

Graduated License Law Summary

The Graduated License Law will become effective on September 1, 2003. It applies to junior drivers (16 and 17 years old).

On September 1, 2003 there will be new rules that apply to all junior drivers:

- A junior driver cannot operate a vehicle that has more than two passengers who are under the age of 21 unless a parent, guardian, driver education teacher or driving school instructor also rides in the vehicle. This rule does not apply when passengers are members of the immediate family.
- Where the law requires supervision of the junior driver, only the supervising driver can ride in the front seat. The supervising driver must be at least 21 years old and must have a valid driver's license for the type of vehicle being driven.
- All passengers who ride with a junior driver must use seat belts or appropriate child restraint seats.

On September 1, 2003 there will be new rules that apply only to junior drivers who obtained learner permits on or after September 1, 2003:

- A driver with a Class DJ or MJ learner permit issued on or after September 1, 2003 must bring to the road test site a new form MV - 262. This form contains a statement that certifies that the junior driver had a minimum of 20 hours of supervised driving experience. The supervising driver must be a driver qualified by the law to supervise a junior driver. A parent or legal guardian must sign the front of the MV - 262; on the back of the MV - 262, driver education instructors and commercial driving school instructors must certify to any driving they supervised for the applicant.
- DMV will issue a limited use junior driver license to a junior driver who passes a road test any time within the first six months after the permit is issued. The regional restrictions for the limited use license are outlined on the enclosed chart. Six months after the learner permit is issued, DMV will issue a full use junior license to replace the limited use junior license. If the junior driver passes a road test more than six months after the learner permit is issued, DMV will issue a full use junior license.

* An additional change in the law affects all drivers with learner permits. On or after September 1, 2003, a supervising driver for any driver with a learner permit must be 21 years old.

Note: Under the new law, in New York City a licensed parent, guardian or person "in loco parentis" will be able to accompany a learner if the vehicle has dual brakes.