

New Jersey's Graduated-Driver-License Law amendments; enhanced by Kyleigh's Law

What is the Graduated-Driver-License Law and when did it go into effect?

New Jersey's Graduated-Driver-License Law (GDL) went into effect on Jan. 1, 2001, and was amended in May 2010. This law is designed to improve teen driver safety, help young drivers gradually gain experience and to bring home the importance of the major risks of injury in teen crashes (i.e., other passengers, texting or cell phone use while driving, the lack of seat belt use and night driving).

Who does this effect?

Any driver under age 21 which includes drivers with special learner's permits, examination permits and (formerly provisional) licenses.

What are the GDL restrictions?

All special permit, examination and probationary license holders must:

- drive only between 11:01 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. before obtaining a full license.
- drive only with a supervising driver, including parents, grandparents, etc.
- drive without any passengers other than a supervising driver in the vehicle who is over 21 and possesses a valid New Jersey driver's license with a minimum of three years driving experience; and

- have more than one additional passenger in the vehicle unless a parent or guardian is in the vehicle. A probationary license holder (who may drive without a supervising driver) may transport only one passenger under 21 if passengers are the same sex and dependents.

Does the law change the time frame for permit or provisional licenses?

No. The law only changes the length of the permit or provisional license for a driver who obtains a license after May 1, 2010. For a driver who obtains a license before May 1, 2010, the permit or provisional license must be held for a minimum of 12 months. Under the GDL, a driver who obtains a provisional license must hold the license for a minimum of 12 months. One month time frame is complete. A driver needs to obtain an unrestricted license from the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

Are there any GDL exemptions?

Permit- and probationary-licensed drivers, under age 21 are eligible for an exemption for the restricted hours for employment or religious reasons. Drivers must carry documentation on employers, organization or religious institution's letterhead to include the reasons for this request, signature, title, address and telephone number of a designated official.

Any current driver under age 21 who obtained their permit or provisional license prior to May 1, 2010, is not grandfathered. They are required to comply with the GDL provisions.

What is Kyleigh's Law?

Kyleigh's law, which went into effect May 1, 2010, was named after Kyleigh D'Alessio, a 17-year-old who was fatally injured and it is believed that an inexperienced teen driving contributed to the accident that took her life. This new law implements the use of reflective decals on teen drivers' vehicles.

Who is required to display these decals on their vehicles?

Drivers under 21 years of age, holding a permit or provisional license are required to display these reflective decals on their vehicle.

Where do I get the decals and how are they displayed?

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission agencies have been selling the reflective decals at \$4 per pair. The decals must be attached to the top, left corner of the front and rear license plates prior to the Graduated Driver License (GDL) holder operating the vehicle. Any individual may purchase the decal on behalf of the permit or provisional license holder. The decals are removable so that other family members who share a vehicle with a GDL holder may remove them prior to driving.

What are the fines associated with failure to comply?

Violation of the GDL restrictions, as well as failure to display the required reflective decals, will result in a \$100 fine, but no penalty points will be assigned.



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