

# SPECIAL MINOR'S RESTRICTED LICENSE

## Licensing for Drivers Under Age 18

Iowa has a graduated driver's license (GDL) system for drivers under 18. The GDL includes three steps to help you gain experience and improve driving skills. **These steps include:**

- 1 **Instruction Permit**
- Special Minor's Restricted License (optional)**
- 2 **Intermediate License**
- 3 **Full License**

### YOU ARE HERE

A Special Minor's Restricted License allows you to drive independently to school or work with some restrictions.

Teen crashes often result from inexperience. Keep practicing with an adult and be aware of the consequences of any violations

## How Do I Get My Special Minor's Restricted License?

- Be at least 14 ½ years old.
- Complete an Iowa-approved driver education course.
- Have a valid instruction permit for at least six months.
- Have a clean driving record for at least six consecutive months immediately before applying.
- Be enrolled at a public school, an accredited private school, or be a student that is homeschooled.
- Have the appropriate school authority **AND** your parent or guardian sign an Affidavit for Special Minor's Restricted License (form 430021)\*.
- Have your parent or guardian complete a Parental Consent for Special Minor's Restricted License (form 430022)\*. You must carry this completed form with you in the vehicle. Present it to law enforcement when requested.
- You may be required to take a drive test at the DMV.

\*These forms are available at any DMV location or can be found online by searching the form number at [iowadot.seamlessdocs.com/sc/](http://iowadot.seamlessdocs.com/sc/)

## What Can I Do With This License?

You can drive **without adult supervision, using the most direct route, one hour before and after the following:**

- **School-sponsored activities** at your school(s) of enrollment.
- **Extracurricular activities** held at a location within 25 miles of your home.
- **Your job or to complete farm-related work if you live or work on a farm in Iowa.** The driving distance between your start and end point must be 25 miles or less.

**You may also:**

- **Stop for fuel at the closest gas station on your route.**
- **Drive at any time with adult supervision.** The adult must have a valid driver's license and be one of the following:
  - Parent, guardian, or custodian.
  - Immediate family member at least 21 years old.
  - Driver education instructor.
  - Someone at least 25 years old with written permission from your parent or guardian.

## What Can't I Do With This License?

- **Use any electronic communication or entertainment device while driving.** This doesn't apply to equipment permanently installed in your vehicle.
- **Carry more passengers than the number of seat belts in your vehicle,** even when driving with adult supervision.
- **Drive *without* adult supervision:**
  - To your job or to complete farm-related work ***at a location more than 25 miles from your starting point.***
  - To an extracurricular activity held at a location ***more than 25 miles from your home.***
  - **With more than one minor passenger who is not a relative.** A relative means a brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, or another minor living in your home.
- **Drop off a sibling at a location other than the school you're enrolled in.**
- **Drive to a school or school activity as a spectator at a school where you are not enrolled.**
- **Drive a commercial motor vehicle, a vehicle requiring a class D chauffeur's license, a vehicle with more than two axles, a vehicle towing another vehicle, or a motorcycle (unless you have motorcycle privileges).**

## How Do I Advance To The Next Step: An Intermediate License?

- Be at least 16 years old.**
- Hold a valid instruction permit** (or instruction permit and special minor's restricted license) **for a total of 12 months.**
- Maintain a clean driving record for at least six consecutive months immediately before applying for an intermediate license.**
- Your parent or guardian must provide written consent by:**
  - **Visiting any DMV location; OR**
  - **Completing the Parent's/Guardian's Written Consent Form** (form 430018). This form is available at any DMV location or by searching the form number at: [iowadot.seamlessdocs.com/sc/](http://iowadot.seamlessdocs.com/sc/).
- Complete 20 hours of supervised driving,** including any driving you completed in driver's education. At least two of those hours must be between sunset and sunrise.

## What if I mess up?

- **Your license will be suspended for three months if you:**
  - Cause or contribute to a crash.
  - Violate a restriction of your license.
  - Receive a citation for any traffic violation (excluding parking violations).
- **Each violation will result in the following:**
  - The requirement to maintain a clean driving record for six months before upgrading to the next level will start over **after you have reinstated your driving privileges.**
  - You will have to **wait an additional three months** after your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday to become eligible to apply for the next level (intermediate license).

LEARN MORE AT: [IOWADOT.GOV/MVD](http://IOWADOT.GOV/MVD)

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