



PROBATIONARY GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
BFS-D16 9/2021

Instruction permit restrictions

No permittee may operate a motor vehicle unless accompanied by a person who has at least 2 years of licensed driving experience, who presently holds a valid regular (non-probationary) license, who occupies the seat beside the permittee and who is one of the following:

1. A qualified instructor who is 19 years of age or older. If the motor vehicle is equipped with dual controls, up to 3 other persons, in addition to the qualified instructor, may occupy seats in the motor vehicle other than the front seat.
2. The permittee's parent, guardian or spouse who is 19 years of age or older. In addition to the parent, guardian or spouse, the permittee's immediate family members may occupy seats in the motor vehicle other than the front seat.
3. A person who is 21 years of age or older. No passengers allowed. If permittee is under 18 years of age, the licensed person is required to have written authorization from the minor's parent or guardian prior to the operation of the vehicle.

Driver license eligibility requirements for persons under 18 years of age

1. Be at least 16 years of age.
2. Have an adult sponsor as required by s.343.15, Wis. Stats. and Chapter Trans 102.21
3. Held a "Class D" instruction permit for at least 6 months.
4. Successfully completed an approved driver education training program consisting of classroom and behind-the-wheel instructions.
5. Have accumulated at least 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience, at least 10 hours of which were during hours of darkness—Adult sponsor certification required.
6. Have not committed a moving violation specified by the department by rule within the six months immediately preceding application for a probationary license.
7. Pass skills test required by the department to operate "Class D" vehicles.
8. Pay required fees.

The department may not issue a probationary license to a person who is under 18 years of age, if the person has committed any offense for which demerit points are assessed or any offense under the law of another jurisdiction for which demerit points would be assessed if the offense were committed in this state, within the preceding 6 months, except:

1. Any violation of ch. 347, Stats. (vehicle equipment), resulting in the assignment of 2 or less demerit points, or a similar violation under law of another jurisdiction, except child safety restraint, seat belt and defective speedometer violations.
2. Illegal riding.

Driver license restrictions for persons under 18 years of age

During the 9-month period after issuance of a probationary license the following restrictions apply while operating a "Class D" motor vehicle:

— 5 a.m. to 12 midnight

Licensee can drive alone and travel anywhere. In addition, any or all of the following persons may be passengers and occupy any seat in the vehicle:

1. Any number of members of the licensee's immediate family.
2. One person who holds a valid regular (non-probationary) license with at least 2 years of licensed driving experience and who is either a qualified instructor or the licensee's spouse age 19 or older, or a person age 21 or older.
3. One other person.

— 12 midnight to 5 a.m.

1. Licensee is required to have one of the following persons occupying the seat beside the licensee unless licensee is traveling between his or her place of residence, school or place of employment:
 - a. A parent or legal guardian (not required to be licensed).
 - b. One person who holds a valid regular (non-probationary) license with at least 2 years of licensed driving experience and who is either a qualified instructor or the licensee's spouse age 19 or older, or a person age 21 or older.In addition, any number of members of the licensee's immediate family and one other person may be passengers and occupy any seat in the vehicle except the seat beside the licensee.
2. Licensee can drive alone when traveling between his or her place of residence, school or place of employment. In addition, any or all of the following persons may be passengers and occupy any seat in the vehicle:
 - a. Any number of members of the licensee's immediate family.
 - b. One person who holds a valid regular (non-probationary) license with at least 2 years of licensed driving experience and who is either a qualified instructor or the licensee's spouse age 19 or older, or a person age 21 or older.
 - c. One other person.



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Extension of driver license restrictions for persons under 18 years of age

The department shall extend the 9-month graduated driver license restrictions for an additional 6-month period or until the licensee's 18th birthday, whichever occurs first, if any of the following occur while the licensee is subject to the restrictions:

1. The licensee violates the graduated driver license restrictions.
2. A court or the department suspends or revokes the licensee's operating privilege.
3. The licensee commits any offense for which demerit points are assessed or any of the following:
 - a. Operation of a motor vehicle while having an alcohol concentration greater than 0.0 and less than 0.08.
 - b. Refusal of chemical testing under the implied consent law.
 - c. Failure to notify the owner of any property on or adjacent to a highway that is damaged in an accident.
 - d. Any offense committed in another jurisdiction for which demerit points would be assessed if the offense were committed in this state.
4. The department may not extend the graduated driver license restrictions required under (3) solely for committing any of the following offenses:
 - a. Any violation of ch. 347.Stats., resulting in the assignment of 2 or fewer demerit points, except child safety restraint, seat belt and defective speedometer violations, or a similar violation under the law of another jurisdiction.
 - b. Illegal riding.
 - c. Operating with multiple licenses.
 - d. Operating without having obtained an operator's license, without a proper license endorsement, without proper license classification for the vehicle being operated, or with a license which has expired, and including the following:
 - Operating a commercial motor vehicle without having obtained a commercial driver license.
 - Operating a school bus without having obtained a school bus endorsement.
 - Operating a Type 1 motorcycle without a license authorizing the operation of "Class M" vehicles.
 - e. Operating while suspended or revoked.
 - f. Operating while disqualified.

Demerit points for persons with a probationary driver license

Demerit points are charged against the driving record of any person who is convicted of a traffic violation listed under Chapter Trans. 101, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Second and all subsequent convictions dated 9/1/2000 or later, shall have the demerit points doubled, unless the conviction is for a violation of ch. 347, Stats. Specific information on the doubling of points can be found under Chapter Trans. 101.02(8), Wisconsin Administrative Code.

The following demerit point accumulations, calculated from the date of violation, shall result in the following suspension or revocation periods, if the driver holds an instruction permit or a probationary license, or would be issued an instruction permit or probationary driver license upon proper application and meeting other requirements:

Demerit Points accumulated in a 12-month period	Length of revocation or suspension
12 through 30 Points	6 Months
More than 30 Points	1 Year

Graduated driver license requirements for persons previously licensed in another state

1. The department may issue a probationary driver license to a person less than 18 years of age without regard to the length of time the person held any instruction permit and without requiring the 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience if the person meets all of the following:
 - a. The person presents proof of satisfactory completion of a driver education course approved by another jurisdiction.
 - b. The person has been issued a driver license, other than an instruction permit, by another state.
 - c. The person certifies that he or she has not been convicted of a violation of law which prohibits issuance of a probationary driver license to a person under 18 years of age within the preceding 6 months.
2. Instruction permit holders under 18 years of age – The 6 month period a permittee must hold a Wisconsin instruction permit, shall be reduced by any amount of time the permittee can show he or she was a resident of another state and held an instruction permit issued by that state.
3. Probationary licenses issued under (1) and (2) shall be issued with the graduated driver license restrictions for the 9-month period after issuance of the license or until the licensee's 18th birthday, whichever occurs first. The GDL restrictions may be extended for an additional 6-month period or until the licensee's 18th birthday, whichever occurs first, if the licensee meets the extension guidelines.