicles. For safety, one car length for every 10 miles per hour of speed is recommended;
- Don't tailgate. Unlike cars, commercial motor vehicles have big blind spots behind them. Also, car drivers who tailgate commercial motor vehicles can't see traffic ahead. If the commercial motor vehicle brakes suddenly, you have no time to react and no place to go;
- Don't speed. Speed is a factor in nearly one-third of all fatal crashes;
- Allow commercial motor vehicles plenty of room. Be careful when you or the commercial motor vehicle are entering a highway or merging with traffic.

DON'T GET A CITATION



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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF DRIVER SERVICES



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FREE mobile app!

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“It's like having
a licensing office
in your pocket!”



- Reinstatements
- Motor Vehicle Report
- Renewal
- Replacement

- Change of Address
- Custom Alerts
- Locations
- Pay fees

• And More!



LOSING YOUR DRIVING PRIVILEGES

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The State of Georgia considers dangerous and negligent drivers to be a direct and immediate threat to the welfare and safety of the general public, and it is in the best interest of the citizens of Georgia to immediately remove such drivers from the highways of this state. Therefore, the Department of Driver Services is authorized to withdraw the license or driving privileges when evidence is obtained that the licensee is a habitually dangerous or negligent driver of a motor vehicle (from Georgia law §40-5-57)

Types of Withdrawals

The driver's license of any individual, the eligibility to obtain a driver's license, or the ability to legally operate a motor vehicle in the State of Georgia may be impacted by one or more of the following actions:

Cancellation

The Department of Driver Services is authorized to cancel a license if the applicant fails to give the required or correct information needed at the time application is made, or if the individual becomes otherwise ineligible after application has been made. A resident may reapply for a license once the requirements have been satisfied and the resident is otherwise eligible.

Revocation

If a license is revoked, all driving privileges are terminated and withdrawn until the end of the period of time prescribed by the formal action of the Department. At the end of the revocation period, a resident may apply for a new license. Non-residents may apply for reinstatement of driving privileges.

Suspension

If a license is suspended, all driving privileges are temporarily withdrawn for a specific period of time or until reinstatement require-

ments have been completed. At the end of the withdrawal period, a resident may apply for reinstatement and return of the license or the eligibility to obtain a license. Non-residents may apply for reinstatement of driving privileges.

Disqualification of Commercial Driver's License

If a commercial driver's license is disqualified, all privileges to operate a commercial motor vehicle are withdrawn for a specific period of time. At the end of the disqualification period, if a licensee holds a CDL license that is not expired, the licensee's commercial privileges will be automatically restored without any action required, provided that the licensee is otherwise eligible to still maintain a commercial driver's license. If the licensee does not hold a CDL at the expiration of the disqualification period, the licensee's ability to apply for a CDL will be restored.

A disqualification of commercial driving privileges does not, by itself, result in the suspension or revocation of a licensee's privileges to operate a NON-commercial motor vehicle. However, many offenses that result in a commercial disqualification also result in a non-commercial suspension, though the periods of withdrawal may differ. In Georgia, it is possible to lose commercial driving privileges for LIFE upon the conviction of certain offenses. More information related to the commercial driver's license program is available on our website at dds.georgia.gov.

Reporting Convictions

Georgia courts are required by law to report the conviction of any offense that will result in a negative impact on a licensee's driving privilege or that is otherwise required to be posted to the permanent driving history of an individual. This includes most traffic-related offenses as well as certain non-traffic related offenses.

When the DDS receives a conviction for a Georgia license holder, the record is updated to reflect the conviction. If a conviction is received for an individual who holds a license from another state or is the resident of another state, the conviction information will be forwarded to the licensing authority of that state. If a non-resident, or a resident of Georgia who does not have a driver's license, is convicted of certain offenses, the eligibility to obtain a Georgia driver's license and/or driving privileges in Georgia will be suspended.

Convictions reported to the Georgia DDS by licensing authorities or courts in other states and nations will be placed on the driving record of a Georgia licensee or resident. The Department will treat such convictions as if they had occurred in this state for the purpose of imposing license withdrawals.

Types of Suspensions

The Department will suspend the driving privileges of an individual in any of the following non-conviction situations:

- Refusal to take a chemical test for intoxication;

- Failure to appear in court or respond to a citation;
- Non-payment of Child Support;
- Non-payment of the Super Speeder fee;
- Safety responsibility;
- Medical revocation;
- Parent requested revocation (under age 18).

The Department is required by law to suspend the privileges of an individual for a conviction of any of the following offenses:

- Homicide by vehicle;
- Feticide by Vehicle (1st degree);
- Serious injury by vehicle;
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used;
- Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer;
- Hit and run or leaving the scene of a crash;
- Racing;
- Operating a motor vehicle with a revoked, canceled, or suspended registration;
- Driving without insurance;
- Driving while license is suspended, revoked, or canceled;
- Refusal to weigh commercial motor vehicle;
- Violation of license restriction (at the discretion of the trial court).

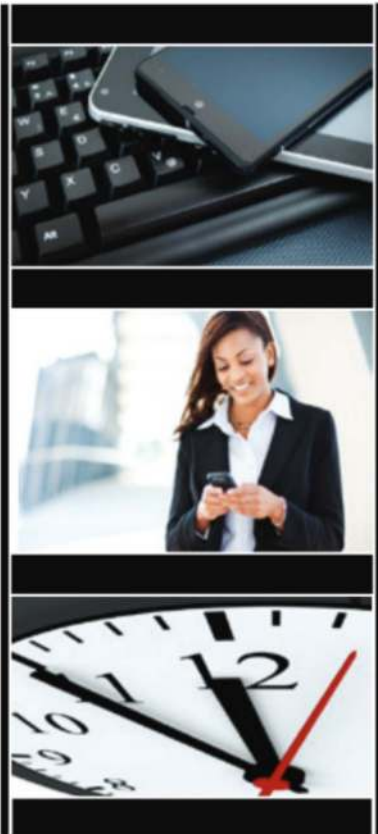
In addition to the offenses listed above, the license and/or driving privileges of an individual under the age of 21 on the date of the conviction will be suspended for the following offenses:

- Reckless driving;
- Aggressive driving;
- Speeding 24 mph or more over the speed limit;
- Unlawful passing of a school bus;
- Improper passing on a hill or a curve;
- Any 4-point offense;
- Four or more points in 12 months prior to age 18;

Implied Consent

Georgia law requires you to submit to state administered chemical tests of your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances for the purpose of determining if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you refuse this testing, your Georgia driver's license or privilege to drive on the highways of this state will be suspended for a minimum period of one year. Your refusal to submit to blood or urine testing may be offered into evidence at trial. If you submit to testing and the results indicate a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at or above the legal limit, your Georgia driver's license or privilege to drive on the highways of this state may be suspended for a minimum period of one year. After first submitting to the required state tests, you are entitled to additional chemical tests of your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances at your own expense and from qualified personnel of your own choosing.

Violation Resulting in Conviction	Points
Violation of Hands Free Law - 1st Conviction	1
Child Restraint - 1 st Offense	1
HOV Lane Violation - 4 th and Subsequent Offense	1
Violation of Hands Free Law - 2nd Conviction	2
Possessing an Open Container of an Alcoholic Beverage While Driving	2
Speeding - 15-18 mph over the posted speed limit	2
Child Restraint - 2 nd and Subsequent Offense	2
Failure to Adequately Secure a Load	2
Violation of Hands Free Law - 3rd or more Convictions	3
Impeding Traffic	3
Disobedience of Any Traffic-Control Device or Traffic Officer	3
Speeding - 19-23 mph over the posted speed limit	3
All Other Moving Violations	3
Reckless Driving	4
Improper Passing on Hill or Curve	4
Speeding - 24-33 mph over the posted speed limit	4
Aggressive Driving	6
Speeding - 34 mph or more over the posted speed limit	6
Unlawful Passing School Bus	6



Before Visiting

Fill out your form.

Anytime. Anywhere. Any device.

Fill out the form for your Permit, License or ID Card at this link <https://dds.drives.ga.gov/> before arriving at any of our Customer Service Centers.



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Please remember to bring your parent or guardian and proof of school enrollment when you come in for your visit.

The Points System

The Department is required by law to suspend the Georgia license of an individual for an accumulation of points resulting from certain convictions. Points are assessed against Georgia residents for out-of-state violations which would be assessed points if committed within Georgia. Georgia licenses will be suspended as follows:

- For any person who accumulates 15 or more points within 24 months;
- For any person under the age of 21 with a conviction for any 4-point violation;
- For any person under 18 years of age with an accumulation of 4 points within twelve months.

Points are accumulated on a person's driving record as a result of certain convictions. The adjacent chart lists these convictions and the number of points associated with each. The date the violation occurred is used as the basis for determining the 24-month period (or 12-month period for persons under age 18). When a license is suspended due to an accumulation of points, the point total is restored to zero.

In the case of a person age 18 up to 21, the suspension of the license for a single 4-point offense is determined by the date the conviction occurred. A plea of nolo contendere is considered a conviction for purposes of imposing suspensions that apply to persons under age 21.

Points Reduction

Licensed Georgia residents may request that DDS reduce the number of points assessed against their Georgia driver's license up to 7 points once every 5 years.

To qualify for a points reduction, you must successfully complete a certified 6-hour driver improvement (defensive driving) course and present the original certificate of completion to the DDS by mail or in person at one of our Customer Service Centers.

If you request a points reduction by mail, please mail the original driver improvement (defensive driving) certificate of completion to the Georgia Department of Driver Services, P.O. Box 80447, Conyers, Georgia 30013. A list of certified driver improvement (defensive driving) courses can be found at the following link: <https://online.dds.ga.gov/ddsgaorgiagov/locations/driver-improvement-schools.aspx>.

Points Avoidance

A defendant may successfully complete a certified 6-hour driver improvement (defensive driving) course after the issuance of a citation for a moving violation and prior to the court appearance, or as ordered by the court. When the original certificate of completion is presented to the court, the court shall reduce the fine assessed by 20 percent and no points shall be assessed against the driver. This plea may be accepted by the court once every five years.

Safety Responsibility Law

The purpose of this law is to remove irresponsible drivers from Georgia highways and to protect insured motorists from uninsured motorists. In the event you should fail to satisfy a claim for damage resulting from a motor vehicle crash, and a claim is filed against you under the Safety Responsibility Law, you will receive an order suspending your license.

To avoid the suspension, you may:

- Have your insurance carrier file Form SR-21 with the DDS if you were covered by liability insurance at the time of the crash; or
- File either a general or a conditional release that has been signed by the claimant (injured party in the crash) with the DDS; or
- Post security to cover the damages with the DDS, which may be a cashier's check, certified check, money order, real property bond or surety bond, in addition to posting of financial responsibility, Form SR-22A.

Any security or bond posted with the Department will be held for one year and thereafter until proof is furnished to the Department that you have not been sued as a result of the crash.

You are entitled to a hearing, if desired, and if requested within ten (10) days of the receipt of the order of suspension.

Mandatory Revocations

Your driver's license will be revoked in Georgia if any of the following occur:

- You are declared a Habitual Violator based upon the third conviction of any combination of these offenses within 5 years:
 - » Driving under the Influence (DUI);
 - » Homicide by vehicle;
 - » Feticide by vehicle;
 - » Serious injury by vehicle;
 - » Hit and run or leaving the scene of a crash;
 - » Racing;
 - » Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer;
 - » Reckless Stunt Driving
 - » Operating a motor vehicle with a suspended, canceled, or revoked registration;
 - » Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used; or
- Refusal to submit to a re-examination of driving skills or knowledge of driving rules after receiving notice giving reasonable grounds for such a request;
- If you have been declared incompetent or if there is sufficient evidence that you are unsafe to drive, due to mental health or physical disability or disease, or by alcohol or drug addiction.

If you are declared a Habitual Violator, you may be eligible for a Probationary License after serving two years of the revocation period.

Limited Driving Permits

In some situations, a limited driving permit may be available for a fee of \$32 during the sus-

pension period. A limited driving permit would allow you to only:

- Drive to your place of employment;
- Receive scheduled medical attention or obtain prescribed drugs;
- Attend classes at a college or school in which you are enrolled as a student;
- Attend regularly scheduled sessions or meetings of support organizations for the treatment of alcohol or other drugs;
- Attend a driver education program or alcohol/drug assessment and treatment program;
- Attend court, report to a probation office or officer, or perform community service;
- Transport unlicensed immediate family members to work, medical care and to obtain prescriptions, and to school.

The Department may also specify the places you may travel to, specific routes of travel, times of travel, and indicate vehicles, or other restrictions deemed necessary. Limited driving permits are not valid for driving a commercial vehicle.

A limited driving permit will be revoked by the Department if you are convicted of violating any state law or local ordinance relating to the movement of vehicles or if you are convicted of violating any of the conditions or restrictions of your permit. In addition, a conviction will extend the underlying suspension of your driving privilege for an additional 6 months.

Limited driving permits are not available for convictions of the following offenses or in the following situations:

- Implied Consent refusal (may be available if no prior DUI conviction within past 5 years);
- No Insurance convictions;
- Driving while license suspended convictions;
- Failure to pay super speeder fee;
- Failure to pay child support;
- Failure to appear in court or respond to a citation;
- Medical revocation;
- Safety responsibility;
- Parent requested revocation;
- DUI Drugs
- DUI convictions prior to age 21; and
- Refusal to weigh (CMV).

A limited driving permit may be available in the following situations, depending on your age and the number of convictions on your driving record:

- 1st DUI (non-drugs);
- 2nd DUI conviction in 5 years;
- DUI ALS;
- Under 21 speeding violation but only if age 18 or older, speeding was 24-33 mph over the posted speed limit, and approved by the sentencing court judge;

- 1st or 2nd suspension for accumulation of 15 or more points within a 24 month period;
- 3rd controlled substance violation after a 2 year suspension and age 21 or over;
- Homicide by vehicle 2nd Degree (age 21 or over);
- Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used (age 21 or over);
- Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer (age 21 or over);
- Fraudulent or fictitious use of, or application for, a license/ID card (age 21 or over);
- Hit and run or leaving the scene of a crash (age 21 or over);
- Racing (age 21 or over);
- Operating a motor vehicle with a revoked, canceled, or suspended registration (age 21 or over);
- If approved by the sentencing Court Judge involving license suspensions for certain drug offenses

In all cases, the Department will make the final determination of eligibility for a limited driving permit. Please contact DDS at 678-413-8400 for further information.

Commercial Driving Disqualifications

When commercial driving privileges are disqualified, the licensee is prohibited from operating a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV). Commercial driving privileges can be disqualified even if you do not have a commercial driver's license (CDL). If you do not have a CDL, but your commercial driving privileges are disqualified, you will not be eligible to obtain a CDL during the period of the disqualification.

The commercial driving privileges can be withdrawn for:

- Conviction of a Major traffic violation;
- Conviction of two or more Serious traffic violations;
- Use of a CMV in the commission of any felony involving a controlled substance or marijuana (other than mere felony possession);
- Violation of an out-of-service order; or
- Conviction of a railroad grade crossing offense in a CMV.

Major Traffic Violations

The commercial driving privileges of any person convicted of one of the following "major traffic violations" in this state, or any other state, in a commercial or, unless otherwise specified, a noncommercial vehicle will be disqualified for one year:

- Driving a CMV if your BAC is .04 gm. or higher;
- DUI;
- Hit and run or leaving the scene of a crash;

- Failure to report striking an unattended vehicle;
- Failure to report striking a fixed object;
- Failure to report a crash;
- Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used;
- Driving a CMV while the CDL is revoked, suspended, canceled, or disqualified;
- Homicide by vehicle;
- Racing;
- Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer;
- Fraudulent or fictitious use of, or application for, a license/ID card;
- Operating a motor vehicle with a revoked, canceled, or suspended registration;
- Commercial vehicle cargo theft; or
- Refusal to submit to state administered chemical testing when requested by a law enforcement officer.

If convicted of any of these offenses while you are operating a CMV that is placarded for hazardous materials, you will be disqualified from driving a CMV for at least three years for a first offense.

A second conviction from a separate incident of any of these major traffic violations will result in a lifetime disqualification of commercial driving privileges.

Serious Traffic Violations

Your commercial driving privileges will be disqualified for a period of 60 days upon a second conviction in three years for a serious traffic violation (provided that the two convictions arose from separate incidents). Your commercial driving privileges will be disqualified for a period of 120 days upon a third or subsequent conviction in three years for a serious traffic violation (provided that the various convictions arose from separate incidents).

The following violations are defined as "serious traffic violations" when committed in this state, or any other state, when operating either a CMV or, unless otherwise specified, a noncommercial motor vehicle:

- Speeding 15 or more miles per hour above the posted speed limit;
- Reckless driving;
- Following another vehicle too closely;
- Improper or erratic lane change, including failure to signal a lane change;
- A violation of state law or a local ordinance relating to motor vehicle traffic control arising in connection with a fatal crash, excluding parking, weight, length, height, and vehicle defect violations, and excluding homicide by vehicle;
- A railroad grade crossing violation in a non-commercial motor vehicle;
- Driving a commercial motor vehicle without obtaining a commercial driver's license;

- Driving a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver's license in your immediate possession, but not if it is because your commercial driving privileges have been suspended, revoked, canceled, or disqualified;
- Driving a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver's license of the proper class and endorsements for the specific vehicle you are operating or for the passengers or type of cargo you are transporting;
- Use of a wireless device for text based communications while operating a commercial motor vehicle.

Other Violations

A felony conviction involving the manufacturing, distribution, trafficking or possession of a controlled substance or marijuana using a CMV (other than mere felony possession) will result in a lifetime disqualification of commercial driving privileges.

Violation of an out-of-service order will result in a disqualification of:

- not less than 180 days and not more than one year for a 1st offense;
- not less than 2 years and not more than 5 years for a 2nd offense; and
- not less than 3 years and not more than 5 years for a 3rd or subsequent incidents.

An additional disqualification period will apply when an out-of-service order is violated while transporting hazardous materials or transporting more than 15 passengers.

Conviction of any railroad grade crossing offense while operating a CMV will also result in a disqualification of 60 days for a 1st offense up to 1 year for a third or subsequent violation within a 3 year period.

CRASHES

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If You Are Involved In A Crash

- Stop immediately in a safe place.
- Notify the nearest law enforcement agency immediately if anyone is injured or killed, or if property damage exceeds \$500.00;
- Provide reasonable assistance to any person injured;
- Warn approaching motorists if you can do so without jeopardizing your own safety or that of others. Activate your hazard lights, if possible, and use reflective triangles, when available;
- Give your name, address, license plate number, and driver's license number to anyone else who was involved in the crash. Get the same information from the other driver;
- If you damage an unattended vehicle, you must either locate the owner or leave your name, address, and the name of the owner of the vehicle you were driving, in a conspicuous place where the owner will find it.

Aiding the Injured

Do not assume that a person is not injured simply because that person says he/she is not. Send for professional help as soon as possible. Unskilled handling can cause further and more severe injuries. Do not move or lift the victim unless it is absolutely necessary. If the victim is moved, get help and try to maintain the victim in the position in which they were found. Stop serious bleeding with thick cloth pads, as clean as possible, applied with pressure by hand. Keep the victim warm. Cover the victim with blankets or coats, if necessary.

Georgia has a Good Samaritan Law. This law holds any person harmless for civil damages arising as a result of any act or omission in rendering emergency care.

Moving Vehicles Following a Crash

When a traffic crash occurs on a multilane highway or expressway, and if there is no apparent serious injury or death, it is the duty of the drivers of the vehicles involved to move their vehicles from the roadway to a safe location along the shoulder, emergency lane, median, or any other safe refuge. Drivers should only do this if the vehicles are capable of being driven normally and successfully, and driving the vehicles will not present any further hazard or harm to the vehicles themselves, to the driver, to persons nearby, or to the roadway.

If the persons involved in the crash are incapable of moving the vehicles, they are authorized to request any other driver in the vicinity who has a valid license of the appropriate class to move their vehicles, and the other driver is authorized to comply.

Drivers who take these important steps will not be considered at fault simply because they

moved the vehicles, nor does moving the vehicles affect their ability to file a written report with a local police agency. Moving a vehicle in this situation does not allow for the driver to be accused of failing to stop and provide information.

Deer-Automobile Crashes

Each year, deer cause thousands of crashes in Georgia. Understanding common habits of deer and knowing what to do when a deer runs out in front of the car can help to avoid serious crashes. Automobile crash data from the Georgia Department of Transportation indicate that though deer-automobile crashes are on the rise, they still account for less than six percent of automobile crashes reported each year.

It is important to remember that deer are wild animals and their actions are unpredictable. The deer you see calmly standing on the side of the road may bolt toward the road rather than away from it if startled by a car.

Follow these guidelines to minimize the chances of a crash with a deer:

- In areas with known deer populations, drivers should constantly scan the road and road shoulders for deer movements and sightings;
- Always slow down when a deer crosses the road in front of you or another car. Deer usually travel in groups and it is likely that there is another one following closely behind;
- If a deer is spotted on the road or roadside at night, the driver should slow down immediately, blink his/her headlights and switch to low beam so as not to blind the deer;
- Also, short horn blasts may help scare the deer from the road.

Should the deer or other animal run out in front of your car, slow down as much as possible to minimize the damage of a crash. Never swerve to avoid a deer. This action may cause you to strike another vehicle or leave the roadway, causing more damage or serious injuries. If you do have a crash, police should be alerted as soon as possible. Most insurance companies will require an accident report from the police before paying claims for this type of crash.

Deer are usually seen along the roadside during the early morning hours and late evening. Drivers should be alert for deer during these peak hours. Deer are most active in the fall months of October, November and December during the peak breeding season. Late February and early March are also critical months for deer-car crashes. During this period they concentrate along road shoulders to feed on new green food available following winter. However, deer are often spotted at midday during summer months. Therefore, it is important for drivers to remain cautious when traveling on rural roads or areas known to have a high deer population.



