

### **Stage 1: The learner's permit**

- To obtain your learner's permit, you must complete Driver Education (30 hours classroom, 10 hours road) and pass the BMV written test unless 18 or older (18+ only needs to pass written test to obtain learner's permit). In Driver Education, you will practice basic driving skills under the supervision of a licensed instructor.
- Maine requires new teen drivers to hold a learner's permit for a minimum period of six months before they are eligible to apply for the road test.
- The adult supervising the permit driver must be riding in the passenger seat, be at least 20 years old, and have had a valid license for 2 years. This person is usually mom, dad, guardian, or family member. Your learner's permit is valid for 2 years.

### **How Do You Obtain a Driver's License?**

- Be at least 16 years of age and have completed an approved driver education course.
- Be at least 18 years of age if you have not completed an approved driver education course.
- Before a person under 21 years of age can apply for a road test, that person must have held a learner's permit for 6 months from the date of issue of the learner's permit and must complete a minimum of 70 hours of driving, including 10 hours of night driving, while accompanied by a licensed driver at least 20 years of age and held a valid license for 2 years. The 70 hours of practice driving must begin after issuance of the permit. The parent, stepparent, guardian or spouse must certify the person's driving time on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State. When the person has no parent, stepparent, guardian or spouse, an employer may certify the driving time.
- Successfully complete a road test. When ready to take the road test, mail the road test request card that has been given or mailed to you to the Motor Vehicles main office in Augusta and you will be scheduled at a testing location nearest to you. Bring your learners permit and appointment notice with you. Drivers must furnish their own vehicle, properly registered (bring registration) and inspected, for the road test. You must be accompanied by a licensed operator who is in possession of a valid driver's license. During the winter months, it is possible that weather conditions could cause the cancellation of your scheduled exam. Applicants scheduled for a road test on a day experiencing snow and/or icy conditions can elect to be rescheduled at no fee. Applicants selecting this option can call (207) 624- 9000, ext. 52119.
- A person under 18 years of age who has been issued a driver's license may not: operate a motor vehicle while using a mobile telephone, includes handheld electronic devices; operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m.; carry passengers other than immediate family members unless accompanied by a licensed operator who has held a valid license for 2 years, is at least 20 years of age, is occupying a seat beside the driver and is licensed to operate the class of vehicle operated by the driver. Immediate family member means grandparent, step grandparent, parent, stepparent, brother, stepbrother, sister, stepsister, child, stepchild, spouse, analogous family members as may be connected via the operation of a family foster home and when living with the immediate family, foreign exchange students, court appointed wards of an immediate family member and a child whose parent is deployed for military service and is under the guardianship of an immediate family member. These restrictions are in effect for a period of 270 days from passing the road test. Violation of the conditions of these restrictions will result in a license suspension and a 270 day extension of the restrictions which may extend beyond the 18th birthday. The first license issued to a new applicant under 21 years of age is provisional for a period of two years and one year for persons at least 21 years old. If a person is convicted of a moving violation that occurred while operating with a provisional license, the license will be suspended for 30 days. Second and third offenses involve more severe penalties.