

INSTRUCTION PERMIT

How do I get an Instruction Permit?

- Be at least 14 years old.
- Your parent or guardian must sign giving consent, either in person at a driver exam station or by completing a Parental Consent Form (notarized).
- Make an appointment at <https://dps.sd.gov> or by calling 605-773-6883.
- Pass the knowledge and vision tests. The knowledge test will be waived if you present a driver's ed certificate proving you passed an approved driver education course (or approved equivalent out-of-state course) within the last year.
- Provide a certified birth certificate and social security card (for a list of alternate documents go to <https://dps.sd.gov> or call 605-773-6883), and two pieces of mail proving your residential address. The mail can be in your name or your parent's name.
- Make an appointment to visit a driver exam station, complete an application (available at <https://dps.sd.gov>) or at the exam station.
- Pay a fee of \$38.00.

What *can* I do with this permit?

- Drive under adult supervision. The adult must be a parent/guardian or other adult with a valid driver's license and at least one year of driving experience. The adult must be seated beside you.

What *can't* I do with this permit?

- Drive without a licensed adult seated beside you in the vehicle.
- Use any type of wireless communication device while driving.

RESTRICTED MINOR'S PERMIT

How do I move to a Restricted Minor's Permit?

- Be at least 14 years old
- Have held a valid Instruction Permit for:
 - 275 days (or 180 days after passing driver's ed) if permit was issued July 1, 2020, or after, or
 - 180 days (or 90 days after passing driver's ed) if permit was issued before July 1, 2020.
- Must have completed 50 hours of adult supervised driving on an Instruction Permit (must include 10 hours in inclement weather & 10 hours after dark) *unless instruction permit was issued before July 1, 2020.*
- Not have had any traffic convictions within the last six months.
- Your parent or guardian must sign giving consent, either in person at a driver exam station or by completing a Parental Consent Form (notarized).
- Make an appointment at <https://dps.sd.gov> or by calling 605-773-6883 to upgrade (drive test not required if you have passed an approved driver education class within the last year).
- Bring your Instruction Permit, driver's ed certificate (if applicable) and two pieces of mail proving your residential address. The mail can be in your name or your parent's name.
- Pay a fee of \$38.00.

What *can* I do with a Restricted Permit?

- Drive, with your parent/guardian's permission, alone from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. From 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. you must have a parent or legal guardian seated next to you with the following exceptions:
 - You may drive alone after 10 p.m. if you are taking the most direct route and traveling to or from:
 - School or school event
 - Church or church event
 - Work
 - Driving ag machinery (not subject to registration) or doing farm related work

What *can't* I do with this permit?

- Use any type of wireless communication device while driving.
- Drive after 10 p.m. unless travel falls under one of the exceptions listed above.

Passenger Limit While Driving Without Adult Supervision on Restricted Permit

- First 6 months on the Restricted Permit, no passengers allowed except for immediate family or members of household.
- After 6 months may have one passenger under 18 who is not immediate family or part of the immediate household.

UNRESTRICTED LICENSE

How do I move to a full, unrestricted driver's license?

- Be at least 16 years old.
- Meet all the conditions of a Restricted Permit.
- Drive on a Restricted Minor's Permit for a minimum of 6 months.
- Not have any traffic convictions within the last six months.
- Your parent or guardian must sign giving consent, either in person at a driver exam station or by completing a Parental Consent Form (notarized).
- Bring your Restricted Minor's Permit and two pieces of mail proving your residential address to the exam station. The mail can be in your name or your parent's name.
- Pay a fee of \$38.00.

PENALTIES

What if I get a ticket?

- Your Instruction Permit, Restricted Minor's Permit, or Operator's License will be suspended for 30 days if you are under 16 years old and are convicted of a traffic violation or of violating the restrictions of your permit (such as for driving alone on an instruction permit or driving outside the hours allowed) while driving on a permit.
- If you are convicted of a second violation your permit or license will be suspended for 180 days or until your 16th birthday, whichever is longer.
- If you are convicted of a felony or Class 1 misdemeanor while driving on a permit your permit or license will be suspended for 180 days or until your 16th birthday, whichever is longer.
- Anyone under the age of 18 that receives a violation and DOES NOT have a Driver License and/or the privilege to drive will receive a like suspension as listed above.

How can I get my permit or license back?

If you have a traffic violation conviction, or conviction for violating the conditions of your permit, when the suspension period is over you may apply at your local driver exam station for a duplicate license. If the offense is a felony or Class 1 misdemeanor a \$50 reinstatement fee is required to reapply.

FAQ's

Can I use my hospital birth certificate?

No, you must bring a certified birth certificate issued by the state or county where you were born or alternate document. See <https://dps.sd.gov> for more information.

Can my parent/guardian cancel my permit or license?

Yes, the parent/guardian who signed for you to get a permit or license may request to have it cancelled if you are under 18 years of age.

Distracted Driving

- 58% of teens involved in [traffic crashes are distracted](#). The most frequent distractions include texting and driving, passengers and any phone activity.
- We're all at risk for distracted driving crashes. Consider these tips for safe driving:
 - If you must send or receive a text, pull over to a safe location and park your car first.
 - If you have passengers, appoint a "designated texter" to handle all your texting.
 - If you *can't* resist the temptation to look at it, keep your phone in the trunk.

What is required?

Seatbelts are required in South Dakota for anyone under the age of 18 in the front and back seats. SDCL 32-38-1.

SOUTH DAKOTA TEEN DRIVER GRADUATED LICENSING



South Dakota
Driver Licensing Program
118 W Capitol Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Website: <https://dps.sd.gov>

Phone: 605-773-6883

Please bring the following:

- **Instruction Permit**
- **Drivers Ed Certificate**
- **Two Residential Address Documents**

**Date eligible to upgrade to a
Restricted Minor's Permit**

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