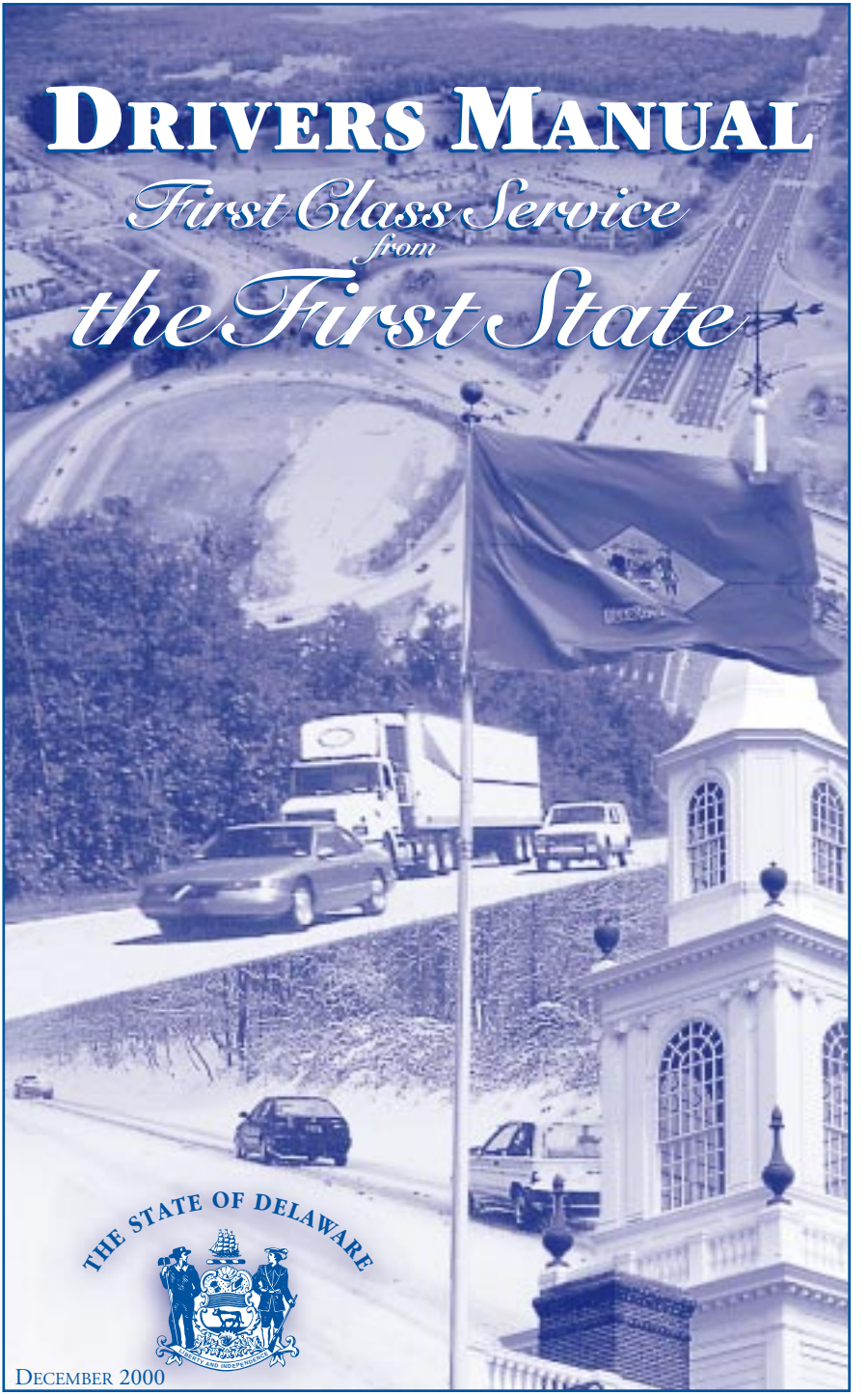
DRIVERS MANUAL

First Class Service from the First State



THE STATE OF DELAWARE

DECEMBER 2000

Dear Delaware Driver:

Perhaps more than in any other country, Americans are in love with their cars, with their freedom and choice that comes with them. It affects where and how we live, work, and play. And it is why state government plays such a big role in creating and maintaining our network of roads and in making sure that they are used properly.

Driving is a privilege and responsibility. Your car belongs to you, but the streets and highways you drive on belong to all of us. Please be considerate and careful.

Follow the rules of the road, fasten your seatbelts, and don't drink and drive. Also think about the way your actions affect the environment we all share. Share a ride, conserve your trips, or try transit.

I encourage every driver to be responsible and safe, and to enjoy driving in Delaware.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Minner

Ruth Ann Minner
Governor

HELP SAVE LIVES — REPORT INTOXICATED DRIVERS

If we are to continue to reduce the number of alcohol-related deaths on our highways, citizen-support is a must. Just as many neighborhoods have formed neighborhood watch programs to help state and local police reduce criminal activity, police also need your help to reduce the number of drunk drivers on the highway.

PHONE 911 OR CB CHANNEL 9

When you make contact with the police, provide them with the following information:

a. Your location and the location of the suspected drunk driver, his direction of travel and the time observed.

b. The make and color of the vehicle and the license plate number.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO STOP THE OTHER DRIVER!

Delaware is TOUGH on drunk drivers.

IF YOU GET CAUGHT DRIVING DRUNK YOU CAN KISS YOUR LICENSE GOODBYE!

During 1999, in Delaware there were 20,646 traffic crashes, resulting in 103 people killed and 10,526 people injured.

MESSAGE FOR DELAWARE DRIVERS

The privilege of driving a motor vehicle in Delaware is a serious responsibility. This manual has been prepared to help the motorist prepare for and cope with the challenges of negotiating Delaware's highways. For your safety, we strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations contained in this manual.

The Division of Motor Vehicles also stands ready to assist the Delaware motorist. Second only to our commitment to your safety, the Division's goal is to provide fast, efficient, and high-quality customer service in all driving-related areas. Our trained personnel at facilities throughout the State are ready to serve.

Most importantly, we urge you to drive carefully, courteously, soberly and defensively, and remember to fasten your seat belts. On behalf of the State of Delaware we wish you many years of safe driving.

Brian J. Bushweller, Secretary
Department of Public Safety

Michael D. Shahan, Director
Division of Motor Vehicles

Corrections, Suggestions, or Recommendations
to this manual may be addressed to:

Chief of Driver Services
Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles
P.O. Box 698
Dover, DE 19903

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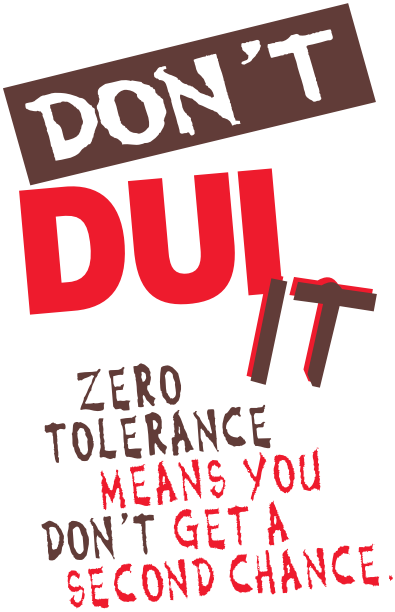

SAFETY *Rules!*

Tens of millions of people in the U.S. today take advantage of the unique combination of convenience, safety and value delivered by the wireless telephone. The wireless phone gives people the powerful ability to communicate by voice—almost anywhere, anytime—with the boss, with a client, with the kids, with emergency personnel or with the police.

When driving with a wireless phone, subscribers should use their phone responsibly and make safety their first priority.

Following are suggested tips to follow which should be easy to remember.

For more information, please call 1-888-901-SAFE or visit our website www.wow-com.com™

10 Big Tips for safely using your wireless phone while driving.

1. **Get to know your wireless phone and its features such as speed dial and redial.**
2. **When available, use a hands free device.**
3. **Position your wireless phone within easy reach.**
4. **Let the person you are speaking with know you are driving; if necessary, suspend the call in heavy traffic or hazardous weather conditions.**
5. **Do not take notes or look up phone numbers while driving.**
6. **Dial sensibly and assess the traffic; if possible, place calls when you are not moving or before pulling into traffic.**
7. **Do not engage in stressful or emotional conversations that may divert your attention from the road.**
8. **Dial 9-1-1 or other local emergency number to report serious emergencies — it's free from your wireless phone!**
9. **Use your wireless phone to help others in emergencies.**
10. **Call roadside assistance or a special non-emergency wireless number when necessary.**

CTIA
Building The Wireless Future.
Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association

Safety– Your most important call
The Wireless Industry Reminds You To Use Your Phone Safely When Driving

Brought to you by the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association.

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SECTION ONE

Introduction

This manual gives you information on safe driving rules and practices to help you become a safe driver. Be sure to read the manual carefully. Unless you know the information in this manual, you cannot pass our knowledge tests. This manual attempts to cover the major elements of Delaware law, however it cannot cover all parts of federal or State law. If a conflict exists, then the actual code or legislation will always take precedence.

This manual will provide information needed to drive a passenger vehicle. If you want a license to drive a commercial motor vehicle, you should read the Commercial Driver's Manual. If you want an endorsement to drive a motorcycle, you should read the Motorcycle Operator's Manual.

Definitions

"**Bicycle**" means that certain class of vehicles which are exclusively human-powered by means of foot pedals.

"**Blue Certificate**" means the "Driver Education Certificate," see below.

"**Convicted**" means having been found guilty in a court of law of a violation of the motor vehicle laws, forfeiture of bail bond, or a plea of guilty.

"**Commercial Driver License (CDL)**" means the license drivers required in order to drive a Commercial Motor Vehicle.

"**Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV)**" means, for purposes of Delaware licensing, a motor vehicle weighing, rated or registered over 26,000 pounds, a vehicle designed to carry 16 or more occupants (including the driver), or a vehicle required to be placarded for carrying Hazardous Material. Definitions and requirements for commercial vehicles in interstate commerce may differ and are covered in Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

"**Department**" means the Department of Public Safety, acting directly or through its duly authorized officers and agents.

"**Divided Highway**" means any highway divided into two or more roadways by an intervening space, physical barrier, or clearly indicated dividing section so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic.

"**Division**" means the Division of Motor Vehicles.

"**Driver**" includes anyone who is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle.

"**Driver Education Certificate**" means the certificate presented to students who successfully complete a Delaware Department of Education approved Driver Education course. The certificate must meet all Department of Education criteria to be valid. Commonly referred to as the "Blue Certificate."

"**Express Highway**" means a State or Interstate highway especially designed for through traffic.

"**Highway**" means the entire width between boundary lines of every road open to public vehicular traffic, but does not include roads owned by private individuals or by institutions.

"**Highway-Rail Intersection**" means the area common to one or more highways intersecting with, or crossing, one or more railroad tracks. You may also be familiar with highway-rail intersections being referred to as highway-rail grade crossings, grade crossings or railroad crossings.

"**Intersection**" means the area common to two or more highways that meet whether or not one highway crosses another.

"**License**" means any type of license under which the holder has the privilege of driving a motor vehicle.

"**Minibike**" means any motor-driven cycle which has a wheel rim size less than 10 inches, or is less than 40 inches long from hub to hub, or has an engine of less than 45 cubic centimeter displacement, or has a seat less than 25 inches above the ground.

"**Moped**" means a pedal or a non-pedal bicycle having two wheels, either of which is over ten inches in a maximum diameter, and having a motor characterized in that the maximum piston displacement is less than 55 cc. Rated at no more than 2.7 brake horse power and the maximum speed does not exceed 25 m.p.h.

"**Motorcycle**" includes any motor vehicle designed to travel on not more than three wheels, except tractors and minibikes.

"**Motor Vehicle**" includes any self-propelled vehicle designed to operate on a roadway except farm tractors and OHVs.

"**NDR**" means National Driver Register (NDR), which is a computerized database of information about drivers who have had their licenses suspended or revoked, or who have been convicted of serious traffic violations. Motor vehicle agencies use NDR to avoid issuing licenses to problem drivers. You may call NDR at 202-366-4800.

"**O.H.V.**" means Off-Highway-Vehicle motor-driven vehicle capable of cross-country travel without benefit of a road or trail on, or over land, snow, ice, marsh, swampland or other natural terrain.

"**Owner**" means a person who holds the legal title of a vehicle or a person who is purchasing a vehicle on time and has immediate right of possession.

"**Railroad Crossing**" means "Highway-Rail Intersection" as defined above.

"**Registration**" means the registration certificate (card) and the registration plate (tag).

"**Road**" as used herein has the same meaning as highway.

"**Roadway**" means that portion of the highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic excluding the shoulder.

"**Safety Zone**" means an area officially set aside within a highway for exclusive use of pedestrians and so marked.

"**School Bus**" means every motor vehicle painted with national school bus chrome yellow, and which has the words "SCHOOL BUS" displayed on the vehicle.

"**Secretary**" means the Secretary of Public Safety of this State.

"**Street**" as used herein means a highway in a city or a suburban district.

"**Three-point turn**" is a maneuver to turn a vehicle 180 degrees on a narrow street. It is accomplished by turning sharply to the left almost to curb, backing to right almost to the other curb, and finally turning to the right side of the roadway in the direction opposite to that at start (sometimes called "turnabout").

"**Trailer**" means any vehicle without motor power designed to carry property or passengers and to be drawn by a motor vehicle.

"**Triped**" means a pedal or a non-pedal cycle having three wheels, any of which is over ten inches in maximum diameter, and having a motor, characterized in that maximum displacement is less than 55 cc., rated or no more than 2.7 brake horsepower, and that maximum speed does not exceed 25 miles per hour.

"**Vehicle**" means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, excepting devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

MOTOR VEHICLE FEES

Registration	Fees
Cars	
Renewals (yearly)	20.00
Late Renewals	10.00
Temporary Tag	10.00
Temporary Permit	10.00
Courtesy Inspection	4.00
Vanity Plate (yearly)	40.00
Handicap Placard	No Charge
Motorcycle	10.00
Environmental Specialty Plate (one-time)	35.00
Animal Welfare Plate (one-time)	50.00
Farm Trucks (yearly)	
5,000 pounds or less	20.00
Greater than 5,000 pounds	2.60*
*(*Price for each 1,000 pounds over 5,000)*	
Recreational Vehicles (yearly)	
5,000 pounds or less	20.00
Greater than 5,000 pounds	5.20*
*(*Price for each 1,000 pounds over 5,000)*	
Trailers (yearly)	
0 - 1,000 pounds	10.00
1,001 - 2,000 pounds	12.00
2,001 - 5,000 pounds	20.00
Commercial Vehicles Over 5,000 Pounds (yearly)	
5,000 pounds or less	20.00
For each 1,000 pounds over 5,000 pounds	16.80
Environmental/Animal Welfare	10.00

Driver's License	Fees
Class D	12.50
Renewal Class D	12.50
Renewal Permanent	1.15
Class D CDL	30.00
CDL Each Additional Endorsement	5.00
Motorcycle Endorsement	8.00
Taxi Endorsement	3.45
Late Renewal Fee	1.15
Duplicate Driver's License	10.00
Change of Address	No Charge
Change of Name	1.15
Photo Identification Card	5.00
Duplicate Photo ID Card	5.00
Driver's License Record	4.00
Certified DL Record Affidavit	8.00
DL Suspension Reinstatement	25.00
DL Revocation Reinstatement	143.75

Uninsured Motorist	Fees
Penalty Fee for Uninsured Motorist	100.00*
*(*Plus $5.00 Per Day After 31st Day From Mailing Date of Notice)*	
DL Suspension Reinstatement	25.00
Vehicle Registration Reinstatement	50.00

DMV will accept personal checks, however if you present an uncollectible check, a penalty fee of $25.00 is charged. If the original amount plus the penalty fee is not paid within 10 days, your driver's license will be suspended.

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

MOTOR VEHICLE FEES

Duplicates	
License Plate with Sticker	6.00
License Plate without Sticker	5.00
Validation Sticker	1.00
Dealer License Plate	6.00
Registration Card	2.00
Sample License Plate	7.00
Environmental/Animal Welfare License Plate	10.00

Driver's License fees also include the cost of learner's permits (Motorcycle, Class D, and CDL), that proceed the issuance of the licenses.

Titles	
Title with Lien	25.00
Title without Lien	15.00
Duplicate	15.00
Change Tag and Title	15.00
Corrected Title without Lien	15.00
Corrected Title with Lien	25.00
Vehicle Record	4.00
Certified Vehicle Affidavit	8.00
Retain Tag Fee and Title	10.00
Switch Tag Fee (per tag & title)	10.00
Document Fee	minimum fee 8.00

2.75 of purchase price or
NADA book value, whichever is greater

NOTE

Delaware law allows a vehicle owner who trades in a Delaware-titled vehicle, when purchasing another vehicle, to deduct the value of the trade-in vehicle from the purchase price of the new vehicle. Certain limitations apply to this credit. Refer to the Trade-In Credit Section of this website.

NOTE

Delaware law allows a vehicle owner a credit on a sales tax, transfer tax, or some similar levy paid to another state on the purchase of a vehicle within 90 days prior to registering the vehicle in Delaware. The 90-day rule is strictly enforced.

SECTION TWO
DRIVER LICENSE INFORMATION

DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

If you operate a motor vehicle on public roadways in Delaware you are required to have a driver's license, and you must carry it with you. You are required to obtain a Delaware driver's license within 60 days after becoming a bona fide Delaware resident.

Exemptions From Holding A Delaware Driver's License

1. Individuals while driving or operating a road roller, road machinery or farm tractor or implement of husbandry temporarily on a highway.
2. Nonresident operators, over the age of sixteen (16) years, currently licensed in their home state or country. The license must be in the driver's possession.
3. Members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are serving on active duty and any dependent of the member if they possess a valid driver license from their state of domicile.

Who May Not Be Licensed

The law does not permit the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a driver's license when:

1. You are less than the required age for a specific license or endorsement.
2. You are under the age of 18 and have not completed a Delaware Department of Education approved course in driver education.
3. You are under the age of 18 and cannot obtain the required signature of consent on your application (usually parent, court-appointed custodian, or guardian).
4. Your license or driving privileges are suspended or revoked in any jurisdiction.
5. You are not a bona fide resident of Delaware or you do not have a social security number.
6. You do not understand road signs in English.
7. You are physically or mentally unable to drive safely. If you are subject to losses of consciousness from diseases of the central nervous system, you must furnish the Division a written certification by your family physician that your infirmity is under sufficient control to permit you to drive a motor vehicle safely.
8. You are determined to be a habitual drunkard or to be addicted to the use of narcotic drugs.

APPLYING FOR A LICENSE

How Do I Get A License?

You must apply in person at one of the offices of the Division of Motor Vehicles in Wilmington, New Castle, Dover, or Georgetown. Addresses of these offices are listed on the outside back cover of this manual.

General Requirements For All Driver License Applicants

To apply for a Delaware driver's license you must present documents to show proof of your

name and age, social security number, and two proofs of your Delaware residency. You must present documents to show that Delaware is your domicile to title vehicles. The Required Documentation Table lists some acceptable documents.

NOTE: False statements, attempted fraud or display of invalid licenses, ID cards, or documents, or misrepresentation is perjury and may result in fines or denial of licenses and services. Any false information given on the driver license application will result in a license suspension.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TABLE

One document for: NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH	One Document for: SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	Two Documents for: DELAWARE RESIDENCY
Certified Birth Certificate	Social Security Card or Ineligibility Letter from Social Security Admin.	Utility Bills
Military ID/Valid Passport	Health/Social Services Card	Hospital Insurance Card
Valid Other State Driver's License	Military Discharge Certificate (DD Form 214)	Auto or Life Insurance Policies
DMV Computer Records	Employer's Pay Check Stub	W-2 or Filed Tax Forms
Immigration Registration Card	W-2 Form	Voter Registration Card
NAME CHANGES	Tax Forms Filed	Bank Account Records
Court Documents		Credit Card Statements
Marriage Certificate		Employment Records
		DMV Computer Records
		Rental Agreements

YOUR SIGNATURE ON ONE OF THESE

MUST INCLUDE NAME AND ADDRESS

All drivers must sign a driver license application and answer the appropriate questions on that form. Those applicants who are licensed in another state must surrender their license from the other state. If eligible for a Social Security Number it must be provided.

Most driver's licenses will be issued for a period of five (5) years from the driver's last birthday. The fee for the five-year license is $12.50 and certain endorsements cost additional fees. If the learner's permit was valid at the time of the examination and is returned, there are no additional fees. The fee for a CDL license is $30.00. It is illegal to drive if your license has expired. The Division is required by law to collect an additional $1.15 when renewing an expired license.

Each driver must pass an eye-screening examination. Some applicants may be referred to their eye doctor or physician for additional medical tests if they have a medical or mental condition that may interfere with their ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.

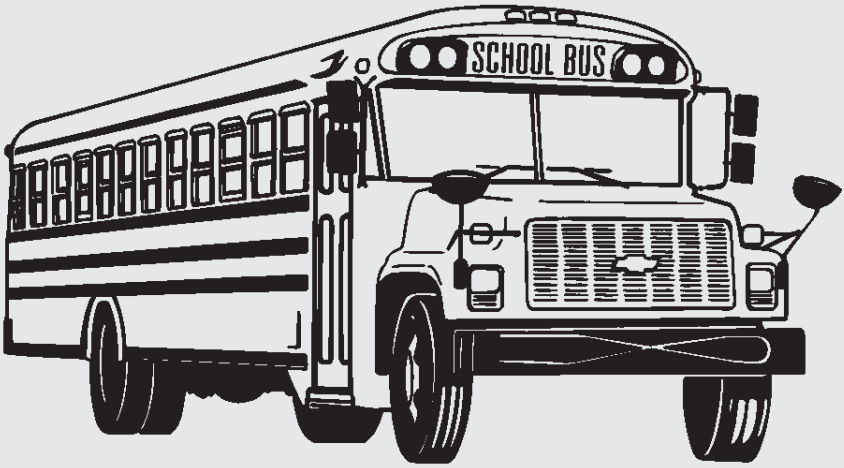
Every driver license applicant is subject to a written and road skills test.

THE FOLLOWING MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

Running Off The Pavement

Running off the pavement causes serious accidents. To avoid doing so, be attentive. If you run off the pavement or are forced off:

- Don't panic.
- Don't jam on the brakes. Brake carefully or not at all.
- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Grip the steering wheel tightly as the unusual stress may twist it from your hands.
- Don't try and get back onto the pavement until you have vehicle under control, your speed is reduced to 15 MPH or less, and you have looked for traffic behind you. Then turn front wheels sharply toward pavement. Be careful not to cross the centerline.



Give Delaware's KIDS a BRAKE

STOP For School Buses

— It's The Law —

Graduated Driver's License For First Time Applicants Under Age 18

The graduated driver's license program is designed to reduce the high accident and fatality rate of minor drivers. Minors will receive additional supervised driving experience and reduced exposure to high-risk driving situations. The parent or sponsor will actively participate in training the minor and determining when the minor is capable of increased driving authority.

Level One Learner's Permit

Applicant's eligibility requirements:

1. Must be at least 15 years, 10 months old, and less than 18 years of age.
2. Must present a Delaware Driver Education Certificate (Blue Certificate) as proof that you passed a certified Delaware Driver Education Course. If you passed a course in another state, your out-of-state certificate must be approved by the Department of Education; this approval must be presented to the Division of Motor Vehicles. For approval send the certificate to the Education Associate for Driver Education, Safety and Physical Education, Townsend Building, P.O. Box 1402, Dover, Delaware 19903, or fax to 302-739-3744 (Telephone 302-739-4885).
3. Must provide documentation proving the applicant's name and date of birth, social security number if eligible, and two proofs of Delaware residency (unless the sponsor is a licensed Delaware driver and lives at the same address as the applicant). A list of approved documents are contained in the Required Documentation Table in this chapter.
4. All minor's driver license applications must be signed by a sponsor. The sponsor is held jointly liable with the minor for any damages resulting from the minor's negligence. The sponsor has the final authority to determine if the minor is capable of handling the responsibility of operating a motor vehicle and the authority to designate who may supervise the minor driver. The sponsor may withdraw his/her endorsement at any time until the minor reaches age 18, thereby canceling the minor's driving privileges. The following sponsors are listed in order of preference:

   a. Either father or mother of the minor if both parents are living together within this State and the minor resides with both parents.

   - OR -

   b. Father of the minor, if the father is living within this State, and the minor resides with the father only. Mother of the minor, if the mother is living within this State and the minor resides with the mother only. Father or mother, if the father or mother lives within this State, and the minor resides with neither parent, and the minor has no legal guardian within this State. (Note: Stepparents can not act as a sponsor unless the minor is adopted or appointed the minor's guardian.)

   - OR -

   c. Legal guardian or court-appointed custodian of the minor, duly appointed as such under the laws of this State.

   - OR -

   d. Employer of the minor, or by any suitable person acceptable to the Secretary of Public Safety or the Chief of Driver Services, (302) 744-2561.

   e. The sponsor must sign the minor's drivers license application in the presence of a Division licensing employee. However, the parent, guardian, or court-appointed custodian acting as a sponsor can have his/her signature notarized on the application and have it forwarded to the Division.

5. The applicant must pay $12.50 Class D license fee and pass an eye screen at the time of application.
6. Minors who require specialized evaluation, training or equipment to operate a motor vehicle because of a physical or mental disability will be identified by the driver education teacher and tested by the Division.

Level One Learner's Permit Restrictions:

1. Permit must be in the possession of the permit holder when driving a motor vehicle.
2. When the permit holder is under mandatory supervision, the supervisor must be a properly licensed parent, guardian or licensed driver (approved by the sponsor) who is at least 25 years of age and has held a Class D license for at least 5 years. The supervising driver must be seated beside the permit holder in the front seat of the vehicle when it is in motion. No person other than the supervising driver can be in the front seat.
3. For the first six months after issuance of a Level One Learner's Permit, the permit holder may only drive when supervised. This is the mandatory supervision period.
4. After the first six months after issuance, the permit holder may drive:
   a. Unsupervised between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.
   b. The permit holder may drive between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. only when under supervision. Exception: The permit holder may travel without supervision during those hours when going directly to and from church activities, work activities, and the permit holder's school.
5. No passengers other than the adult supervisor and two or fewer other passengers may be in the vehicle during the first year. During the second six-month-period of unsupervised driving when a supervisor is not present, only two other passengers in addition to the driver may be in the vehicle. This passenger limit does not apply to immediate family members.
6. Persons who violate the Level One Learner's Permit restrictions are considered as driving without a license which will result in a 2-month suspension for the first offense and a 4-month suspension for subsequent offenses.

Eligibility for a Class D Operator's License

A permit holder who is at least 16 years and 10 months old, but less than 18 years old, may obtain a Class D operator's license when the driver has held a Level 1 Learner's Permit for at least 12 months, the sponsor has not withdrawn his/her endorsement, and the applicant's driving privileges are not suspended, revoked, or canceled.

Requirements For First-Time Applicants Over Age 18

Temporary Instruction Permit (Learner's Permit)

The purpose of the learner's permit is to enable you to drive the class of motor vehicle for which you want a driver's license. Before a learner's permit will be issued, you must pass an eye screen and written test. After you pass these tests and pay the required fee, a learner's permit is issued for 60 days. While you are learning to drive you must be accompanied by a licensed driver who is qualified to drive the class of vehicle in which you are training, and they must be at least 21 years of age.

To obtain your license, you must take a road test at the same location that issued the permit but not until 10 days after the permit was issued. If you do not pass the road test within the

60-day period, you are permitted one extension of the learner's permit for an additional 60 days, provided application is made and a second fee of $2.00 is paid before the original permit expiration date, otherwise your fee is forfeited.

Transfer Of Licenses From Other Jurisdictions Into Delaware

(18 Years of Age or Older)

Drivers From Other States. If you move into Delaware from another State, you must apply for a Delaware driver's license within 60 days after becoming a resident. You must turn in your previously issued out-of-state driver's license, fill out an application and pass an eye screening test. Written and road test may be given, but they are normally waived if your license is valid. Suspended and revoked licenses can not be transferred until the withdrawal action is cleared.

Drivers From Other Countries. Nonresident drivers over the age of 16 years who have a valid driver's license issued by their home country may operate motor vehicles upon the highways of this State when their license is in their immediate possession. Sixty days after the nonresident driver becomes a Delaware resident, he/she must apply for a Delaware driver's license. Drivers from other countries may retain their foreign licenses. All drivers licensed in other countries must pass both the written and road test. Exception: Delaware has a reciprocity agreement with Germany thereby exempting these drivers from the written and road tests.

Transfer Of Licenses From Other Jurisdictions Into Delaware

(Under 18 Years of Age)

Those persons who are at least 15 years, 10 months old but less than 18 years and were issued a driver's license by another state must obtain a Delaware license within 60 days after becoming a Delaware resident.

a. The applicant must have completed an approved driver education course.
b. The applicant must pass a written and road examination conducted by the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles and an eye screen.
c. The application must be signed by an approved sponsor.
d. If the minor applicant was issued an out-of-state license for over 12 months, they may be eligible for a Class D operator's license.
e. If the minor applicant was issued an out-of-state license for less than 12 months, they may be eligible for a Level 1 Learner's Permit.

License Renewal

Delaware Licenses can be renewed at any Division of Motor Vehicle facility. Renewal reminders are mailed to each driver approximately 60 days before the expiration date (driver's birthday). The renewal fee is $12.50 for a five-year license. A $1.15 late fee is charged if the renewal takes place after the expiration date. You must turn in your previously issued license, fill out an application and pass an eye-screen test. Written and road tests may be given, but they are normally waived. If you keep a motorcycle endorsement the fee is increased by $8.00 ($20.50 Total). You may renew at any time during the 90-day period prior to the expiration of your license.

Permanent License

In addition to the five-year driver's license, the Division of Motor Vehicles issues a permanent driver's license. If you have a permanent license you must return to the Division every five years to renew the license. The fee for this is $1.15. Permanent license holders who have a motorcycle endorsement on their license will be charged an extra $8.00 fee for that endorsement. The initial fee for a permanent driver's license is $35.00. A $1.15 late fee will be assessed upon renewal if the license has expired. Whenever a permanent license is suspended or revoked, it is changed to a Class D license upon reinstatement. Requirements for a permanent driver's license are:

1. You must have had a Delaware driver's license for at least three consecutive years.
2. For a period of three years prior to applying for the license you must not have had your license suspended or revoked, been ruled an unsafe driver by the Secretary of Public Safety, or not have been arrested and convicted for a violation of any traffic laws.
3. Commercial and non-CDL driver license holders are ineligible for a permanent license.

Exchange Student Licensing Procedures

After completing an approved driver education training program, an exchange student may apply for a Level One Learner's Permit. The exchange student must present the following:

1. A typed notarized statement from his/her parent, granting permission for their son or daughter to apply for and be issued a Delaware driver's license.
2. If the applicant is under the age of 18, the sponsoring family must sign the application and assume liability for the minor driver.
3. A legal document showing the date of birth such as a certified birth certificate (in English) or a passport.
4. A social security number, if eligible.
5. Driver education training certificate, if under age 18.
6. $12.50 will be charged for a five-year license.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Restricted License

If you have a disability which would interfere with driving a motor vehicle safely, it may be possible through use of special equipment to compensate for your disability. Special examinations are required by the Division in such cases, and a license with restrictions may be issued to you allowing you to drive only when you or your vehicle or both are fitted with the specified equipment. A common example of a restricted license is one which requires you to wear glasses when driving or to restrict you to daylight driving only. If you drive without the required equipment, you are subject to arrest and your driver's license may be suspended.

Self-Reporting of Medical Conditions

When applying for a Delaware license and upon renewal of license, the applicant will be required to report or show certification concerning any medical conditions that may interfere with his/her ability to drive. The applicant may be required to submit a favorable certificate/report from his/her physician stating that the driver's medical condition is under suffi-

cient control to permit him/her to safely operate a motor vehicle. Any person licensed to operate a motor vehicle on the basis of this certificate/report may be required to furnish the Division with a new certificate every year no later than the last day of the person's birthday month. Failure to provide a favorable doctor's report will result in the suspension of a person's driver's license. Upon receipt of a favorable physician's certificate/report, a reinstatement fee of $25.00 must be paid to the Division of Motor Vehicles in order to reinstate the license.

Duplicate License

If your license is lost, stolen or destroyed, you may apply to the Division for a duplicate license which will be issued for a fee of $10.00. You must bring in three (3) identification documents of which one must have your signature on it. (See Required Document Table.)

Name Change

Within 30 days after legally changing your name, you must personally go to an office of the Division to change the name on your license. Bring in your old driver's license and the marriage certificate or court document as evidence of the name change. The Division will issue you a new license for $1.15.

Address Change

After changing your Delaware address, you have thirty (30) days to notify both the Vehicle Registration and Driver's License Sections of the Division of Motor Vehicles. Write to the Division of Motor Vehicles, Driver License Section, P.O. Box 698, Dover, Delaware 19903. Give us the number of your driver's license, your name as it appears on the license and your new address. We will change our records. To change your license document, you must come into any of our facilities and we will replace your license at no cost. (See the Vehicle Equipment, Titles, Registration and Insurance Section for changing the address on your vehicle registration.)

Identification (ID) Card

The fee for an identification card is $5.00, and it expires 4 years from the applicant's next birthday. The applicant must be a Delaware resident and present documents as required by the Required Documentation Table.

Voter Registration

As a result of the enactment of the National Voter Rights Act of 1993, any U.S. citizen residing in the State of Delaware, who meets the eligibility requirements, is afforded the opportunity to register to vote while obtaining or renewing a driver's license. You may register if you are a U.S. citizen; a permanent resident of the State of Delaware; at least 18 years old by the date of the next General Election; and be mentally competent. Ex-felons may register to vote if they meet the requirements as specified by law according to 15, *Del. C* Chapter 61. Part of the registration process involves selecting a political party of your choice. Options include the two majority parties, numerous minority parties or, if you do not wish to be affiliated with any political party, you may register as an Independent. Only members of a majority party (Democrats and Republicans) are eligible to vote in primary elections in the State of Delaware. In approximately one month, you will receive a polling card from your respective county elections office. This card confirms your registration and provides the name and address of the location where you will cast your vote on election day. If you have any questions or concerns, call the elections office nearest you. Thank you!

Commissioner of Elections
32 W. Loockerman St., M101 / Dover, DE 19904
(302) 739-4277

Department of Elections

New Castle County	**Kent County**	**Sussex County**
820 N. French St.	455 Court St.	119 N. Race St.
Wilmington, DE 19801	Dover, DE 19901	Georgetown, DE 19947
(302) 577-3464	(302) 739-4498	(302) 856-5367

Megan's Law/Sex Offenders

By signing the driver license or identification card application form, applicant's acknowledge that the Division of Motor Vehicles has notified them that registration in compliance with Section 4120 of Title 11, Delaware law, is mandatory for any person who has been convicted in any state of any offense which if committed or attempted in this state, would have been punishable as one or more of the offenses referenced in Section 4120(a) of Title 11, and that such registration must occur within 7 days of coming into any county, city, or town in which he/she temporarily resides or is domiciled for that length of time. This form will be permanently retained.

Mandatory Disclosure of Social Security Numbers

Disclosure of the applicant's social security number is mandatory if eligible. Federal and state law authorizes such disclosure. See 42 U.S.C. Section 405(c)(2)(1) and 21 Del. C. Section 2718(a). The Division will use social security numbers solely for the administration of the driver's license program to ensure accurate identification. Social security numbers will not be released to business or private individuals, but may be released to state agencies to carry out their governmental functions. More information is available upon request.

Selective Service System Registration

Male applicants are to understand that their signature constitutes consent to be registered with the Selective Service System, if so required.

OPERATION ABC MOBILIZATION
America BUCKLES UP CHILDREN

Class D Operator's License

This class of license includes passenger cars, station wagons, pickup trucks, utility vehicles, and most panel trucks. This type and class of license is valid for any single motor vehicle, and a trailer, with weights not greater than 26,000 pounds, designed to carry less than 16 passengers (including the driver) and not placarded for the purpose of transporting hazardous materials.

Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL)

There is a Delaware Commercial Driver's manual which covers the CDL requirements, CDL procedures, testing requirements, and the basic knowledge required to obtain a CDL license. The manual is available for no cost at any Division facility.

The requirement for a CDL license is waived when the driver is operating farm equipment, firefighting equipment, recreational vehicles, or military members operating military vehicles.

Non-CDL Class A and Non-CDL Class B licenses are issued to those drivers who operate farm and firefighting equipment under this waiver. No special licenses are required when operating personal recreation vehicles and military equipment. The following defines these waived class of vehicles:

a. Farm Vehicles which are:
    1. Controlled and operated by a farmer;
    2. Used to transport either agricultural products, farm machinery, farm supplies or both to or from a farm;
    3. Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier;
    4. Used within 150 miles of the person's farm and
    5. Not used for hire.
b. Firefighting equipment which is:
    1. Used by any fire company in this State for the preservation of life or property or the execution of emergency governmental functions.
    2. Being operated under the authorization of a fire company for parades, special events, repair service, delivery or other such authorized movements.
c. Military equipment owned by the Department of Defense, including the National Guard, when operated by persons on active military duty or members of the reserves and National Guard on active full-time or part-time duty.
d. Recreational vehicles or trailers defined in Title 21 which provide temporary living quarters and are used solely for recreational purposes.

CDL Temporary Instruction Permit (Learner's Permit)

After passing the knowledge tests and paying a $30.00 fee, you may be issued a CDL learner's permit which will allow you to drive a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV), but only with another licensed CDL driver. You may only drive the class of vehicle specified on your learner's permit, and you may drive only with a CDL driver qualified in the same type CMV. This permit is valid for six (6) months. You may extend this learner's permit one time for another six (6) months, within a two-year period, for $2.00.

CDL Class A License

This license is required when the vehicle's combination registered, actual or gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) is over 26,000 pounds, and the vehicle is towing a vehicle with a registered, actual or GVWR over 10,000 pounds.

CDL Class B License

This license is required when the vehicle's registered, actual or rated weight (GVWR) is over 26,000 pounds, and it is not towing another vehicle over 10,000 pounds GVWR.

CDL Class C License

This license is required for vehicles under 26,000 pounds when vehicles are designed to transport 16 or more persons, including the driver, or for vehicles required to be placarded for carrying hazardous materials (HAZMAT).

NON - CDL Class A License

Required for the same CMV vehicles as the CDL Class A license, but only when operating farm or firefighting vehicles under a CDL waiver.

NON - CDL Class B License

Required for the same CMV vehicles as the CDL Class B license, but only when operating farm or firefighting vehicles under a CDL waiver.

Driver Education Learner's Permit

This permit authorizes the holder to operate those vehicles that a holder of a Class D operator's license may operate.

Level 1 Learner's Permit

Authorizes the holder to operate those vehicles that a holder of a Class D operator's license may operate, but under restrictions defined in the Graduated Driver's License program.

Temporary License

A temporary license may be issued to the holder of a valid Class D operator's license or commercial driver's license to extend the expiration date, to replace a lost license or in lieu of the Class D or CDL licensing document. A temporary license or temporary instruction permit may be issued to an unlicensed driver for specialized training.

Conditional, Occupational, and Hardship Licenses

These licenses grant limited driving privileges under very specific parts of Delaware law. The limited driving privileges granted are defined on the license.

Ignition Interlock (IID) Endorsement/License

Authorizes the holder to operate a vehicle with full Class D operators driving privileges only when the vehicle is equipped with an ignition interlock device.

ENDORSEMENTS

Motorcycle Endorsement

Any person who operates a motorcycle, motorbike or other 2-wheeled, motor-driven vehicle on the highway shall have a driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement. Persons over the age of 18 must pass a written examination and road skills test to obtain a motorcycle endorsement. The written and road test examinations are waived for those who complete the approved motorcycle rider education program. This endorsement costs $8.00, and it is valid for the same period as the license.

Persons under the age of 18 must have the motorcycle application signed by their parents or the duly-appointed legal guardian. They must complete the motorcycle rider education program as approved by the Division.

The Division publishes a Delaware Motorcycle Operator Manual which covers the requirements for the Motorcycle endorsement, procedures to acquire the endorsement, testing requirements, and the basic knowledge needed to obtain this endorsement.

Motorcycle Rider Classes

New Castle County	Kent County and Sussex County
302-326-5030 (New Castle)	302-744-2658

Call for further information or to register for classes.

Motorcycle Learner Permits

Motorcycle permits are valid for 60 days. You can extend the permit only once for an additional 60 days. You must apply for an extension at DMV before the expiration date and pay a $2.00 fee. The following restrictions apply when operating a motorcycle with a temporary instruction permit.

1. No passengers shall be allowed on the motorcycle.
2. Operating a motorcycle between sunset and sunrise is prohibited.
3. Approved safety helmet and eye protection must be worn.
4. Operation is not permitted on the federal interstate highway system.

School Bus Endorsement

To drive a school bus, the driver must have a CDL license with a passenger and school bus endorsement. To obtain a school bus endorsement, drivers must not have been suspended or revoked in the last five years, and have less than 6 points on their record. They must then receive special training and pass a medical exam. The Delaware Department of Education provides the training and authorization for this endorsement. Contact your local School District Transportation Supervisor or Department of Education School Bus Coordinator at 739-4696 for further information.

Taxi Endorsement

All persons who operate a taxi cab on Delaware highways must have a valid license with a taxi endorsement. The driver must complete a Defensive Driving Course, be at least 18 years of age, provide a certified copy of a police background check indicating no serious criminal offenses, not have been revoked for the past five years, and pass the eye screen and written tests. The fee for this endorsement is $3.75.

THE DRIVER EXAMINATION

The purpose of the driver examination is to determine whether you have sufficient knowledge and driving skills necessary to drive safely on Delaware highways. The examination consists of four parts.

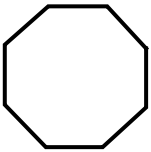
Vision Screening

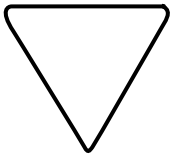
Your vision will be screened to determine whether you can see well enough to drive safely. If the screening shows that you need glasses or contact lenses, your license certificate will be marked to indicate that you cannot drive legally without them. Minimum acceptable vision for a Delaware driver's license is 20/40, with or without glasses or contact lenses. Permission for daylight only driving may be granted if your vision is between 20/40 and 20/50. CDL physical and vision requirements are contained in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (49 CFR Part 391.4).

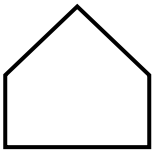
Highway Sign and Signal Test

You will be asked to identify certain highway signs only by their shape, color, or the symbols appearing on them. You will also have to explain the meaning of these and other highway signs, traffic signals and pavement markings. The meanings are explained in the Rules of the Road section of this manual.

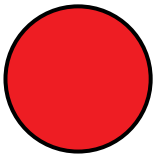
For example, you may be asked to identify these or other shapes without their labels:

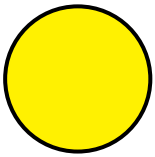

(Stop)

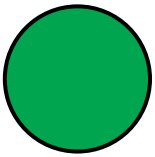

(Yield)


(School)

You may be asked to identify the type of signals associated with these or other colors:


(Stop)


(Prepare to stop)


(Proceed with caution)

Or you may be asked to identify symbols such as these:

(Keep to right)

(No U-turn)

(No right turn)

Rules Of The Road Test

You will be asked to answer a series of questions on the Delaware road rules (motor vehicle laws and safety practices). For example, you might be asked what the speed limit is for automobiles on two-lane roads; what actions are taken when you see a flashing red signal ahead; or under what conditions you should not pass another vehicle. You might also be asked what you should do if your vehicle starts to skid, or how far away from a fire hydrant you may legally park.

Road Test

You are eligible to take a Class D or motorcycle road test 10 days after you pass the rules test. Road tests are given on every weekday, except Wednesday, from 8:00 until 11:30 and 1:30 until 3:30. Contact the facility where you obtained your permit for road test information. They will not be conducted during inclement weather (rain, fog, snow, and ice). Again, the Division does not conduct road tests on Wednesdays. To take the Class D test you must bring:

- Valid vehicle registration card and valid insurance card for the vehicle that you will drive during the test.
- Driver's license of the driver who came with you, and
- Your learner's permit.

You will be required to drive for approximately 30 minutes and do such things as are usual in normal driving. You will not be asked to do anything that is contrary to the motor vehicle laws or safe driving practices. No tricks will be played on you. Instead, you will be asked to show that you know how to do such things as the following:

- Operate vehicle equipment
- Parallel parking
- Three point turn
- Change lanes
- Maintain proper speed
- Merge with traffic
- Enter intersections
- Inspect vehicle for safety
- Respond to road signs, traffic signals and pavement markings
- Make right and left turns
- Use right-of-way rules
- Back 50 feet
- Follow and overtake vehicles
- Be overtaken
- Know vehicle controls

Motor Vehicle To Be Driven In Road Test

It is your responsibility to provide the motor vehicle to be driven in the road test. It must be properly registered. The vehicle must also pass our safety inspection. If the vehicle is registered in Delaware, you will be required to show proof of liability insurance. Furthermore, the vehicle must be within the License Class for which you have applied. The examiner will conduct a basic vehicle safety inspection before the road test begins. Please refrain from smoking during the test. The New Castle Inspection Lane does not conduct motorcycle road tests.

When You Must Be Accompanied By A Licensed Driver

Unless you already have a legal right to drive in Delaware, you must come to the road test accompanied by a licensed driver over 21 years of age, as described for the learner's permit. A licensed driver should remain to drive the vehicle away in case you fail to pass the tests.

Preparation For The Driver Examination

One of the purposes of this manual is to help you prepare to take the driver examination. You should study this manual carefully. Anything which is not perfectly clear, whether contained in this manual or not, should be discussed with the driver license examiner prior to your examination.

If you plan to apply for a license Class other than Class D operators license, or for the motorcycle, or a commercial license, you will also need to study separate manuals which are available at the offices of the Division of Motor Vehicles (see back cover for locations where you may pick up these manuals).

If you fail any part of the driver examination test, you should prepare yourself thoroughly to take it again at a later date. You must wait at least ten days before taking the test or tests again.

LICENSE REVOCATION AND SUSPENSIONS

Driving is a privilege, not a right. The State grants you the privilege of operating motor vehicles only as long as you drive safely and obey the rules and regulations. If you violate driving laws, your driving privileges may be suspended or revoked. The period of the suspension or revocation varies with the type of offense(s) committed. A fee of $25 must be paid to reinstate a suspended license; A $143.75 fee is charged to reinstate a revoked license. You may be required to complete all driver license written, road, and eye-screen tests before reinstating your license. Suspension of a license is a temporary removal of your driving privilege. Revocation of a license is a cancellation of your driving privilege. For questions regarding license suspension you may call (302) 744-2509. For questions regarding license revocation you may call (302) 744-2508. For questions regarding serious medical conditions you may call (302) 744-2507.

The Division will suspend or revoke the license of any Delaware resident who has been convicted of a violation in another state which, if committed in Delaware, would be grounds for suspension or revocation of a license. The driving record includes all convictions, even those committed in other states.

Mandatory Revocations

The following are mandatory revocations:

- Driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs
- Hit-and-run driving involving death or injury to another person
- Attempting to flee from a police officer after having received a visual or audible signal to stop your vehicle
- Three convictions for reckless driving in a period of twelve consecutive months
- Contributing to the death of anyone by operating a vehicle
- The crime of assault in which a death occurs from operating a vehicle
- Using a motor vehicle in committing any serious crime
- Making a false statement or using fraudulent information
- Underage possession/consumption of alcohol by persons under 21 years of age
- Any drug offense which results in a conviction

If you post a bond after being arrested for any of the causes listed above and you do not appear in court, your license shall be revoked just as if you had been convicted.

Habitual Offender Revocation

After an accumulation of certain types of traffic violation convictions, the driver may be declared a habitual offender and his/her license may be revoked for up to five (5) years. No work or hardship licenses are issued to those convicted of being a habitual offender.

Any combination of three of the following offenses in a five (5) year period may convict you as a habitual offender:

1. Manslaughter
2. Use of a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony
3. Driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
4. Driving without a license
5. Driving during suspension or revocation
6. Reckless driving
7. Failing to stop at the scene of an accident
8. Failing to identify yourself at the scene of an accident
9. Making a false statement to the Division of Motor Vehicles
10. Violation of an occupational license
11. Failing to stop on the command of a police officer.

Any combination of the above offenses and lesser offenses, such as speeding, that result in 10 convictions in three years may convict you as a habitual offender.

Suspension Of A Driver's License

The Division of Motor Vehicles will suspend the driver's license of any Delaware resident whenever the Division has reason to believe that such a person:

1. Has committed any offense for which a license revocation is mandatory.
2. Has by reckless or unlawful operation of a motor vehicle contributed to an accident resulting in injury or death to any person or caused serious property damage.
3. Is incompetent to drive a motor vehicle for serious medical or mental conditions.
4. Has committed a serious violation of motor vehicle laws.
5. Has driven a motor vehicle without consent of its owner.
6. Has issued a non-collectible check to the Division.
7. Racing (speed exhibition).
8. Spinning wheels.
9. Turfing (causing destruction to grass, yards, property, etc.).
10. Failing to answer a court summons in any state.
11. Has violated any of the licensing provision of the Delaware Code including:
    - Use of fictitious, suspended, revoked or borrowed driver's license.
    - Loaning a driver's license to another person.
    - Failure to surrender a suspended or revoked license.
    - Giving a fictitious name or address or making a false statement in applying for a license.
    - Unlawful manufacture or possession of a false insurance document.
    - Driving an uninsured motor vehicle.
    - Passing a stopped school bus.
    - Altering a driver's license or using a fraudulent license.
    - Failure to pay Child Support.

Child Support Delinquency

Any person who owes $1,000 or more in arrears or retroactive support and is 30 or more days delinquent in payment of a child support order from either Family Court or the Division of Child Support Enforcement may have their license suspended as defined in Title 13 Delaware Code section 516. The suspension will remain in effect until a release is obtained from the requesting agency and received by the Division of Motor Vehicles. A reinstatement fee of $25.00 must be paid to the Division of Motor Vehicles in order to reinstate the license.

School Expulsion

Any student expelled from a school district as outlined under Title 14 Delaware Code section 4130 will be suspended until the length of expulsion is complete, the student reaches their 19th birthday, or 2 years has elapsed since the date of expulsion. A release must be provided from the school district/superintendent in order to be eligible for reinstatement. A reinstatement fee of $25.00 must be paid to the Division of Motor Vehicles in order to reinstate the license. Any student suspended under this section may apply for an occupational license under the following conditions:

1. You held a current Delaware license prior to this suspension.
2. You have not been issued an occupational license within the immediate past 12 months.
3. You are not under Suspension or Revocation for any other reason.
4. Your Delaware license is turned in to the Division of Motor Vehicles.
5. You submit the appropriate application, notarized documents, and sign the sworn compliance statement.

A copy of the occupational license must be carried by the driver at all times when operating a motor vehicle on the highways of this state.

Driving During Suspension or Revocation

A conviction for driving during suspension or revocation shall extend the period of suspension or revocation for a like period. No driving authority will be permitted during the balance of the initial suspension or revocation and the extended period. Any driving authority previously issued by the Division must be surrendered.

Driver Improvement Problem Driver Program

PURPOSE: The Driver Improvement Problem Driver Program is designed to identify problem drivers, to change the problem driver's behavior by providing information and training opportunities and, if necessary, to progressively impose sanctions as more convictions/points are accumulated on individuals driving record. This program is governed by Division Policy Regulation #45. The goal of the program is crash prevention. The steps in the program are geared to the seriousness of the driving record and may result in an advisory letter, mandatory suspension, and/or completion of a behavioral modification/attitudinal-driving course. A reinstatement fee of $25.00 must be paid to the Division of Motor Vehicles in order to reinstate the license.

Delaware Point System

Violation		Points
Speeding	1-9 miles per hour (MPH) over posted limit	2
Speeding	10-14 MPH over posted limit	4
Speeding	15-l9 MPH over posted limit	5
Speeding	20 MPH or more over posted limit	5*
	**(May result in additional actions including suspension)*	
Passing a Stopped School Bus		6
Reckless Driving		6
Aggressive Driving		6
Disregarding Stop Sign or Red Light		3
Other Moving Violations (contained in Chapters 27, 44, 42 of Title 21)		2

Calculated Points

Calculated points are credited at full point value for the first 12 months from the date of violation. After the initial 12 months have expired, the calculated points will be credited at one-half point value for the next 12 months. All actions are based upon total calculated points within a 24-month period following the offense.

Driver Improvement Problem Driver Program Actions:

Calculated Points	Action Item
8	The Division of Motor Vehicles sends the driver an advisory letter.
12	Driver must complete a behavior modification/attitudinal-driving course within 90 days after notification (unless extended by DMV). Failure to comply or upon preference of the driver, mandatory 2-month suspension will be imposed.
14	Mandatory 4-month license suspension. To become eligible for reinstatement, the driver must complete or have completed a behavior modification/attitudinal-driving course within the previous 2 years.
16	Mandatory 6-month license suspension. To become eligible for reinstatement, the driver must complete or have completed a behavioral modification/attitudinal-driving course within the previous 2 years.
18	Mandatory 8-month license suspension. To become eligible for reinstatement, the driver must complete or have completed a behavior modification/attitudinal-driving course within the previous 2 years.
20	Mandatory 10-month license suspension. To become eligible for reinstatement, he driver must complete or have completed a behavior modification/attitudinal-driving course within the previous 2 years.
22	Mandatory 12-month license suspension. To become eligible for reinstatement, the driver must complete or have completed a behavior modification/attitudinal-driving course within the previous 2 years.

Point Credit

A speeding violation of 1 to 14 mph over the posted speed limit will not be assessed points, IF (a) it is the first violation within any three (3) year period and (b) the ticket is paid through the Voluntary Assessment Center. This 3-point credit is applied to a driver's point total with the satisfactory completion of an approved defensive driving course. Defensive driving courses are valid for three (3) years.

Serious Speeding Violations

1. Advisory letter sent to the driver when convicted for speeding 20-24 MPH over the posted speed limit
2. The driver will be suspended for one (1) month when convicted of driving 25 MPH over the posted speed limit. The length of suspension will increase by one month for each additional 5 MPH over the initial 25-MPH threshold. The driver may elect to attend the behavior modification/attitudinal-driving course in lieu of license suspension when driving 25-29 MPH over the posted limit. For speeding 30 MPH over the posted limit or more, the suspension is mandatory.
3. One-year suspension when convicted of driving 50 MPH or more over the posted speed limit or driving 100 MPH on a highway.

Occupational License

The Division may issue an occupational license during the period of suspension under the Driver Improvement Problem Driver Program if the suspension has created an extreme hardship unless the driver is suspended or revoked for other Title 21 convictions. An occupational license shall not be issued if the driver has had 2 previous suspensions under this policy within the previous 3 years or has been issued an occupational license during the previous 12 months. Occupational licenses are not issued during the first month of the suspension. If the calculated point level reaches 15 or more points in a 24-month period, an occupational license will not be issued until the calculated points are less than 15 points. Upon receiving a conviction of any person for a charge of operating a motor vehicle in violation of the restrictions of the occupational license, the Division will extend the period of suspension for an additional like period. The Division will also direct the person to surrender the occupational license.

Driving During Suspension or Revocation

A conviction for driving during suspension or revocation shall extend the period of suspension or revocation for a like period. No driving authority will be permitted during the balance of the initial suspension or revocation and the extended period. Any driving authority previously issued by the Division must be surrendered.

For further information regarding the Driver Improvement Problem Driver Program, please contact the Suspension Section at (302) 744-2509.

Aggressive Driving

The intent of Delaware's aggressive driving law is to identify aggressive drivers and change their high-risk driving habits by requiring their attendance in a specific training program. The ultimate goal is crash prevention. Aggressive driving is defined in terms of existing Title 21 offenses such as failure to yield, unsafe lane change, disregard of a traffic control device, failure to stop at the command of a police officer, following too closely, passing on a shoulder, and speeding. Individuals convicted of 3 or more of these offenses as a result of continuous conduct are guilty of aggressive driving and are subject to increased penalties. Offenders are required to complete a behavioral modification/attitudinal-driving course within 90 days after the conviction for aggressive driving. Failure to attend the course may result in suspension of the individuals driving privilege.

For further information regarding Aggressive Driving, please contact the Suspension Section at (302) 744-2509.

Approved Behavioral Modification/Attitudinal-Driving Courses

The Secretary of Public Safety has approved the following agencies to provide the behavioral modification/attitudinal-driving course. The course is a minimum of 8 hours long and is offered in all three counties. The fee for the course is $100.00 and is payable to the course provider. When you complete the behavior modification course, you must present DMV with a copy of the course completion as proof of compliance.

Delaware Safety Council
3 Old Barley Mill Road
Wilmington, DE 19807
Phone: New Castle County - (302) 654-7786
Kent & Sussex County - (800) 342-2287

Thresholds, Inc.
526-D N. duPont Hwy.
Georgetown, DE 19947
Phone: New Castle & Kent County - (800) 450-7747
Sussex County - (302) 856-1835

Medical Suspension/Medical Surrender

Any person who is subject to loss of consciousness due to disease of the central nervous system will not be issued a Delaware driver's license unless the Division receives a certificate report from the person's treating physician stating that the driver's infirmity is under sufficient control to permit them to safely operate a motor vehicle. The certifying physician must have been treating the person for a minimum of 3 months for loss of consciousness. Any person licensed to operate a motor vehicle on the basis of this certificate/report will be required to furnish the Division with a new certificate every year no later than the last day of the person's birthday month. Failure to provide a favorable doctor's report will result in the suspension of a person's driver's license. Upon receipt of a favorable physician's certificate/report, a reinstatement fee of $25.00 must be paid to the Division of Motor Vehicles in order to reinstate the license. For further questions regarding Medical Suspension, please contact the Medical Section at (302) 744-2507.

Medical Surrender

A driver's license may be voluntarily surrendered to the Division if a favorable medical report cannot be obtained. Upon receipt of a favorable physician's certificate/report, there is no fee for reinstatement if the license is voluntarily surrendered. For further questions regarding Medical Surrender, please contact the Medical Section at (302) 744-2507.

Defensive Driving Courses

The Division may consider the satisfactory completion of a Defensive Driving course, approved by the Delaware Department of Insurance, as a 3-point credit when determining driver penalties. This credit is at the discretion of the Division and may vary from case to case.

APPROVED DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE PROVIDERS

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

Toll Free 888-227-7669

Kent County	Sussex County	New Castle County
302-734-1749	302-628-4879	302-239-6112 (south) 302-762-3755 (north)

Must be at least (50) years of age. Days, times, locations vary in all three counties. Call for further information to register for classes.

The Car Control Clinic

302-475-8143

Call for further information to register for classes.

Central Delaware Training Academy

302-677-1534

Call for further information to register for classes.

Delaware Defensive Driving, Inc. (Refresher Courses Only)

Kent 302-678-5644 New Castle 302-366-0716

Days, times, locations vary in New Castle & Kent counties only. Class dates are advertised. Requires a minimum of (10) sign-ups. Call for further information to register for classes.

Delaware Motor Club (Division of AAA – Mid-Atlantic)

302-368-4501

Call for further information to register for classes.

Delaware Safety Council

Kent & Sussex Counties	New Castle County
1-800-342-2287	302-654-7786

Days, times, locations vary in all three counties. Saturday classes available. Call for further information to register for classes.

Industrial Training Consultants

302-266-6100

Company-sponsored courses only. Not for individual sign-ups.

Mastercraft Safety Consultants

302-368-7833

Days, times, locations vary in all three counties. Saturday classes available. Call for further information to register for classes.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND DRIVING

Drinking And Driving

Nationally, alcohol is involved in about 40% of the traffic accidents in which someone is killed, in Delaware 37% of fatal accidents involve alcohol. If you drink alcohol, even a little, your chances of being in an accident are much greater than if you did not drink any alcohol.

No one can drink alcohol and drive safely, even if you have been driving for many years. New drivers are more affected by alcohol than experienced drivers because they are still learning to drive.

A sobering fact about alcohol. It's not what you drink. It's how much. A 12-ounce can of beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine, and a cocktail with 1.5-ounces of 80 proof distilled spirits all contain the same amount of alcohol.

Because drinking alcohol and then driving is so dangerous, the penalties are very tough. People who drive after drinking risk heavy fines, higher insurance rates, loss of license, and even jail sentences.

Drinking And Blood Alcohol Concentration

Blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is simply a precise way of stating the amount of alcohol in a quantity of blood. It is expressed in percent and is measured by chemical analysis.

Immediately after an alcoholic beverage is swallowed, the alcohol starts to move from the stomach into the bloodstream. The rate of this movement and how much alcohol gets into the blood depends primarily on how much alcohol is in the drinks taken. The rate at which alcohol moves to the bloodstream is governed to a lesser extent by the amount of food in the stomach and the intestines. It depends only to a very limited extent upon how the drinks are mixed. Thus, two (2) ounces of pure alcohol taken into the stomach within a period of one hour will result in about the same blood alcohol concentration whether consumed as martinis, straight shots, highballs, wine, beer, or a mixture of these.

The lower the weight of the drinker, the lower the amount of alcoholic beverage it takes to bring the blood alcohol concentration to a specified level. It takes about half as much for a person weighing 100 pounds as for another weighing 200 pounds.

There are differences in the way individuals react to drinking, but in general, when a person drinks a given amount of alcoholic beverage, his blood alcohol concentration can be predicted. Thus, the following table can be used as a rough guide to the amount of alcoholic beverage it takes to reach various blood alcohol levels.

In Delaware a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .10% or greater or the presence of any drug is conclusive evidence that a driver is under the influence. However, a driver can be charged with driving under the influence if the BAC in under .10%. If the driver refuses chemical testing, their license may be revoked.

More stringent rules apply to those under age 21. Underage consumption or possession of alcohol, even if not related to operating a motor vehicle, can result in a license revocation. Delaware's zero tolerance statute mandates a license revocation for underage drivers with a .02% BAC. If convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol, the minor's license may be revoked until they reach age 21.

Any driver operating a commercial motor vehicle who refuses to submit to a breath or blood test to determine their BAC, or whose BAC is .04% or more will be disqualified from driving a commercial vehicle for one year; a lifetime disqualification may be imposed for a second conviction.

GUIDE TO APPROXIMATE BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION, PERCENT

Number of Drinks In One Hour		Body Weight in Pounds							
2 oz. 86 Proof	1 oz. 86 Proof	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240
	1	.03%	.03%	.02%	.02%	.02%	.02%	.02%	.01%
1	2	.07	.05	.05	.04	.04	.03	.03	.03
	3	.10	.08	.07	.06	.05	.05	.04	.04
2	4	.13	.11	.09	.08	.07	.06	.06	.05
	5	.16	.13	.12	.10	.09	.08	.07	.07
3	6	.19	.16	.14	.12	.11	.10	.09	.08
	7	.23	.19	.16	.14	.13	.11	.10	.10
4	8	.26	.22	.18	.16	.14	.13	.12	.11

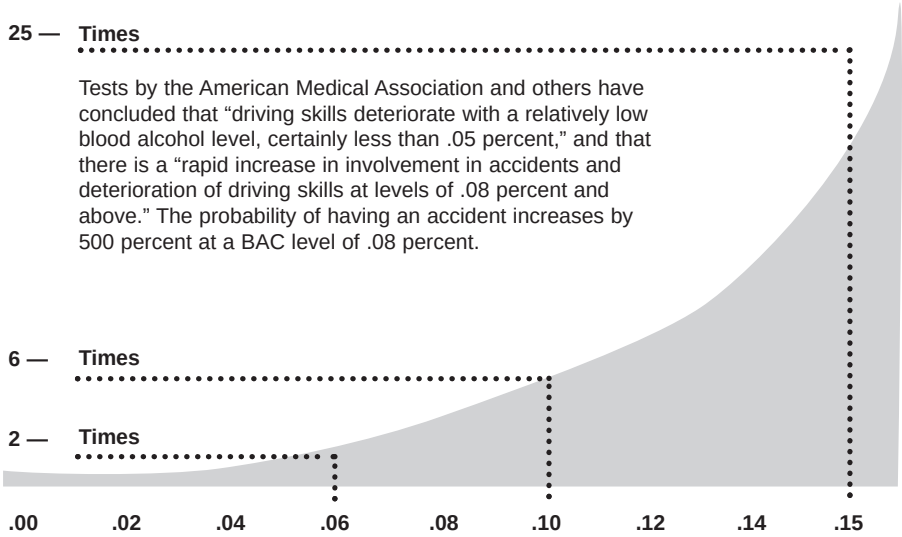
This table assumes that the driver ate an hour or two before starting to drink or consumed considerable food while drinking. If the driver started on an empty stomach and did not eat while drinking, his blood alcohol concentration would rise faster, reaching a higher level immediately. After several hours there would be little, if any, difference between blood alcohol concentrations whether or not the driver ate.

The body burns alcohol at a relatively constant rate of about .015% per hour. Thus, if you drank enough to raise your blood alcohol concentration to .09%, it would take about three hours to reduce the concentration to between .04% and .05%.

Accident Risk

There is a clear relationship between drinking and driving accidents. You can see from the following chart that as Blood Alcohol Concentration goes up, the chance of being involved in an accident increases. The increased accident risk begins before drivers are impaired or intoxicated.

BAC and Accidents



If You Drink, When Can You Drive

Alcohol reduces all of the important skills you need to drive safely. Alcohol goes from your stomach into your blood and to all parts of your body. It reaches your brain in 20 to 40 minutes. Alcohol affects those areas of your brain that control judgment and skill. This is one reason why drinking alcohol is so dangerous; it affects your judgment. Good judgment is important to driving, but in this case, judgment helps you to know when to stop drinking. In a way, it's like alcohol puts good judgment on hold. You do not know when you have had too much to drink until it is too late. It is a little like a sunburn; by the time you feel it, it is already too late.

Alcohol slows your reflexes and reaction time, reduces your ability to see clearly, and makes you less alert. As the amount of alcohol in your body increases, your judgment worsens and your skills decrease. You will have trouble judging distances, speeds, and the movement of other vehicles. You will also have trouble controlling your vehicle.

The best advice is if you drink alcohol, do not drive. Even one drink of alcohol can affect your driving. With two or more drinks in your bloodstream you are impaired and could be arrested.

An alcohol drink is 1½ oz. of 80-proof liquor (one shot glass) straight or with a mixer, 12 oz. of beer (a regular size can, bottle, mug or glass) or a 5 oz. glass of wine. Specialty drinks can have more alcohol in them and are the same as having several normal drinks.

1½ oz. Shot of 80 proof liquor | 5 oz. Glass of table wine | 12 oz. Can of regular beer

It takes about an hour for your body to get rid of each drink. There is no way to sober up quickly. Coffee, fresh air, exercise or cold showers will not help. Time is the only thing that will sober you up.

There are ways of dealing with social drinking situations. Arrange to go with two or more persons and agree which one of you will not drink alcohol. You can rotate among the group, with one person being a "designated driver." You can use public transportation or use a cab, if available.

There are ways to slow down the effect of drinking alcohol. The best is to increase the amount of time between drinks. Another is to eat before and while you are drinking. Food slows down how fast alcohol gets into your blood. Starchy foods like potato chips, pretzels, bread and crackers are best. Remember, food only slows when the alcohol gets into your blood, it will not keep you from getting drunk.

Drugs Combined With Alcohol

Besides alcohol, there are many other drugs that can affect a person's ability to drive safely. These drugs can have effects like those of alcohol, or even worse. This is true of many pre-

scription drugs and even many of the drugs you can buy without a prescription. Drugs taken for headaches, colds, hay fever or other allergies, or those to calm nerves can make a person drowsy and affect their driving. Pep pills, "uppers" and diet pills can make a driver feel more alert for a short time. Later however, they can cause a person to be nervous, dizzy, unable to concentrate, and they can affect your vision. Other prescription drugs can affect your reflexes, judgment, vision and alertness in ways similar to alcohol.

If you are driving, check the label for warnings about the drug's effect before you take the drug. If you are not sure it is safe to take the drug and drive, ask your doctor or pharmacist about any side effects.

Never drink alcohol while you are taking other drugs. These drugs could multiply the effects of alcohol or have additional effects of their own. These effects not only reduce your ability to be a safe driver but could cause serious health problems, even death.

Illegal drugs are not good for your health and affect your ability to be a safe driver. For example, studies have shown that people who use marijuana make more mistakes, have more trouble adjusting to glare, and get arrested for traffic violations more than other drivers.

Drinking While Driving Prohibited

It is unlawful to consume alcoholic beverages while driving a motor vehicle upon the highways of this state.

Driving Under the Influence

Delaware Motor Vehicle Laws concerning the arrest and disposition of driving while under the influence violations provide that:

It applies to anyone who drives, operates or has actual physical control of a vehicle, off-highway vehicle or moped while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs. All such persons, by so doing, shall be deemed to have given consent to a chemical test or test of blood, breath and/or urine for the purpose of determining the presence of alcohol and drugs.

A person who drives under the influence of alcohol or drugs is subject to both criminal and administrative penalties.

A person convicted of driving under the influence in another state will have his/her driving privileges revoked in Delaware.

Administrative Procedures

The driver's license will be taken by the police officer at the time of arrest and a temporary license good for 15 days will be issued. The driver will have 15 days to request an administrative hearing in writing by mail or fax, or in person at an office of the Division of Motor Vehicles. The temporary license may be extended at this time if eligible. The license will be revoked at the end of the 15-day period if no hearing is requested.

The Motor Vehicle Administrative Hearing will be held to determine:

1. Whether a police officer had probable cause to believe that the driver was operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
2. Whether a preponderance of evidence exists that the driver was driving under the influence. A chemical test of .10% or greater or the presence of any drug is conclusive evidence that the driver was under the influence.

3. Whether the driver refused a chemical test after being informed of the penalty for refusing such a test.

If the driver receives an unfavorable ruling at an administrative hearing, the driver's license will be revoked for:

DUI OFFENSE

- 3 months for 1st offense
- 12 months for 2nd offense
- 18 months for 3rd offense or more

REFUSED CHEMICAL TEST

- 12 months for 1st refusal
- 18 months for the 2nd refusal
- 2 years for the 3rd refusal

D.U.I. Court Procedures

At the time of arraignment, the driver may elect to apply for enrollment in the First Offender Program in lieu of standing trial. If this option is selected, the application will constitute a waiver of the right to a speedy trial. The court will notify the Division of Motor Vehicles. The following are criminal penalties associated with court convictions:

First Offense:

- 1-year revocation
- Fine: $230 to $1,150
- Sentence: Imprisonment for 60 days to six months

Multiple Offenses:

- 5-year revocation
- Designated felon
- Imprisonment

NOTE: Anyone who has three or more moving violations within two years; injured someone else in an accident; had a BAC of .20% or more; was driving while not licensed, or while their license was revoked or suspended; or was transporting a child while under the influence may not be permitted to participate in a "First Offenders Election Program."

Second Offense:

- 1 year revocation of driving privileges.
- Fine: $575 to $2,300
- Sentence: MANDATORY imprisonment for 60 days to 18 months.

All DUI sentences are carried on the driving record for a minimum of five years. No driver's license will be reinstated for a DUI offense until the driver has satisfactorily completed a course of instruction or program of rehabilitation, such course or program to be determined by a screening evaluation.

Additional information concerning the revocation action may be obtained by contacting the Motor Vehicle Revocation Section (Phone: 302-744-2508/2509). Information concerning the alcohol evaluation, course of instruction, or program of rehabilitation may be obtained by contacting the Delaware DUI Evaluation/Referral Unit 1-800-551-6464.

Other factors to be considered before drinking and driving are:

- The expense and hardship to your family
- May jeopardize your employment
- Your insurance rates will be increased significantly

The Law Pertaining To A Juvenile Driving While Under The Influence

For a violation of the Delaware Law pertaining to drinking and driving, the Family Courts must submit an order to the Division of Motor Vehicles to revoke the license and/or driving privileges of any juvenile until such time as they are of age (21 years old).

Zero Tolerance Law

If you are under 21 years of age, as little as one drink may make it illegal for you to drive. The law says that anyone under the age of 21 years, who drives, operates or has actual physical control of a vehicle, an off-highway vehicle, or a moped while consuming or after having consumed alcohol, shall have his/her driver's license revoked for a period of 2 months for the first offense and not less than 6 months or more than 12 months for each subsequent offense. If the underage person does not have a driver's license, the person shall be fined $200 for the first offense and not less than $400 nor more than $1000 for each subsequent offense.

Underage Consumption Or Possession

Anyone under the age of 21 years who has alcoholic liquor in his/her possession or consumes alcoholic liquor, can have his/her Delaware driver's license revoked for a period of 30 days for the first offense and not less than 90 days nor more than 180 days for each subsequent offense.

Implied Consent Law

Anyone arrested for driving, operating or having actual physical control of a vehicle, an off-highway vehicle, a moped or a bicycle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or of any drug shall be deemed to have given consent to submit to a chemical test or tests of breath, blood, and/or urine for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content of his or her blood.

If the person refuses to submit to the test designated by the officer, reasonable steps can be taken to conduct such tests without the person's consent. Upon such refusal the arresting officer will deliver a report of refusal to the Motor Vehicle Division who shall revoke the person's driver's license and/or driving privileges for one to two years depending on the number of previous DUI offenses, probable cause and/or chemical tests refusal offenses.

Ignition Interlock Device Programs

The Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles currently has 2 programs available for the Ignition Interlock Device: First Offense Election - Ignition Interlock Device (FOE-IID) Diversion and a voluntary Ignition Interlock Device (IID) program. An Ignition Interlock Device (IID) license cannot be issued until the participant has met the minimum qualifications. For further information regarding the IID programs or Ignition Interlock Program application, please contact the revocation section at (302) 744-2508.

First Offense Election - Ignition Interlock Device (FOE-IID) Diversion

At the time of arraignment in court, the driver may elect to apply for enrollment in the First Offender Program if he/she has never had a previous or prior conviction or offense for driving under the influence. If this option is selected, the enrollment will constitute a waiver of the right to a speedy trail. The court will notify the Division of Motor Vehicles. If a person accepts the First Offenders Program, the enrollment will also constitute a waiver to the right for an

administrative hearing and any previous request for a hearing will be withdrawn. If a person has accepted the first offense election and has taken a chemical test, they may also elect at that time to participate in the First Offense Election - Ignition Interlock Device (FOE-IID) Diversion program as part of his/her probation. The person must hold a valid Delaware license at the time of offense in order to qualify for this program.

After election of the First Offense Election - Ignition Interlock Device (FOE-IID) Diversion the driver may apply for an Ignition Interlock Device (IID) license under the following terms:

l. Provide proof of enrollment in a course of instruction and/or rehabilitation as designated by the court and pay all associated fees related to the course.

2. At least one month has elapsed since the day the revoked license was received by the Division.

3. Complete an Ignition Interlock Program application.

4. Provide proof of insurance for the vehicle to which the Ignition Interlock Device is to be installed.

5. Your driver's license and/or privilege is not revoked for another violation that would prohibit the issuance of an Ignition Interlock Device (IID) license.

Any person who elects the FOE-IID Diversion program must remain on the Ignition Interlock Device license for 5 months from the date of issuance of the IID license. Prior to reinstatement, the Division must have received a satisfactory program completion. A reinstatement fee in the amount of $143.75 must be paid to the Division at the time of reinstatement. The Division will then authorize removal of the Ignition Interlock Device.

Voluntary Ignition Interlock Device (IID) Program

Any person who has refused a chemical test or who has been convicted of a 2nd or subsequent driving under the influence of alcohol charge may be eligible to apply for the Ignition Interlock Device on a voluntary basis under the following terms:

1. The offender must have had a valid Delaware license at the time of offense in question.

2. Provide proof of enrollment in a course of instruction and/or rehabilitation as designated by the Court and pay all fees associated with the course.

3. The offense in question must not have involved death or serious injury to any person.

4. The license must be surrendered to the Division for 2 months for a 12-month revocation, 6 months for an 18-month revocation, or 12 months for a 24-month revocation.

5. Complete an Ignition Interlock Program application.

6. The offender's driver's license and/or privilege is not revoked for another violation that would prohibit the issuance of an Ignition Interlock Device (IID) license.

7. You must have a favorable Character Background Review by the Division of Motor Vehicles. (Please call the Division at 302-744-2508 to request this form.)

Any person who wishes to volunteer for the Ignition Interlock Device (IID) under this program will be revoked for an additional period of 2 months upon issuance of the IID license and participation in the IID program. Prior to reinstatement, the Division must have received a satisfactory program completion. A reinstatement fee in the amount of $143.75 must be paid to the Division at the time of reinstatement. The Division will then authorize removal of the Ignition Interlock Device.

SECTION THREE
VEHICLE EQUIPMENT, TITLES, REGISTRATION, AND INSURANCE

Delaware law requires the registration of all vehicles operated on the highway. This section describes the registration/title process. New residents must register/title their vehicles within sixty (60) days after moving to Delaware.

MOTOR VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

Required Equipment:

The equipment required for automobiles is listed in this subsection. (Prohibited equipment is discussed in the next subsection.) In some older vehicles, originally installed equipment may be adequate to meet these requirements. Additional or different equipment required by other motor vehicles is listed in supplements available at the office of the Division of Motor Vehicles (see back cover for addresses).

Every automobile registered in Delaware must have the following equipment:

Headlights - At least two white multiple beam lights are required, one on each side in the front. High beams must be aimed and strong enough to reveal persons and vehicles at least 350 feet ahead. Low beams must reveal people at least 100 feet ahead and must be so adjusted as not to strike the eyes of an approaching driver. Headlights must be on when windshield wipers are in use because of inclement weather.

Taillights - At least two, original design, red lights are required on the rear. They must be visible from a distance of 500 feet.

Parking Lights - At least one white or amber light visible within a distance of 500 feet to the front and at least one red light visible within a distance of 500 feet to the rear. Rear light(s) may be same as taillight(s).

License Plate Light - Must be white and strong enough for number of registration plate to be seen from a distance of 50 feet. Must illuminate registration plate without projecting light towards vehicles traveling in the same direction.

Stop Lights - Original design amber or red light is required on rear. It must light when the brake pedal is pushed and be visible from a distance of at least 100 feet in normal sunlight. If vehicle is equipped with two stop lights, both must be in working order.

Turn Signals - All vehicles manufactured after 1953 must be equipped with two turn signals in front and two in rear. Those in front may be any shade between white and amber; those in rear any shade between amber and red. Both sets must be visible at least 100 feet in normal sunlight. Older vehicles equipped with turn signals must have them in working order.

Reflectors - All vehicles manufactured after 1953 must have at least two red reflectors on the rear, either separate or as part of taillight assembly. (Motorcycles need only one.)

Foot Brake - Must stop vehicle within distance of 20 feet from a speed of 20 miles per hour on dry pavement. Brakes must be adjusted to work evenly on opposite sides of vehicle.

Parking or Emergency Brake - Must stop vehicle within a distance of 54 feet from a speed of 20 miles per hour.

Windshield and Windows - Windshield and all side and rear windows must be of safety glass. No stickers or signs shall be placed on windshield or other windows other than certificates required by law or those approved by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Windshield Wipers - Are required to clean rain, snow, or other moisture from windshield.

Rear Vision Mirror - Must be placed so that driver can see any vehicle traveling in same direction. If view from inside mirror to rear is blocked, the vehicle must have outside mirrors on the left and right side of the vehicle.

Muffler - Must be in good working order and in constant operation. Loud or excessive noise is not permitted.

Horn - Must be able to make sound that can be heard under normal conditions at least 200 feet away.

Seat Belts - Must be installed for all front seat occupants, in passenger cars manufactured after January 1, 1968, and trucks, buses and multi-passenger vehicles manufactured after July 1, 1971.

Additional Equipment:

Spotlights - Two may be mounted. No part of the intense beam shall be aimed to left of nor more than 100 feet ahead of vehicle.

Fog Lights - Two (white or yellow) may be mounted on front of vehicle at a height of not less than 12 inches nor more than 30 inches above the ground. Light beam must drop at least 4 inches in first 25 feet.

Back-up Lights - May be mounted on rear of vehicle to project light for backing. These may be any color from white to amber.

Colored Lights - Other than factory-equipped, marker lamps and turn signal lamps, no colored lights are permitted on the front of the vehicle. Such lights are permitted only on emergency vehicles

Prohibited Equipment:

Limitation in Number of Lights - Not more than four lights of 300 candlepower or more on the front of a vehicle shall be lighted at one time. Headlights must be installed no higher than 54 inches nor less than 24 inches from the center of the lamp to the ground.

Red Lights Prohibited in Front - No ordinary motor vehicle can show a red light visible to the front of such vehicle. Such lights are permitted only on emergency vehicles.

Flashing Lights Prohibited - Flashing lights are generally prohibited except on:

- Emergency vehicles, school buses, snow removal equipment
- Any vehicle as a means of indicating right or left turns
- Any vehicle as a means of indicating a traffic hazard (four-way flashers)

License Plate Additions - Unauthorized frames, accessories, designs, or symbols on or attached to the license plate are prohibited.

Other Lights and Original Design Change - No light, lamp or reflector that tends to change the original design or performance of the vehicle may be installed.

Studded Tires - Are legal from October 15 to April 15 inclusive; illegal from April 16 to October 14 inclusive. Other states have different time periods when studded tires are permitted; a few states do not allow their use at any time. You must abide by their laws when passing through those states.

Cut-outs - It is prohibited to use a muffler cut-out.

Noise Devices - No ordinary vehicle shall be equipped with any siren or exhaust or compression whistle.

Towed Vehicle - No motor vehicle shall tow more than a single vehicle (except a tractor and semi-trailer may tow one other vehicle). The draw bar or other connection between any two vehicles, one of which is towing the other, must be no more than 15 feet long. If a chain, rope or cable is used, a red flag at least 12 inches square must be attached to it.

Tinted Windows - Window tint is prohibited on the front windshield below the top few inches of the windshield (specifically not below the ASI masking on the windshield), and on the left and right driver side windows. Tint material also may not be installed over any lights or the vehicle's license plate.

HOW TO TITLE/REGISTER YOUR VEHICLE

New residents must title/register their vehicles within 60 days after becoming a Delaware resident. State law requires changes of address to be reported to the Division of Motor Vehicles within 30 days.

LIABILITY INSURANCE, FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PENALTY STEP 1

The first step in obtaining a Delaware vehicle title/registration is to establish your (the owner(s)) financial responsibility. This is done by purchasing a liability insurance policy from a company licensed by the Insurance Commissioner to operate in Delaware. The minimum coverage is:

- $15,000 for bodily injury or death of one person in any one accident.
- $30,000 for bodily injury or death of two or more persons in any one accident.
- $10,000 for injury to or destruction of property of others in any one accident.

The Division requires verification that the car to be registered is properly insured. One of the following documents is acceptable:

- A Delaware Insurance Identification Card - All insurance companies are required to issue such cards. The card must be carried in the vehicle at all times and include the period of coverage and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) company identification number (NAIC code).
- A valid insurance policy.
- A written binder within 30 days of issue from an insurance company or agent on the insurance company's letterhead.

The penalty for operating an uninsured vehicle is a fine not less than $1,500 nor more than $2,000 and mandatory suspension of driver's license and/or driving privileges for 6 months. For each subsequent offense occurring within 3 years of a former offense, the fine shall be not less than $3,000 nor more than $4,000.

Providing false proof of insurance will result in an additional fine of $500 and/or 30 days in jail and suspension of driver's license for 6 months.

THE INSURANCE ID CARD PRESENTED MUST BE VALID OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. INSURANCE CARDS EXPIRE EVERY SIX MONTHS AND THEREFORE NEED TO BE REISSUED EVERY SIX MONTHS. INSURANCE COMPANIES ARE REQUIRED TO ISSUE A NEW ID CARD EVERY SIX MONTHS.

OWNERS WITH VALID AND CURRENT LICENSE PLATES, CANCELING INSURANCE FOR ANY REASON MUST SURRENDER THEIR VALID LICENSE PLATE TO THE DIVISION. FAILURE TO SURRENDER YOUR LICENSE PLATES PRIOR TO INSURANCE CANCELLATION WILL RESULT IN FINES.

The Division of Motor Vehicles randomly audits for proof of insurance on active registrations. The penalty for being uninsured is $100 for 1-30 days and an additional $5 per day until insurance is obtained, tags are surrendered, or the registration expires. In addition, suspensions are imposed on the registration and on the driver's license of all owners who fail to respond to the request. Once suspended, reinstatement fees are $25.00 for driver's license and $50.00 per registration.

VEHICLE INSPECTION – STEP 2

The second step in obtaining a Delaware vehicle title/registration is to have your motor vehicle inspected at one of the offices of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

A check of the following items is recommended before your vehicle is presented for inspection; it may save you a return trip for re-inspection:

Certificate of Title and proof of insurance must be presented.

- There is no charge for an inspection.
- All lights must be clean, in working order and properly aimed. This includes stop lights, turn signals, license plate light, parking lights and head lights.
- Brakes must stop the vehicle within required distances. A performance test is given to all vehicles presented for inspection.
- Mirrors must be clean and unbroken.
- Factory-equipped windshield wipers must be fully operative (the rubber blades must be in good condition).
- Hood and trunk latches must hold hood and trunk fully closed.
- Tires must have no bulges, no fabric showing, no bald areas and no cuts. Tread depth must be at least 2/32 inch measured in two adjacent treads.
- Doorknobs or equivalent must be present and in working condition.
- There must be no damaged or dislocated parts projecting from the vehicle that could present a safety hazard.
- Horn must be in operating condition.
- Muffler must effectively reduce sound of engine exhaust. No leaks in exhaust system. Catalytic converter must be installed if originally equipped from manufacturer.
- There must be no visible gasoline, oil, or coolant leaks.
- Seat belts must be worn.
- Bumper height on passenger cars must not exceed 22 inches from the ground to the bottom of the bumper.
- No tinting or sun-screening device can be applied to the front windshield or to the front side windows.
- No air scoops shall be mounted on a vehicle hood that exceeds 3 inches.
- Passenger cars, 1968 and later, and trucks 1970 and later, will be tested for exhaust emissions. Most vehicles 1975 and later will be tested for fuel vapor leakage.
- Windshield must have no cracks which interfere with vision; holes, breaks or cracks over 5 inches on any window are mandatory failure items; minimum height of visibility in windshield is 10 inches.

- Five- (5) year-old models (and newer) vehicles no longer require inspection. Vehicles five years old receive one-year renewals without inspection; all others receive a 3, 4 or 5 year renewal based on model year.
- A fee ($10.00) is assessed for renewal after vehicle registration expiration.

POOR CONDITION OF ANY OF THE FOREGOING ITEMS MAY BE CAUSE FOR REJECTION.

Vehicles in unsafe condition, lacking required equipment or not in proper repair or adjustment will be rejected. The inspection technician will provide an inspection report showing the rejected items. These items must be corrected, and the vehicle re-inspected and passed prior to the issuance of a Title, Registration Card and Plate. Vehicle owners whose registration is about to expire may be eligible for a temporary tag if the failure item is not safety-related. The cost is $10.00.

TITLE – STEP 3

The third step in obtaining a vehicle registration is to make application for a Delaware title and registration.

If the vehicle is coming from a state that issues certificates of title, a certificate of title must be surrendered to the Division of Motor Vehicles at the time the application is filed. If there is a lien or encumbrance against the vehicle, the Division will provide a form letter (MV-35) to send to the lienholder to obtain the certificate of title.

Applications (MV-212) for certificate of title and registration are issued by an inspection technician after your vehicle passes the emissions tests and safety inspection. The application must be signed by all owners of the vehicle or by someone with an original power of attorney to sign for such owner(s), or by an officer of the company owning the vehicle. (Power of attorney must be notarized.) Whenever a motor vehicle is brought in Delaware from another state and a title and a registration is sought, the owner must pay a vehicle document fee of 2.75 percent of the value of the vehicle but not less than $8.00 unless the owner presents proof that he/she has paid to such other state a sales tax, transfer tax, or some similar levy on the purchase of the vehicle within ninety (90) days prior to registering in Delaware. The value of the vehicle shall be the current NADA Average Trade-in book value or purchase price, whichever is greater.

If there is a lien or encumbrance against the vehicle (i.e., if you are buying the vehicle on time from a dealer, a finance company or a bank), a copy of such lien contract or encumbrance must accompany the application for title and registration.

Proof of Liability Insurance must be submitted at the time of titling or registering a vehicle. (See paragraph regarding liability insurance.)

The title fee is $15.00 if there is no lien or $25.00 if there is a lien against the vehicle.

The registration fee is $20.00 for one year or $40.00 for two years for all passenger cars and station wagons. You have the option to register for one or two years, however, the vehicle must be inspected prior to your registration expiration. The Division recommends that you renew your registration for two years.

Registration fee for six (6) months is $11.00. Registration fee for commercial vehicles is $20.00 for first 5,000 pounds with increments of $16.80 per 1,000 pounds above 5,000 pounds. Trailer fee is $10 per year for 1,000 pounds, $12 per year for 1,001 pounds to 2,000 pounds and $20 per year for 2,001 pounds to 5,000 pounds with increments of $16.80 per 1,000 pounds above 5,000 pounds. Recreational Vehicle and Recreational Trailer fee is $20 per year for first 5,000 pounds with increments of $5.20 per 1,000 pounds above 5,000 pounds.

Upon submission of all necessary documents and their acceptance, and payment of the vehicle document fee, title fee and registration fee, a certificate of title, registration card and license plate will be issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles. If there is a lien against the vehicle, the title is mailed to the lienholder.

REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

If you are less than 18 years of age, your application for a certificate of title must be signed by your father, mother, guardian, or court-appointed custodian granting consent to the application.

RENEWING REGISTRATION

Prior to registration renewal you must present proof that the vehicle is covered by adequate liability insurance and passed the State's vehicle safety inspection and emission test. You may have your vehicle inspected anytime 90 days prior to the expiration date of the registration, e.g., if your registration expires on June 30th, you may have your vehicle inspected anytime after April 1st. No time is lost by renewing early. You may also renew your registration at that time or you may renew any time up to the expiration date. It is suggested that you avoid the waiting lines normally experienced on the 15th and last few days of each month by presenting your vehicle for inspection early in the month. REGISTRATION RENEWAL NOTICES ARE MAILED FOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS THAT ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL. TAGS EXPIRE ON THE 15TH OR THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH AS INDICATED ON YOUR STICKER AND REGISTRATION CARD. A LATE FEE OF $10.00 IS CHARGED FOR LATE RENEWALS. Trailers weighing 4,000 pounds or less do not require re-inspection prior to renewal of the registration. Certain vehicles will be eligible for mail-in-renewal. Eligible owners will be notified by mail 90 days prior to the vehicle's expiration date.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you change your address within Delaware, you have thirty (30) days in which to notify both the Vehicle Registration and Driver License Sections of the Division of Motor Vehicles. Write to Division of Motor Vehicles, Vehicle Registration Section, P.O. Box 698, Dover, Delaware 19903, giving the number of your registration (the license plate number) and your new address. The Division will send without charge a new registration card. You may be fined if you do not comply with this requirement. (See the Driver License Information Section for changing address on your driver's license.)

CHANGE OF NAME

If you change your name, you have thirty (30) days in which to apply for a new registration card and title. This may be done by visiting an office of the Division. You must also present the certificate of title, the old registration, proof of insurance, and the marriage certificate or court order as evidence of name change. The Division will issue you a new certificate and title for a fee of $15.00 or $25.00 if there is a lien. (See your Driver's License for changing name on your driver's license.)

OUT-OF-STATE INSPECTIONS

Delaware residents who are temporarily residing out of state such as military personnel, college students, etc., and who own motor vehicles registered, proof of insurance, in Delaware, may renew their registrations (plates) by mail. Information on details may be obtained from any office of the Division of Motor Vehicles. All requests should be sent to the Division of Motor Vehicles, Attn: Correspondence Section, P.O. Box 698, Dover, Delaware 19903.

RESPONSIBILITY OF OWNER

The registration certificate and proof of liability insurance must accompany the motor vehicle whenever it is operated. The registration plate (tag) must be affixed to the rear of the vehicle in the designated position and must bear the sticker showing year and month of expiration on the lower right corner of the plate. Your registration expires at midnight on the day of the month indicated on the sticker. There is no grace period.

SECTION FOUR
RULES OF THE ROAD

RIGHT-OF-WAY

Motor vehicle laws of Delaware and other states do not give anyone the right-of-way. The law describes who is to yield the right-of-way. When you can prevent a crash by yielding the right-of-way, regardless of who was supposed to yield, it is of course the right thing to do!

SIGNALS AND SIGNS

Traffic signals and signs apply to every person walking, driving, or riding a bike on a street or highway. Failing to heed the signal's or sign's message is a major cause of crashes.

UNDERSTANDING TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Understanding complex signals is not difficult if you learn four (4) simple rules:

Remember The Four Rules

1. RED — Stop
2. YELLOW — Prepare to Stop
3. GREEN — Proceed when Safe
4. Arrows apply to only the direction indicated.

For All Drivers And Bike Riders:

Steady Red Light

Stop. You must stop at the stop line, or before the crosswalk, or before entering the intersection should no stop line or crosswalk be present. Right turns on red are permissible after full stop, except when prohibited by a posted sign or a steady red arrow is displayed. Left turns on red are permissible after full stop from a one-way street to another one-way street unless prohibited by a posted sign or a steady red arrow is displayed. Make turns when safe to do so.

Steady Yellow Light

This means that the signal is changing from green to red, prepare to stop. If you are too close to stop safely, continue thru the intersection with care.

Steady Green Light

Proceed when safe.

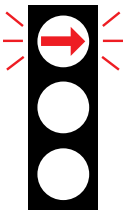
When it is safe to proceed, you may enter the intersection to go straight ahead or turn unless a sign or additional signal prohibits the turn. You must yield to pedestrians and vehicles already in the intersection, or adjacent crosswalk. When you turn, you must be especially careful of pedestrians and oncoming traffic.

Arrows

The difference between round color lenses and arrows is that arrows apply only to a specific direction, while round lenses apply to all directions. If you know the four preceding rules on the preceding page, the information provided below will be easy for you.

Steady Red Arrow

A full stop is required when a steady red arrow is displayed. You may not proceed in the direction of a steady red.

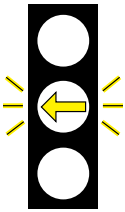


Flashing Red Arrow

Turns are permitted in the direction of a flashing red arrow after coming to a full stop. The full stop enables drivers to select a safe gap in the main flow of traffic, and then complete the turn without waiting for a green signal. May be followed by a steady red arrow, therefore be prepared to stop.

Steady Yellow Arrow

A green arrow display has ended. If you are too close to stop safely, continue thru the intersection with care.



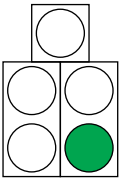
Flashing Yellow Arrow

The flashing yellow arrow carries a dual meaning on Delaware roadways. If a single box signal device, it indicates to proceed with caution in the traffic lane controlled by the flashing arrow. If the flashing yellow arrow is displayed with multiple signals, it requires traffic traveling in the direction of the flashing yellow to Yield Right of Way. Flashing yellow with multiple signals will change to a steady red or green arrow depending upon the intersection.

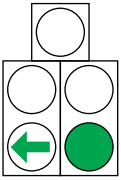
Steady Green Arrow

Proceed when safe in the direction the arrow points. Remember that you must yield to all pedestrians and vehicles already in the intersection.

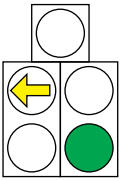
Let's try the four rules on some complex signals and see if it really is easy.



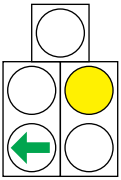
Thru traffic and, if not otherwise prohibited, left and right turns may proceed when safe. Exercise special care when making turns, especially left turns across oncoming opposite traffic.



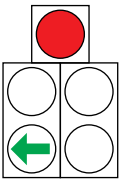
Left turns and thru traffic and, if not otherwise prohibited, right turns may proceed, when safe.



This is the change interval between the two displays above. It means that the green arrow interval has ended. If you are too close to the intersection to stop safely, complete your turn with care.



Here the green light for the thru and right turn has ended, but the left turn continues to be green. Continue left turning if safe. Straight thru and right-turning traffic should prepare to stop. If unable to stop, proceed with great caution.



Left turns may proceed, if safe, but all others must stop. Right-turning traffic may turn after stopping, if safe and not otherwise prohibited.

Pedestrian Signals

At some particularly busy intersections pedestrian signals may be used in combination with normal traffic signals. Drivers must obey the normal traffic signals. Pedestrians must obey the WALK and DON'T WALK signals or symbols.

The WALK signal means the pedestrian may proceed but needs to be alert for vehicles turning right or left across the crosswalk.

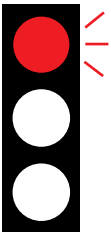
The flashing DON'T WALK signal means that if the pedestrian has started to cross the street, they should finish crossing as rapidly as possible. If they have not started to cross, they should not start.

The steady DON'T WALK signal means that the pedestrian should not start to cross the street at all.

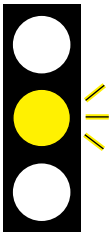
For further information on the responsibilities of pedestrians and the responsibilities of drivers toward pedestrians, refer to Pedestrians in the Other Highway Users part of this section.

Flashing Lights

Flashing red light means the same as a stop sign. You must come to a complete stop. Proceed only when safe.



Flashing yellow light means slow down and proceed with caution. Be careful of crossing intersection traffic, controlled by a flashing red.



Flashing green light means slow down and proceed with caution. Be careful of crossing intersection traffic controlled by a flashing red.

These signals may change at any time to a normal green-yellow-red sequence, therefore scan continuously.

Highway Signs

You must know highway signs by their shape and color as well as by the words, numbers, or figures on them. The most important of the shapes and some of the colors are shown on the following pages.

REGULATORY SIGNS

8-SIDED SIGN
WHITE LETTERS ON RED

The STOP sign is the only 8-sided sign you will see on the highway.

When you come to a STOP sign, you must make a complete stop at the stop line; or, if none, at the crosswalk; or if none, before entering the intersection. Before starting you must yield the right-of-way to any vehicle or pedestrian in or approaching the intersection. Be careful to look for less visible vehicles such as bicycles, mopeds and motorcycles.

WARNING SIGNS

Most WARNING SIGNS are BLACK ON YELLOW and most are diamond-shaped. They WARN of actual or possible danger ahead.

When you come to this sign, slow down to be ready to stop at the stop sign ahead.

REGULATORY SIGNS

3-SIDED SIGN
RED LETTERS ON WHITE

You will see no other sign of this shape on the highway. You must yield the right-of-way to any vehicle or pedestrian in or approaching the intersection, stopping if necessary. Having so yielded to any vehicle or pedestrian, you shall not proceed until such movement can be made in safety.

Slow down as you approach YIELD sign. Look to left and right. Yield to pedestrians and vehicles on protected route.

RECTANGULAR (4-SIDED) SIGNS, BLACK ON WHITE used to regulate traffic.

This particular sign tells you the speed limit for the stretch of highway where it is posted.

WARNING SIGNS

5-SIDED SIGN
BLACK ON YELLOW
is used only to WARN
OF SCHOOLS and
SCHOOL CROSSINGS

As you approach this sign, slow down and watch out for children, stopping as necessary.

ROUND SIGN
BLACK ON YELLOW
is used as an ADVANCE WARNING that you are approaching a HIGHWAY–RAIL INTERSECTION.

When you come to this sign, slow down and watch for the HIGHWAY–RAIL INTERSECTION. Use particular caution at night to avoid driving into the side of a train.

Other Regulatory Signs

These are some of the international signs now adopted in Delaware and the other 49 states. They mean "NO LEFT TURN", "NO RIGHT TURN", and "NO U TURN" respectively.

Keep to the right of the traffic island or divider.

With more complex traffic patterns, signs such as this will be used in more places.

Both signs carry the same message. Either may be used.

Where this sign is posted, you must wait until the signal turns green before proceeding or making any turns.

Watch out for and obey this sign. Also look for double solid lines on the highway.

You must not enter the street so marked. It may be a one-way street in the opposite direction or all vehicular traffic may be prohibited.

Other Warning Signs

Warning signs usually have black letters, numbers or figures on a yellow background and most of them are diamond-shaped.

Sharp turn to right. Reduce speed.

Gradual turn to right.

Sharp turn to the right and then to left.

Winding road ahead. Adjust speed.

Another road crosses highway ahead. Be alert for cross traffic and regulatory signs or signals.

Side road enters highway from right. Adjust speed to distance you can see.

Slow down and prepare to yield before turning.

This sign is placed at the intersection. Yield before turning, right or left.

This is an advisory speed sign. It is the recommended speed for its stretch of highway. Often posted under other warning signs.

The pennant-shaped warning supplements the regulatory DO NOT PASS sign. The pennant is located on left side of roadway and points to beginning of no-passing zone.

Bump in road ahead. Adjust speed to avoid loss of control.

Merging traffic from right just ahead.

Warning of traffic signals at intersection ahead. Slow down.

Warning of yield sign ahead. Slow down and be prepared to stop at yield sign or adjust speed to traffic.

Bicycle warning. Slow down and watch left and right for cyclists. Used on roads that are shared with bicycles.

Approaching divided highway. Keep to right.

Divided highway ends ahead. Get into proper lane.

Roadway narrows. Slow down and merge left.

Steep hill ahead. Slow down and be ready to shift to lower gear to control speed and save brakes.

Roadway slippery when wet. First half hour of rain most hazardous.

Shoulder of highway is soft. Drive off pavement only for emergency and then slowly.

Room for only one lane of traffic. Slow down and prepare to yield to oncoming vehicles.

Room for two lanes of traffic but potentially dangerous. Slow down and watch out for oncoming vehicles.

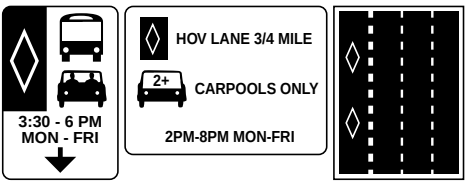
Without pavement – road surface unknown. Slow down and check vehicle control on changed surface.

Playground area, numerous children requiring caution.

Added lane, merging not required, watch for other vehicles changing lanes.

Two-way traffic, one-way traffic ends and reminder of oncoming traffic.

Slow-moving vehicle emblem, slow down and proceed with caution.



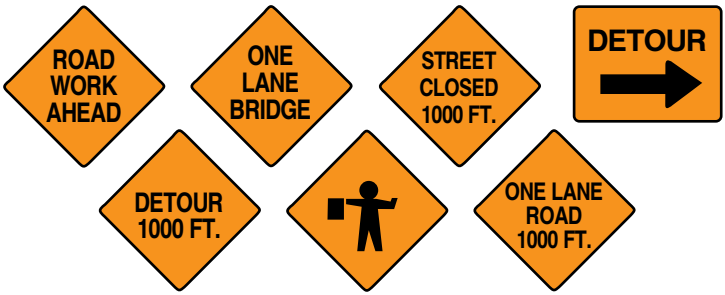
The white diamond **HOV** or High Occupancy Vehicle signs and lane markings indicate special use for HOV vehicles.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DEVICES

Various traffic-control devices are used in construction and maintenance work areas to direct drivers or pedestrians safely through the work zone and to provide for the safety of the highway workers. The most commonly used traffic-control devices are signs, barricades, drums, cones, tubes, flashing arrow panels and flagpersons. Orange is the basic color for these devices. Additionally, to maintain safety, fines are doubled in work zones.

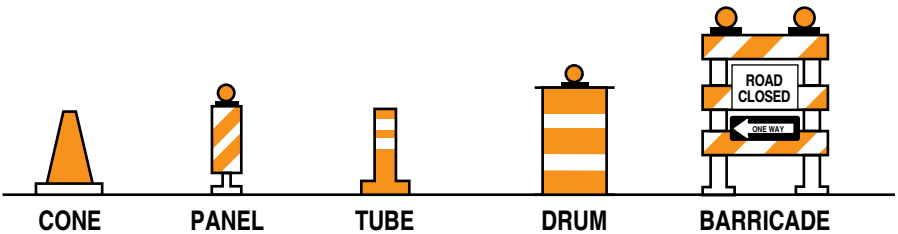
Construction And Maintenance Signs

Construction and maintenance signs are used to notify drivers of unusual or potentially dangerous conditions in or near work areas. Most signs in work areas are diamond-shaped. A few signs are rectangular.



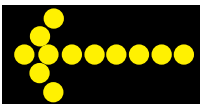
Guiding Or Channelizing Devices

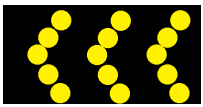
Barricades, vertical panels, drums, cones and tubes are the most commonly used devices to alert drivers of unusual or potentially dangerous conditions in highway and street work areas and to guide drivers safely through the work zone. At night they are often equipped with flashing or steady burn lights.



Flashing Arrow Panels

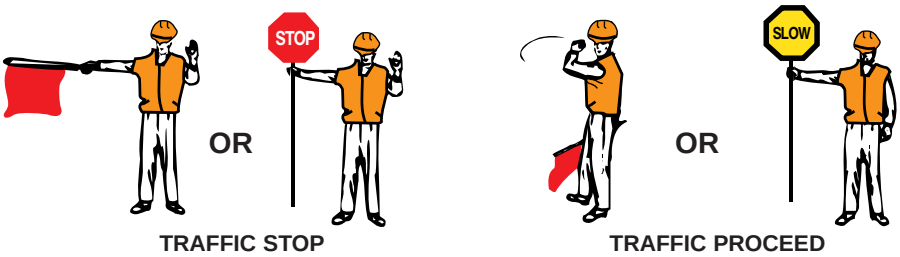
Large flashing or sequencing arrow panels may be used in work zones both day and night to guide drivers into certain traffic lanes and to inform them that part of the road or street ahead of them is closed.





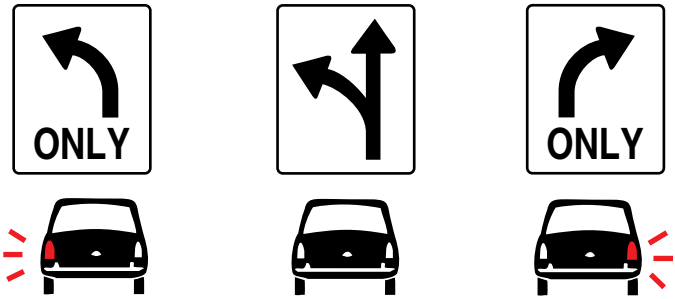
Flaggers

Flaggers are often provided in highway and street work zones to stop, slow or guide traffic safely through the area. Flaggers wear orange vests, shirts or jackets and use red flags or stop/slow paddles to direct traffic through work zones.



Overhead Lane Signals

You **must** obey the overhead sign in your lane. When the word "ONLY" is used, you **must** go in the direction the arrow points; there is no option.



Guide Signs

Most guide signs are rectangular (four-sided) in shape with white letters on a green background. The arrow points in the direction you should go to reach the named place. This sign is typical

United States numbered Routes are marked with a sign having black numbers on a white background of the familiar U.S. Shield.

State Routes are marked with a sign having black letters on a white circular background.

The Interstate System has Route markers in the shape of a shield. The top quarter carries the legend INTERSTATE in white letters on a red background while the bottom three-quarters is blue with the route number in large white letters.

Information Signs

MOTORIST SERVICE signs usually have white letters on a rectangular blue background. (For example: GAS, FOOD, LODGING.)

RECREATION signs usually have white letters on a brown background. (For example: STATE PARK.)

SOME IMPORTANT DELAWARE LAWS

Using Headlights

Delaware law requires your headlights (not parking lights) to be:

- On when driving after sunset or before sunrise.
- On any other time you cannot see beyond 1000 feet.
- On any time you use your windshield wipers.
- Switched to low beams 500 feet before meeting another vehicle or when within 200 feet of the vehicle you are following.

Using Safety Belts And Child Restraints

Delaware law requires all individuals in the front seat to be in safety/seat belts, or to be using a proper child restraint system. Additionally, children under the age of 16 years, and any place in the vehicle, must be properly restrained. Please also review the important information on the use of safety belts and child restraints in the Driving Skills and Safety Tips Section of this manual.

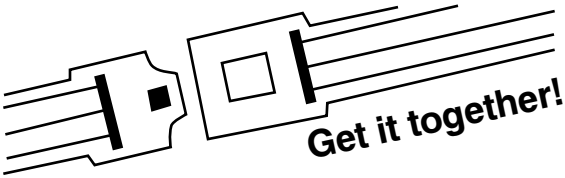
Signaling

Delaware law requires drivers to signal by hand or turn-signals when they intend to stop, turn, or change lanes. The Driving Skills and Safety Tips section further explains the importance of communicating and signaling. You must signal 300 feet prior to your intended action.

Overtaking (Passing) Other Vehicles

- Delaware law states that vehicles shall overtake other vehicles on the left only when at a safe distance, and then only shall return to the right when safely clear.
- Vehicles being overtaken shall give way to the right and not increase their speed until fully overtaken.
- Although not permissible in some states, Delaware law does allow vehicles to pass on the right, but only with care and in some special situations.

Please review the Driving Skills and Safety Tips section for more information on passing and overtaking.



SAFETY BELTS SAVE LIVES

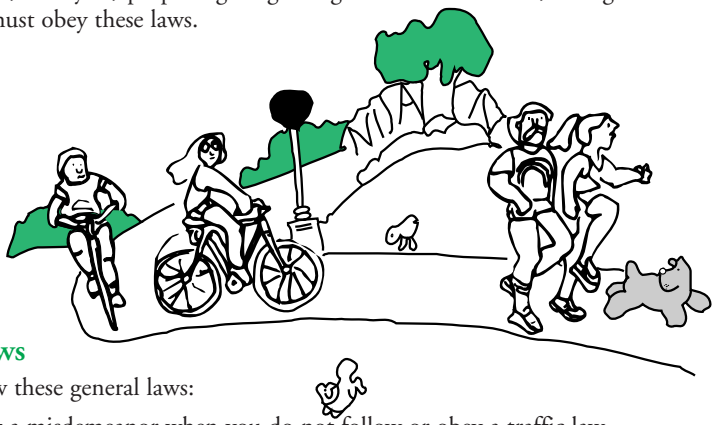
TRAFFIC CONTROL LAWS

Purpose Of Traffic Laws

Traffic laws are needed to provide orderly movement of vehicles and pedestrians and to prevent accidents.

Traffic Laws Apply To Everyone

All users of Delaware's highways are subject to Delaware traffic laws. Whether you are driving a motor vehicle, a bicycle, propelling or guiding some other vehicle, riding an animal, or walking, you must obey these laws.



General Laws

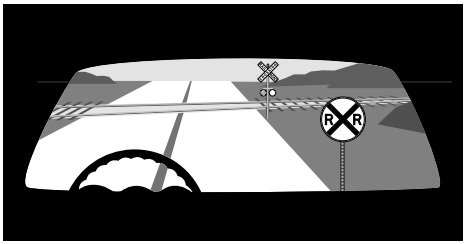
You must know these general laws:

- You commit a misdemeanor when you do not follow or obey a traffic law.
- You must obey the instructions of a police officer even though they may be contrary to laws, signs, signals and markings. Such instructions are occasionally necessary to keep traffic moving safely.
- You must not try to evade a traffic signal or road sign by leaving the road and traveling across private property.

Highway–Rail Intersection Signs And Signals

Railroad crossings have signs or signals to warn drivers. Never try to beat a train across the tracks. Never start to cross if there is not room for your vehicle on the far side and if you will have to stop on the tracks. **DO NOT BLOCK THE CROSSING.** Wait until there is room for your vehicle on the far side. It is wise not to shift gears when crossing railroad tracks, just in case you might stall. It would also be wise to review "Stalling On Railroad Tracks" under Emergencies in Section Five. Remember that trains are large and may be moving faster than they look. Some common railroad crossing warning signs and signals are shown in the illustration below.

- A round yellow warning sign with an "X" symbol and black "RR" letters is placed along the road before you get to a railroad crossing. This is the Advance Warning Sign.
- Many highway–rail intersections have roadway surface or pavement markings in advance of the crossing. These markings usually include an "X" symbol with the letters "RR" and a stop bar.



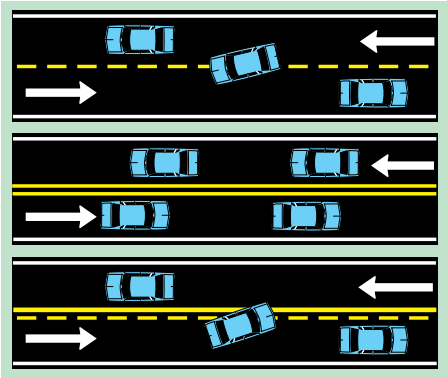
- A white, X-shaped sign or “crossbuck” with Railroad Crossing on it is located at the railroad crossing. This sign has the same meaning as a Yield sign. You must yield to crossing trains.
- At some crossings, along with the crossbuck sign, you will see side-by-side lights that will flash when a train is approaching. When the lights are flashing, you must stop. At some crossings there is also a crossing gate that will lower when a train is coming. Do not drive around the gate. Some crossings also have a bell that will sound. Do not cross until the bell has stopped.
- Crossings with more than one train track often will post a sign that shows the number of tracks. These signs warn you that there is more than one track and there may be more than one train crossing. If you come to a railroad crossing without a number-of-tracks sign, it is important that you always check if there is more than one track before crossing.

Pavement Markings

Lines and symbols on the roadway divide lanes, tell you when you may pass other vehicles or change lanes, which lanes to use for turns, define pedestrian walkways and where you must stop for signs or traffic signals.

- **Edge Lines** - Solid lines along the side of the road show you where the edge of the road is located.
- **White lane marking** - Multiple lanes of travel in the same direction are separated by white lane markings. A dashed white line between lanes of traffic means that you may cross it to change lanes if it is safe to do so. A solid white line between lanes of traffic means that you should stay in your lane. You must not cross unless a special situation requires you to change lanes. Double solid white lines prohibit lane-changing.
- **Crosswalks and stop lines** - When required to stop because of a sign or signal, you must stop before your vehicle reaches the stop line or if there is one, a crosswalk. Crosswalks define the area where pedestrians may cross the roadway. You must yield to pedestrians in or about to enter a crosswalk. Not all crosswalks are marked. Be alert for pedestrians when crossing intersections.
- **Yellow lane markings** - Lines separating traffic moving in opposite directions are yellow. A dashed yellow line between opposing lanes of traffic means that you may cross it to pass

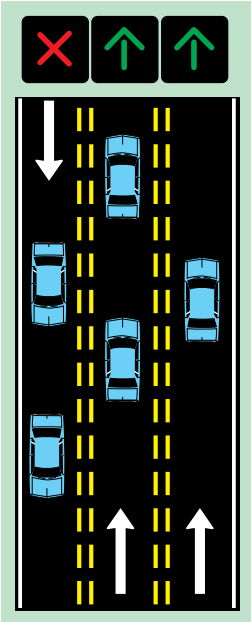
if it is safe to do so. Some passing zones have signs that tell you where passing is permitted and where you cannot pass. Where there is both a solid and a dashed yellow line between opposing lanes of traffic, you may not pass if the solid yellow line is on your side. If the dashed line is on your side, you may pass if it is safe to do so. Two solid yellow lines between lanes of traffic means neither side can pass. You may cross a solid yellow line to turn into a driveway if it safe to do so.



OTHER LANE CONTROLS

Reversible Lanes

Although not common in Delaware, you may find some travel lanes are designed to carry traffic in one direction at certain times and in the opposite direction at other times. These lanes are usually marked by double-dashed yellow lines. Before you start driving in them, check to see which lanes you can use at that time. There may be signs posted by the side of the road or overhead. Special lights are often used. A green arrow means you can use the lane beneath it; a red "X" means you cannot. A flashing yellow "X" means the lane is only for turning. A steady yellow "X" means that the use of the lane is changing and you should move out of it as soon as it is safe to do so.



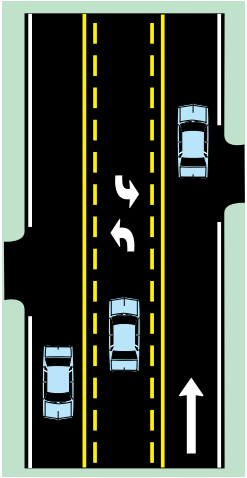
Reserved Lanes

On various roadways, one or more lanes may be reserved for special vehicles. Reserved lanes are marked by signs stating that the lane is reserved for special use and often have a white diamond posted at the side of the road or painted on the road surface.

- "Transit" or "bus" means the lane is for bus use only.
- "Bicycle" means the lane is reserved for bicycles.
- "HOV" stands for "High Occupancy Vehicles" and indicates lanes reserved for vehicles with more than one person in them. Signs say how many people must be in the vehicle, as well as the days and hours to which it applies. For example, "HOV 3" means there must be at least three people in the vehicle.

Shared Center Lane

These center lanes are reserved for making left turns (or U-turns when they are permitted) but can be used by vehicles traveling in both directions. On the pavement, left-turn arrows for traffic in one direction alternate with left-turn arrows for traffic coming from the oppo-



site direction. These lanes are marked on each side by a solid yellow and dashed yellow lines. In some areas, the shared center lane becomes a "reversible lane" during rush hours. Be sure you can enter the lane before you do so, and then only if it is safe to do so.

General Rules

When there are no signs or markings to control the use of lanes, there are rules that indicate which lane is to be used. These rules cover general driving, passing and turning.

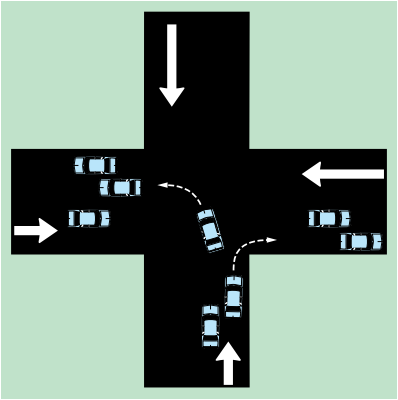
General driving - Never back a vehicle in any travel lane except to parallel park, of if necessary to exit a driveway. It is unsafe to do so. Drivers do not expect a vehicle to be backing towards them and may not realize it until it is too late. If you miss your turn or exit, do not back up but go on to where you can safely turn around.

Do not stop in travel lanes for any reason (confusion, breakdown, letting out a passenger). Keep moving until you can safely pull off the road.

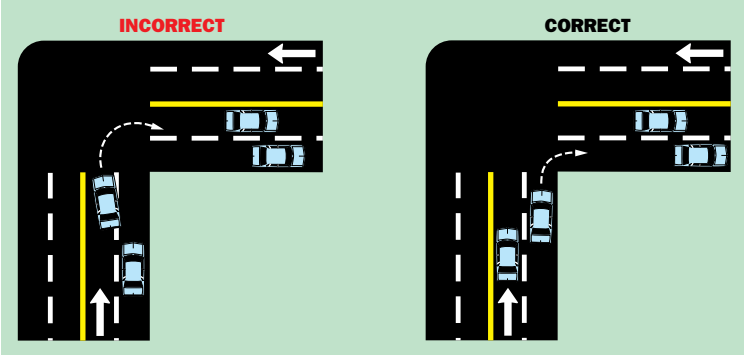
On a road with two or more lanes traveling in the same direction, stay in the right lane except to pass. On a road with three or more lanes traveling in the same direction, if there is a lot of entering or exiting traffic, use the center travel lane.

Passing - On multi-lane roads, the left-most lane is intended to be used for passing slower vehicles. If you pass on the right, the other driver may have difficulty seeing you and might suddenly change lanes in front of you. It is legal in Delaware to pass left-turning vehicles on the right, however this is a very accident-prone situation and must be accomplished with great caution. You may use the shoulder to pass left-turning vehicles on the right in Delaware, however other drivers will not expect you to be there, so extreme care is required.

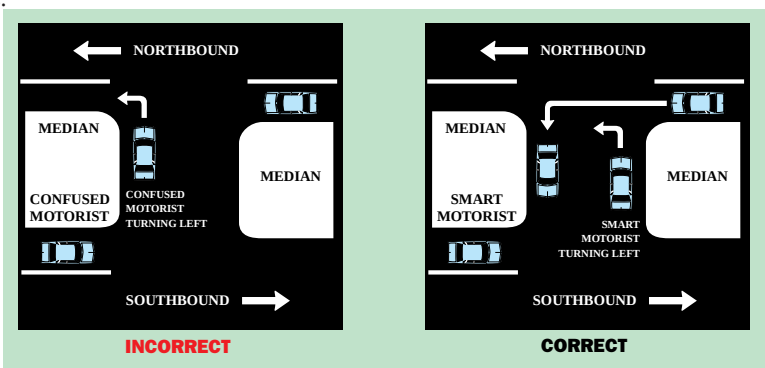
Turning - Where there are no signs or lane markings to control turning, you should turn from the lane that is closest to the direction you want to go and turn into the lane closest to the one you came from. This way, you will cross the fewest lanes of traffic. When making turns, go from one lane to the other as directly as possible without crossing lane lines or interfering with traffic. Once you have completed your turn, you can change to another lane if you need to.



- **Right turns**. On right turns, avoid swinging wide to the left before making the turn. If you swing wide, the driver behind you may think you are changing lanes or going to turn left and may try to pass you on the right. If you swing wide as you complete the turn, drivers who are in the far lane will not expect to see you there.



- **Left turns.** When making a left turn, avoid cutting the corner so sharply that you run into someone approaching from the left. However, be sure to leave room for oncoming vehicles to turn left in front of you.
- **Multiple lanes turning.** If there are signs or lane markings that allow for two or more turning lanes, stay in your lane during the turn.
- **Median Crossings.** Unless otherwise marked, the rule "Keep to the Right" applies in crossing medians.



Right-Of-Way

Where vehicles or pedestrians are likely to meet one another and there are no signs or signals to regulate traffic, there are rules on who must yield the right-of-way. These rules tell who goes first and who must wait in different traffic situations.

The law says who must yield the right of way; it does not give anyone the right-of-way. You must do everything you can to prevent striking a pedestrian or another vehicle, regardless of the circumstances.

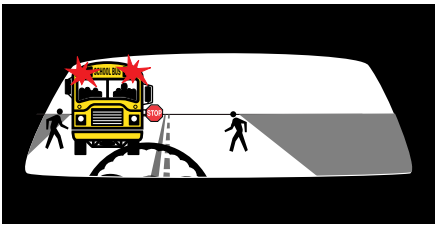
The following right-of-way rules apply at intersections:

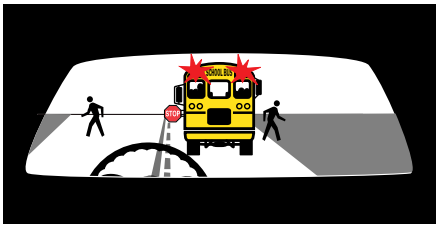
- Drivers must yield where necessary to avoid striking pedestrians who are crossing the road.
- Drivers crossing a sidewalk entering or exiting a driveway, alley or parking lot must yield to pedestrians. It is illegal to drive on a sidewalk except to cross it.
- Pedestrians using a guide dog or carrying a white cane have absolute right-of-way. Do not use your horn as it could confuse or frighten the blind pedestrian.

- Drivers turning left must yield to oncoming vehicles going straight ahead.
- Drivers entering a traffic circle or rotary must yield to drivers already in the circle.
- At an intersection where there is no stop sign, yield sign, or traffic signal, drivers should yield to vehicles coming from the right. However, it would be safest to consider yielding to all vehicles before entering.
- At a 4-way stop, the driver reaching the intersection first, goes first (after coming to a complete stop). If more than one vehicle arrives at the same time, the vehicle on the right goes.
- Drivers entering a road from a driveway, alley or roadside must yield to vehicles already on the main road. This includes entering from turn only lanes, where vehicles must yield, to include stopping if necessary.
- Drivers may not enter an intersection unless they can get through it without having to stop. You should wait until traffic ahead clears so that you are not blocking the intersection.
- Drivers overtaking a vehicle traveling in the same direction must yield to that vehicle, even if the vehicle is slowing or coming to a stop.
- You must yield the right-of-way to a police vehicle, fire engine, ambulance or other emergency vehicle using a siren, air horn or a red or blue flashing light. Pull over to the right edge of the road or as near to the right as possible when you see or hear an emergency vehicle approaching from any direction. Follow any instructions given over the emergency vehicle's loudspeaker. If you are in an intersection, drive through the intersection before you pull over.

Stopping For School Buses

You must always stop before reaching any school bus from either direction when it is stopped to load or unload school children except when you are on the opposite side of a highway having four or more lanes, even then proceed slowly.





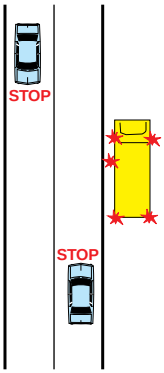
Yellow Lights

School buses have two overhead alternately flashing yellow lights both front and rear. They will be activated approximately 10 seconds prior to the overhead flashing red lights to warn drivers of approaching vehicles that a stop to load or unload school children is about to be made. Approach a bus flashing these yellow lights with caution and anticipate a stop. Children may be waiting for the bus or may be running to board it.

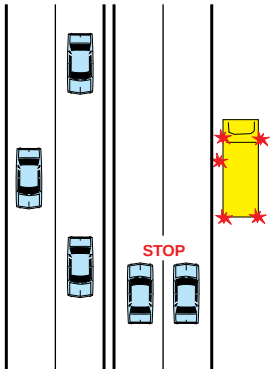
Red Lights

The overhead alternately flashing red lights and stop arm will be activated when the bus is stopped to pick up and discharge pupils. You <u>must not</u> proceed until the red lights have stopped flashing <u>and</u> the stop arm has been retracted, then proceed cautiously.

Less Than 4 Roadway Lanes
BOTH Directions Must STOP



4 or More Roadway Lanes
Only Traffic Following Must **STOP**



Identification of Violators

If any vehicle is witnessed by a police officer, schoolbus operator, or school crossing guard to be in violation of the school bus stop law and the operator is not otherwise apparent, it shall be assumed that the person in whose name the vehicle is registered committed such violation.

Penalties and Suspension of License for Passing a Stopped School Bus with Red Lights Flashing

Whoever is convicted of passing a stopped school bus with overhead and stop arm red lights flashing shall, for the first offense, be fined not less than $100 nor more than $230, or imprisoned not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days, or both. For each subsequent like offense occurring within 3 years, such person shall be fined not less than $115 nor more than $575, and imprisoned not less than 60 days nor more than 6 months.

Upon conviction for passing a stopped school bus with overhead and stop arm red lights flashing, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall suspend driving privileges for a period of not less than 1 month nor more than 1 year. If the driver's license is suspended, a conditional license may be issued pursuant to regulations adopted by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

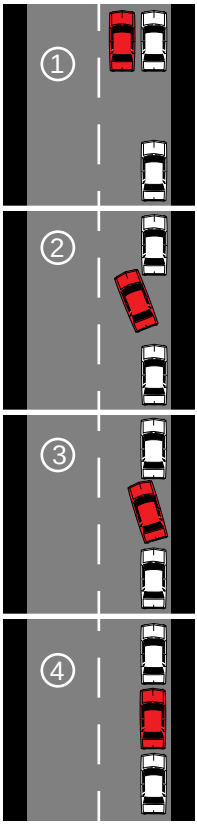
PARKING

General Parking Rules

- **Parking and leaving your vehicle** - When parking and leaving your vehicle on a highway or street, you must stop the engine, lock the ignition, remove the key, and set the brakes. It is also advisable to raise the windows and lock the doors.
- **Parallel Parking** - When parking on a two-way highway you must park parallel to and within 12 inches of the curb or edge of the highway.

  Entering a parallel parking space: when you take the test for your driver's license, you will have to show the examiner that you can park a car in a parallel parking space. The steps for parallel parking are;

Check for traffic in your rearview mirrors. If a car behind you is following too closely, do not stop suddenly. Continue driving and find another space. Stopping suddenly with a car behind you may result in a rear-end collision. Put on your turn signal to warn other drivers that you intend to park.



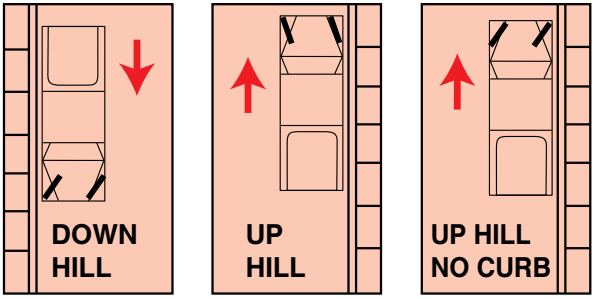
1. Signal and stop with the back end of your vehicle even with the back of the vehicle in front of the place you want to park.
2. Back slowly, turning your steering wheel to the right to aim the back of your car towards the front of the one behind you.
3. As the front of your car clears the back of the car in front of you, turn your wheels sharply to the left and continue backing slowly until the back of your car almost touches the car behind you.
4. Straighten your wheels and pull forward to center the car in the parking space. Your car should be no more than 12 inches from the curb. Put the transmission in park and set the brake. Turn off the engine. (It is against the law to leave keys in a running, unattended vehicle.)

To park by the left-hand curb on a one-way street, follow the same directions but reverse right and left in the instructions.

If your car has a manual transmission, leave it in low gear when parked and headed uphill. Leave it in reverse when parked and headed downhill. This will help prevent a crash if your emergency or parking brake should fail.

To leave a parallel parking space, signal your move. Watch for traffic and turn your steering wheel towards the open lane, easing your way out into traffic.

- **Parking on Hill** - When headed downhill you must turn your front wheels toward curb or edge of road. When headed uphill, and there is a curb, you must turn your front wheels away from curb and bring near-side front wheel into contact with curb. When headed uphill and there is no curb, you must turn your front wheels toward edge of highway. It is also wise to leave your vehicle in gear.



TURN WHEELS TO CURB | TURN WHEELS FROM CURB | TURN WHEELS TO RIGHT

- **Parking on Highways** - You must never park on the paved or traveled part of any highway outside of a business or residence unless vehicle is disabled and can not be moved. Pull off to the right as far as possible.
- **Parking Lights** - When you park a vehicle on the shoulder or side of any highway from sunset to sunrise or when light is insufficient to see persons or objects 1000 feet away, you must turn on your parking lights (or 4-way flashers when vehicle is so equipped). Turn signal lights shall not be flashed on one side only of a parked vehicle.
- **Opening door of Parked Vehicle** - You must never open door of vehicle so as to impede the flow of traffic or endanger any person or vehicle. Instead, use door on curb side. Turn and check for any oncoming vehicle if you must use the door on the street side. Be especially aware of oncoming bicyclists; they may be severely injured by a collision with a car door.
- **Handicapped Parking** - It is illegal to park in any parking space designated for "Handicapped Parking" unless your vehicle has a handicapped license plate displayed on the rear of the vehicle or a handicapped parking ID card displayed in lower right corner of the windshield.

Stopping And Parking Violations

Unless otherwise posted, ordered to do so by a police officer, or to avoid an accident, you must not stop or park your vehicle in any of the following places even if someone is left in the car:

- At any place where official signs prohibit such action.
- Wherever curb is painted yellow, or a yellow line is placed at the edge of a roadway.
- In an intersection, on a crosswalk, or within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
- On a sidewalk.
- In front of a public or private road, driveway or alley.
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- Within 20 feet of driveway entrance to any fire station or on opposite side of street within 75 feet of entrance when signs are posted.
- Within 30 feet of any flashing beacon, stop sign, or traffic signal.
- Between a safety zone or island and the adjacent curb, or within 30 feet of end of safety zone or island unless otherwise posted.
- Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing unless otherwise posted.
- Alongside or opposite any road excavation or obstruction when traffic will be impeded.
- On roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the curb.
- On any bridge or elevated structure on a highway or in a tunnel.
- At any other place where stopping, standing, or parking will obstruct the free flow of traffic.
- In the area between roadways of a divided highway, including crossovers.
- In any designated fire lane.

SPEED

Delaware traffic laws provide both a general speed restriction and specific speed limits. You must obey both.

General Speed Restriction

You must not drive on a Delaware highway at a speed greater than is reasonable under existing conditions. This means that it is not always lawful to drive as fast as the posted speed limit. Remember that you must always control the speed of your vehicle to avoid hitting any person, vehicle, or other conveyance no matter what the weather conditions, traffic density, or your need to hurry may be.

Speed Limits

You must not drive any vehicle faster than the speeds listed in this table (refer to Section Two, License Revocations & Suspensions for penalties under the Delaware Point System):

Under emergency conditions, the below speed limits may be changed.
The driver must never exceed the posted limit.

Place	Speed Limit
School Zones	20 miles per hour
Business Districts	25 miles per hour
Residential Districts	25 miles per hour
Two-Lane Roads	50 miles per hour
Divided Roads & Roads Having Four or More Lanes	55 miles per hour
Controlled Access Highways (Turnpikes & Expressways)	55 miles per hour
Route 1 and Interstate 495	65 miles per hour

Whenever any of the above speed limits are unsafe for conditions, they may be reduced to lower speed limits. Signs may be placed along the highway showing the speed limit in such conditions.

Minimum Speed

You must not drive a motor vehicle at such slow speed as to impede normal and reasonable movement of traffic except when necessary for safety or compliance with law.

You must drive at or above any posted minimum speed, except when weather or other conditions make it unsafe to do so.

Speed Signs

There are two speed signs: speed limit signs and advisory (recommended) speed signs. Speed limit signs have black letters and numerals on a white rectangular background and are the legal allowable limits. Advisory speed signs have black letters on a yellow background and often are shown under a warning sign. Advisory speed signs are posted along portions of highways to warn you that conditions may often make it unsafe to drive faster. Although an advisory speed is not a specific speed limit, if you exceed it and have an accident, it may well be concluded that you violated the general speed restriction and you could be subject to arrest.

OTHER HIGHWAY USERS

You, as the driver of a motor vehicle, must share the highway with pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, animal riders and drivers, and those driving farm vehicles, road machinery, and construction equipment. All highway users must obey traffic laws. This includes drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

PEDESTRIANS

Nationally, approximately 20% of all traffic fatalities are pedestrians. In 1997 there were 334 injuries and 14 pedestrian fatalities in Delaware. About nine out of ten pedestrians killed are non-drivers. Most of the pedestrians killed are children and older adults. Children often do not pay attention to traffic. Many older adult pedestrians have reduced sight and hearing and move much slower than younger adults.

Study the following rules and put them into practice when you drive and when you walk.

Your Responsibility As A Driver

- Be alert for pedestrians walking along or crossing the road. Lightly tap horn if necessary.
- You must stop for any person using a white cane or guide dog, any person who seems confused, or for any child crossing the roadway, regardless of signs, signals or markings.
- You must not drive through a pedestrian safety zone or block a crosswalk.
- You must yield the right of way to any pedestrian within a crosswalk, stopping if necessary.
- You must not pass a vehicle stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross the highway.
- You should be especially watchful for children near schools and in residential districts.
- You must always stop before reaching a school bus when it is stopped to load or unload school children except when you are on the opposite side of a highway having four or more lanes.
- You should look carefully for traffic before leaving your vehicle. Don't become a pedestrian casualty.
- Drive defensively at all times.

Your Responsibility As A Pedestrian

- When a sidewalk is provided you must not walk on the highway.
- When there is no sidewalk, don't walk along the highway if you can avoid it. Only in emergencies should you walk on the roadway, and then walk on the left shoulder facing oncoming traffic.
- You must not walk along a highway at night without carrying a light or reflector. You should wear light-colored clothing if possible.
- You must not walk on a highway when under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs.
- You must not stand on the highway to ask for a ride or to conduct any kind of business.
- You should cross the roadway and its shoulders only at marked crosswalks. Where crosswalks are not present you must cross at intersections. Where intersections are not present, and you need to cross the road, do so quickly and only after you have looked in both directions for oncoming traffic.
- You must obey pedestrian "walk" and "don't walk" signals when they are used.

- You should look for turning cars before crossing a highway at an intersection.
- You must not cross an intersection diagonally except when authorized by traffic-control signals.

Who Must Yield To Pedestrians

- Pedestrians have the right-of-way.

  When crossing a highway at an intersection and the green light or walk signal is in their favor.

  When crossing within a marked or unmarked crosswalk.

  When on a sidewalk as it crosses an alley, entrance, or driveway.

  When they are blind and crossing with white canes or guide dogs.

- Pedestrians must yield the right-or-way.

  When crossing a highway other than within a marked crosswalk or an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.

  When crossing the roadway where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead crossing is provided.

BICYCLES AND BICYCLING

REMEMBER: Bicycles <u>are vehicles,</u> therefore:

1. **Bicyclists must obey all traffic laws.**
2. **Motorists must treat bikes as all other vehicles.**

Rules of law and common sense can help both motorists and bicyclists to share the road safely. It is useful to look at the task of sharing the road from three viewpoints: that of the motorist, that of the parent of the youthful bicyclist, and that of the adult bicyclist.

The Motorist And The Bicyclist

Bicyclists have the right to use all roads except those from which they are specifically excluded. They are subject to the provisions of the vehicle code, just as other vehicle drivers are. Thus in a given situation if you would yield the right-of-way to a motor vehicle, you would yield it to a bicycle as well.

A modern bicycle is capable of speeds in excess of 25 miles per hour. However, its small bulk may make the bicycle hard to spot in traffic, particularly when visibility is poor (as in rain, at dusk, or in fog).

Bicycles are quite sensitive to irregular road surfaces and to the air pressure from vehicles passing very close; trucks and buses in particular can push a bicyclist over just by the air pressure as they pass at high speed. Allow plenty of room when passing a bicyclist, particularly when you are traveling at a high speed. If the road is narrow and you are unable to pass safely, follow at a safe distance and wait until it is safe before passing. Allow plenty of clearance after overtaking a bicyclist before you pull to the right; the bicyclist's speed may be much greater than you realize. Avoid blowing your horn at a bicyclist except in an emergency.

Many car/bike accidents occur because the motorist does not see the bicyclist, while the bicyclist falsely assumes that the motorist has seen him. Motorists are accustomed to searching only for motor vehicles and tend to overlook oncoming bicyclists. Be especially careful to look for bicyclists when you are preparing to enter a roadway or to make a turn. At night, be aware that bicycles, like other smaller vehicles, are harder to see.

The Parent Of The Youthful Bicyclist

Under the law, the parent (or guardian) can be held responsible if a child, while bicycling, violates any traffic law. As a parent you have the responsibility to be sure that the child is ready and able to use a bicycle safely, and that he or she knows and obeys the traffic laws. You are also responsible if your child (under the age of 16) is not wearing a helmet.

The Adult Bicyclist

Keeping three important principles in mind will help the adult bicyclist to share the road safely with motor vehicles and pedestrians: control, predictability, and visibility.

Before you venture into traffic, make sure that you have mastered the control of your bicycle; riding in a straight line, and turning and stopping smoothly. Riding your bicycle in a predictable manner is essential to your safety on the road. This means riding with the traffic, not against it; signaling your intentions clearly and in plenty of time; and choosing a path of travel which won't result in you swerving into traffic to avoid hazards. Increasing your visibility will help to protect you on the road. Clothes of bright colors during the day, and white or reflectorized clothing at night will help you to be seen. A good bicycle helmet of white or yellow color is an excellent option; it will both protect you and make you more visible. At night, always have the required white headlight and red rear-reflector on your bicycle; a red taillight and additional reflectors are also helpful.

Use hand signals to communicate your intentions to other vehicles. (See Section Five – Communicating)

As the rider of a bicycle, you have all the rights and all the duties and responsibilities of the driver of a motor vehicle, except where by their nature the laws are inapplicable to bicycles. The following additional laws apply to bicyclists;

- When riding a bicycle you must be on or astride a permanent seat.
- You may not carry a passenger unless your bicycle is designed for carrying a passenger.
- You must not cling to any vehicle upon the highway. This law also applies to sledders, coasters, skaters, and riders of toy vehicles.
- You must not ride on a highway facing traffic.
- When upon a roadway you must ride as far to the right of the roadway as practicable.
- When riding a bicycle, you must keep at least one hand on the handle bars at all times.
- You must not ride at night unless you have a white headlight visible for 500 feet, a red rear-reflector visible for 600 feet, and either reflective material visible from both sides for 600 feet or a lighted lamp visible from both sides for 500 feet. A taillight is recommended.
- You must yield to pedestrians on a sidewalk and in a crosswalk and give an audible signal before overtaking.
- You must not wear a headset covering both ears.
- All persons under the age of 16 must wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet.

SHARING THE ROAD WITH MOTORCYCLES

The increasing popularity of motorcycle riding is evident by the variety of riders and two-wheeled motor vehicles appearing on our streets and highways. Motorcycle accident statistics show that a substantial percentage of the accidents involve riders with limited experience.

Motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities on public roadways as other highway users. While legally everyone must abide by the same traffic laws, there are special situations and conditions you need to be aware of so you can share the road safely with those who choose to use two wheels instead of four.

Why is it so important that you be aware of motorcycles and their operation? Primarily because motorcycles are not easily identified in traffic. Motorcycles are only about two feet wide compared with the five- to six-foot width of an automobile. Even when seen, it's difficult for some drivers to judge how far away motorcyclists are.

Finally, even when seen and the distance away is correctly judged, some drivers can't tell how fast motorcycles are going. Being alert to this special perceptual problem and how motorcyclists react to specific situations can help you to avoid colliding with motorcyclists in traffic. Following are a few of the specific situations that call for special attention by motorcyclists and you.

Left Turns in front of an oncoming motorcyclist account for a large percentage of car/cycle injury-producing accidents. The problem of not seeing the motorcyclist is twofold: car drivers may fail to pick the cyclist out of the traffic scene, or drivers may fail to judge the speed of the oncoming motorcycle. The correct behavior is to LOOK AND LOOK AGAIN. MAKE SURE YOU SEE THE MOTORCYCLE AND KNOW ITS SPEED BEFORE YOU MAKE A LEFT TURN.

Turn Signals are not automatically self-canceling on most motorcycles. At times, the rider may forget to turn the signal off. Before you make a turn in front of a motorcyclist, BE SURE THE RIDER IS TURNING and not continuing straight ahead into your path with a forgotten turn signal still blinking.

Following Distance behind the motorcyclist should be at a two (2) second count when traveling at speeds under 40 m.p.h. and a four (4) second count for speeds above 40 m.p.h. Following too closely may make the rider nervous causing the rider's attention to be distracted from the road and traffic ahead. Motorcycles can stop quicker, so you need to follow at a safe distance. If the roadway is slippery or wet, increase your following distance.

Lane Usage for the motorcyclist is critical. Motorcycles are entitled to the same full lane width as all other vehicles. A skilled motorcycle operator is CONSTANTLY CHANGING positions within that lane to maximize his ability to see and be seen, and to compensate for objects in or near the road. Never move into the same lane alongside a motorcycle even if the lane is wide and the cyclist is riding far to one side. It is not only illegal, it is extremely hazardous.

Inclement Weather and Slippery Surfaces can be real problems for motorcycles. Allow even more following distance for motorcyclists when it's raining or the road surface is wet and slippery. Skilled motorcycle riders will slow down under these conditions. Remember, motorcycles only have two wheels compared to your four. Also, be alert to the problem of glare that rain and wet surfaces create, especially at night. It is easy to lose sight of a motorcycle and its rider under the best of circumstances. Rain, wind, dust and smog affect the cyclist's vision more easily than yours in an enclosed vehicle. The cyclist's face shield, windshield, or goggles help, but cannot completely overcome all the vision limitations under these conditions.

Cross Winds can be hazardous to motorcyclists. Windy conditions can actually move a motorcycle out of its lane of travel. Areas to look out for are wide open, long stretches of highways and bridges. Fast-moving large trucks have been known to create wind blasts which can startle a motorcyclist, and under certain conditions actually move the motorcyclist out of his path of travel. Be alert to these conditions so you can prepare yourself for the possible quick change in speed or direction of the motorcycle.

Road Surfaces and things in the road that do not normally affect other vehicles can create problems for the cyclist. Gravel, debris, pavement seams, small animals and even manhole covers may cause the motorcyclist to change speed or direction.

RailRoad Grade Crossing may be rough or cross the road at an angle. The rider may slow down or change direction so the tracks can be crossed head on. The cyclist may rise up off the seat to help cushion the shock of a rough crossing.

Metal or Grated Bridges create a wobbling sensation in the front tire of the motorcycle greater than the feeling you experience in your car. This wobbling sensation may cause the inexperienced motorcyclist to quickly change direction or slow down.

MOTORCYCLE OPERATION AND LICENSE ENDORSEMENTS

If you are less than 18 years old, you must take and pass the Delaware Motorcycle Rider Education Program.

Details on how to obtain motorcycle endorsements to a driver's license, required equipment, and safe operation are given in separate manuals available at each of the offices of the Division of Motor Vehicles (see outside back cover for addresses). Also see the Endorsement information in section two of this manual.

You must always have in your possession approved eye protection and an approved helmet for yourself and your passenger when operating a motorcycle. You must wear this equipment if you are operating with a learner's permit (including taking the road test), and if you are under 19 years of age.

MOPEDS AND TRIPEDS

Following is some of the information you will need to know to make your operation of a Moped and Triped legal, safe and enjoyable.

- Mopeds and Tripeds shall not be operated upon interstate and limited access highways, nor shall they be operated on the right-of-way of an operating railroad nor shall they be operated on any path set aside for the use of bicycles unless the helper motor has been turned off.
- You cannot legally operate a Moped and Triped upon any public road unless you have a valid driver's license.
- Mopeds and Tripeds must be registered under the regulations adopted by the Motor Vehicle division. Registration and re-registration shall be for three years and cost $5.00.
- Mopeds and Tripeds must have a light on front and rear, a bell or device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of a least 100 feet.
- It is important that you watch for traffic as far ahead as possible, be prepared for sudden stops, for traffic approaching left or right at intersections, and for vehicles pulling out from the curb.
- It is recommended that every person operating or riding a Moped or a Triped wear a safety helmet and bright and reflective clothing.

OHV - (OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES)

Registration of OHVs is required statewide. Registration application can be processed at any Motor Vehicle office (see back cover for addresses). The applicant must have a description of OHV (make, year, serial number), and be at least 18 years of age. Fee for registration is $6.00 for three years.

OHVs may not be operated upon the public streets or highways and you must have the permission of the property owner before you may operate on private property.

The operator and all passengers must wear a safety helmet with chin straps.

All OHVs must have brakes or a similar device capable of controlling the vehicle. All OHVs must have a muffler that reduces the noise level by 60%.

ANIMAL RIDERS AND ANIMAL DRIVERS

As the rider of any animal or the driver of any animal-drawn vehicle on the highway, you have all the rights and all the duties of the driver of a motor vehicle except where, by their very nature, the laws can have no application.

FARM TRACTORS AND EQUIPMENT, ROAD MACHINERY, AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

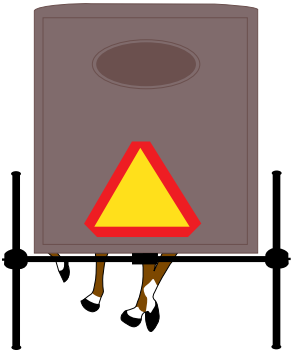
For the purposes of this section, you as the driver of any such tractor or other self-propelled equipment, whether or not hauling another vehicle or piece of machinery or equipment, have all the rights and all the duties of any other motor vehicle on the highway. The special laws and regulations further governing their registration, size, weight, and operation on the highways are given in a supplement available at each of the offices of the Division (see outside of back cover for addresses).

WHO MUST NOT USE THE HIGHWAY

You must not drive a minibike, a go-cart, snowmobile, or other all-terrain vehicles which are not permitted to be registered by the Division upon the highway. (See definition of minibike to differentiate from motorcycle.)

SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES

A “Slow-Moving Vehicle” emblem - a triangular, fluorescent and reflective orange sign - is sometimes attached to farm tractors and other slow-moving vehicles to warn approaching drivers. When you see this sign, slow down immediately and proceed with caution.



SHARING THE ROAD WITH A TRUCK

Whether you're sharing the road with a car, truck, bus, or other large vehicle, it's important for safety's sake to obey traffic laws, abide by the rules of the road, and drive defensively.

Are there any special rules for sharing the road with a truck? Yes! Here are some suggestions from professional truck drivers.

Passing

When passing a truck, first check to your front and rear, and move into the passing lane only if it is clear and you are in a legal passing zone. If needed, let the truck driver know you are passing by blinking your headlights, especially at night.

On a level highway, it takes only three to five seconds longer to pass a truck than a car. On an upgrade, a truck often loses speed, so it is easier to pass than a car. On a downgrade, the truck's momentum will cause it to go faster, so you may need to increase your speed.

Complete your pass as quickly as possible, and don't stay alongside the other vehicle.

If the driver blinks his lights after you pass, it's a signal that it is clear to pull back in. Be sure to move back only when you can see the front of the truck in your rear-view mirror. After you pass a truck, maintain your speed.

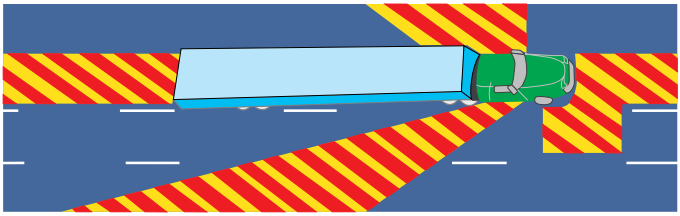
When a truck passes you, you can help the truck driver by keeping to the far side of your lane. You'll make it easier for the truck driver if you reduce speed slightly. In any event, don't speed up while the truck is passing. After passing, the truck driver will signal to let you know that the truck will be returning to your lane.

When you meet a truck coming from the opposite direction, keep as far as possible to the side to avoid a sideswipe accident and to reduce the wind turbulence between the two vehicles. Remember that the turbulence pushes the vehicles apart. It does not suck them together.

Near A Truck – *No-Zone*

In general, trucks take slightly longer than cars to stop because of their size.

If you're near a truck, try and stay out of its "blind spots" also called the "No-Zone" as depicted below:



The Key to Safer Highways:
Know the No-Zone

The No-Zone represents danger areas around trucks where crashes are more likely to occur.

- **Passing**
  When cars cut in too soon after passing, then abruptly slow down, truck drivers are forced to compensate with little time or room to spare. Because it takes longer to pass a large vehicle, you should maintain a consistent speed when passing, and be sure you can see the cab of the truck in your rear-view mirror before pulling in front.
- **Backing Up**
  When a truck is backing up, it sometimes must temporarily block the street to maneuver its trailer accurately. Never pass close behind a truck that is in the process of backing up. Remember, most trailers are 8½ feet wide and can completely hide objects that suddenly come between them and a loading area. So if you try to pass behind the truck, you enter a (No-Zone) blindspot for you and the truck driver.
- **Rear Blindspots**
  Unlike cars, trucks have deep blindspots directly behind them. Avoid tailgating in this No-Zone. The truck driver can't see your car in this position, and your own view of traffic flow is severely reduced. Following too closely greatly increases your chance of a rear-end collision with a truck. Allow at least 4 seconds between yourself and the truck, and remember that you too cannot see, and plan ahead if you follow too closely.
- **Side Blindspots**
  Trucks have much larger blindspots on both sides of their vehicles than passenger vehicles (cars). When you drive in these blindspots (No-Zone) for any length of time, the truck driver can't see you. If a commercial driver needs to change lanes quickly for any reason, a serious crash could occur with the vehicle in the No-Zone.
- **Wide Turns**
  Truck drivers sometimes need to swing wide to the left in order to safely negotiate a right turn. They cannot see cars directly behind them. Cutting in between the commercial vehicle and the curb or shoulder to the right increases the possibility of a crash.

Don't hang out in the

Backing Accidents

Sixty-six percent of all commercial vehicle accidents are while backing, therefore never try to cross behind a truck which is preparing to back up. Often when a truck driver is preparing to back the truck from a roadway into a loading area, there is no choice but to temporarily block the roadway. It is here that some drivers and pedestrians attempt to pass behind the truck rather than wait the few seconds for the truck to complete its maneuver. In passing close behind the truck, the driver or pedestrian enters the truck's blind spot and an accident may occur.

Other Hints

If you need directions, ask a truck driver for help by using channel 19 on your CB radio. If you don't have a CB, you can ask a truck driver at a truck stop or rest area.

If your car breaks down, pull off the road as far as possible. Hang a white cloth in your window as a signal of distress, and stay in the car with your doors locked. Most truck drivers will

radio ahead via their CB units for help. They usually won't stop unless there has been an accident, because they run on tight schedules and also are concerned about security.

Awareness of these points should make it easier and safer to share the road with a truck. If you have additional suggestions please let us know.

If you see a truck driver behaving in an unsafe manner get the company name, truck number, and note the time, date, and location. If there is no name, get the license plate number and state. Then write to the Safety Department of American Trucking Associations, 2200 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314. This information will be forwarded to the driver's company.

Our thanks to the American Trucking Association, and our local Delaware Motor Transport Association, Inc. (DMTA) for providing the information in this section.

HELP SAVE LIVES — REPORT INTOXICATED DRIVERS

If we are to continue to reduce the number of alcohol-related deaths on our highways, citizen-support is a must. Just as many neighborhoods have formed neighborhood watch programs to help state and local police reduce criminal activity, police also need your help to reduce the number of drunk drivers on the highway.

PHONE 911 OR CB CHANNEL 9

When you make contact with the police, provide them with the following information:

a. Your location and the location of the suspected drunk driver, his direction of travel and the time observed.

b. The make and color of the vehicle and the license plate number.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO STOP THE OTHER DRIVER!

SECTION FIVE
DRIVING SKILLS AND SAFETY TIPS

No driver's manual can teach you how to operate a vehicle or be a safe driver. Driving requires skills you can only gain through instruction and practice. The following offers some basic driving information.

BEFORE YOU DRIVE

Your safety, and that of the public, depends a lot on what you do before driving, including adjusting the seat and mirrors, using safety belts, checking your vehicle, maintaining a clear view and securing items in and on the vehicle.

Trip Planning

There are ways you can help reduce your driving costs. First, determine your overall transportation needs. For each trip, determine if it is necessary. If so, there may be times you do not need to drive yourself. You might ride with someone else or you could take public transportation if it is available.

The best way to prolong the life of your car and save on fuel is to use it as little as possible. Trip planning can make your life easier, and help cut down on your driving.

- Take public transportation when it is available.
- Avoid driving during heavy traffic. It causes extra wear and tear on you and the vehicle.
- Use carpools or share rides whenever possible.
- Plan, and then combine your trips. Make a list of the things you need and the places you need to go. Go to as many places as possible on any one trip. Try to reduce the number of places you need to go. This will cut down on the number of trips you need to take.
- Call ahead to make sure that they have what you need or that what you are picking up is ready.

By doing these things you can help cut down on the amount of traffic on the road, cut your travel costs and save yourself time and effort.

Check The Vehicle

How safely you can drive starts with the vehicle you are driving. It is the duty of drivers to make certain that the vehicles they drive are safe to operate. A vehicle that is in bad shape is unsafe and costs more to run than one that is maintained. It can break down or cause a collision. If a vehicle is in bad shape, you might not be able to get out of an emergency situation. A vehicle in good shape can give you an extra safety margin when you need it, and you never know when you will need it.

You should follow your vehicle owners manual for routine maintenance. Some you can do yourself and some must be done by a qualified mechanic. A few simple checks will help prevent trouble on the road.

Braking system - Only your brakes can stop your vehicle. It is very dangerous if they are not working properly. If they do not seem to be working properly, are making a lot of noise, smell funny, or the brake pedal goes to the floor, have a mechanic check them.

Lights - Make sure that turn signals, brake lights, taillights and headlights are operating properly. These should be checked from the outside of the vehicle. Brake lights tell other road users that you are stopping and turn signals tell them you are turning.

An out-of-line headlight can shine where it does not help you and may blind other drivers. If you are having trouble seeing at night or if other drivers are constantly flashing their headlights at you, have a mechanic check the headlights.

Windshield and wipers - Damaged glass can more easily break in a minor collision or when something hits the windshield. Have a damaged windshield replaced.

Windshield wipers keep the rain and snow off the windshield. Some vehicles also have wipers for rear windows and headlights. Make sure all wipers are in good operating condition. If the blades are not clearing water well, replace them.

Tires - Worn or bald tires can increase your stopping distance and make turning more difficult when the road is wet. Unbalanced tires and low pressure cause faster tire wear, reduce fuel economy and make the vehicle harder to steer and stop. If the vehicle bounces, the steering wheel shakes or the vehicle pulls to one side, have a mechanic check it.

Worn tires can cause “hydroplaning,” and increase the chance of having a flat tire. Check tire air pressure with an air pressure gauge when the tires are cold. Check the vehicle owner's manual or the side of the tires for the proper pressure.

Check the tread with a penny. Stick the penny into the tread “head” first. If the tread does not come at least to Abe’s head, the tire is unsafe and you need to replace it.

Steering system - If the steering is not working properly, it is difficult to control the direction you want to go. If the vehicle is hard to turn or does not turn when the steering wheel is first turned, have the steering checked by a mechanic.

Suspension system - Your suspension helps you control your vehicle and provides a comfortable ride over varying road surfaces. If the vehicle bounces a lot, after a bump or a stop, or is hard to control, you may need new shocks or other suspension parts. Have a mechanic check it out.

Exhaust system - The exhaust system helps reduce the noise from the engine, helps cool the hot gases coming from running the engine, and moves these gases to the rear of the vehicle. Gases from a leaky exhaust can cause death inside a vehicle in a very short time. Never run the motor in a closed garage. If you sit in a vehicle with the motor running for a long time, open a window.

Some exhaust leaks are easily heard but many are not. This is why it is important to have the exhaust system checked periodically.

Engine - A poorly running engine may lose power that is needed for normal driving and emergencies, may not start, gets poor fuel economy, pollutes the air and could die on you when you are on the road causing you and traffic a problem. Follow the procedures recommended in the owner’s manual for maintenance.

Loose objects - Make sure that there are no loose objects in the vehicle that could hit someone in the event of a sudden stop or crash. Make sure there are no objects on the floor that could roll under the brake pedal and prevent you from stopping the vehicle.

Horn - The horn may not seem like it is important for safety, but as a warning device, it could save your life. Only use your horn as a warning to others.

Clean Glass Surfaces

It is important that you are able to see clearly through the windows, windshield and mirrors. Here are some things you can do to help.

- Keep the windshield clean. Bright sun or headlights on a dirty windshield make it hard to see. Carry liquid cleaner and a paper or cloth towel so you can clean your windshield whenever it is necessary.
- Keep your window washer bottle full. Use antifreeze wash in areas where the temperature could fall below freezing.
- Keep the inside of your windows clean, especially if anyone has been smoking in the vehicle. Smoking causes a film to build up on the inside glass.
- Clear snow, ice or frost from all windows before driving. Make sure you clean the front, sides and back.
- Do not hang things from your mirror or clutter up the windshield with decals. They could block your view.
- Keep the headlights, backup, brake and taillights clean. Dirt on the lenses can reduce the light by 50%.

Adjust Seat And Mirrors

You should always check your seat and mirrors before you start to drive. Make any adjustments to the seat and mirrors before you drive off.

- Adjust your seat so that you are high enough to clearly see the road. If necessary, use a seat cushion. Do not move the seat so far forward that you cannot easily steer.
- Adjust your rearview mirror and side mirrors. You should be able to see out the back window with the rearview mirror and to the sides with the side mirrors. A good adjustment for the side mirrors is to set them so that when you lean forward slightly, you can see just the side of your vehicle.
- If you have a day/night mirror, make sure it is set for the time of day you are driving.
- Head restraints are designed to prevent whip-lash if you are hit from behind. They should be adjusted so the head restraint contacts the back of your head.

Use Safety Belts

Before you drive away, always fasten your safety belts properly and make sure all your passengers are using safety belts or child restraints. Putting the shoulder belt under your arm or behind you can result in serious injury. Also remember to lock the vehicle's doors.

It is important that you and your passengers use safety belts. Studies have shown that if you are in an accident while using safety belts, your chances of being hurt or killed are greatly reduced. In Delaware, it is illegal to drive or to be a front-seat passenger, without wearing safety belts. All passengers, front and back, should "BUCKLE UP"!

If your vehicle has a two-part safety belt system, be sure to wear both the lap belt and the shoulder belt. Wearing either part alone greatly reduces your protection. If you have an automatic shoulder belt, be sure to buckle your lap belt as well. Otherwise, in a collision you could slide out of the belt and be hurt or killed. Fatal crashes can occur at speeds as low as 12 mph.

In addition to protecting you from injury as a driver by preventing your ejection from the vehicle, safety belts help you keep control of the vehicle. If you are struck from the side or make a quick turn, the force could push you sideways. You cannot steer the vehicle if you are not behind the wheel.

Safety belts should be worn even if the vehicle is equipped with air bags. While air bags are good protection against hitting the steering wheel, dashboard, or windshield, they do not protect you if you are hit from the side or rear, or if the vehicle rolls over. And, an air bag will not keep you behind the wheel in these situations. Seat belts and air bags are designed to work together, and injuries may occur if seat belts are not used in air-bag-equipped vehicles.

Use Child Restraints

DELAWARE LAW REQUIRES EVERY CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS TO PROPERLY USE A FEDERALLY APPROVED CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM OR SEAT BELT.

Are **YOU** *using it right?*

Delaware law requires every child under the age of four years to be properly restrained in a Federally approved child restraint system, and every child between ages 4 and 16 to properly use a child safety seat or seatbelt. No child under 12 years of age and 65 inches tall may sit in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger side air bag.

Infants under age 1 ***and*** 20 pounds should properly restrained in a federally approved car seat facing rearward. The harness straps should be placed so that they fall at or below the baby's shoulder level. They should be tight enough so that you can get no more than one finger between the harness straps and the baby's collarbone. The safest place to secure children is in the center position of the back seat. Never place a rear-facing child in front of a passenger side airbag.
A child over 40 pounds should be moved into a booster seat and should remain there until they weigh approximately 80 pounds. Seatbelts are made to fit adults, not small children, and serious injuries or death can occur in car crashes if your child is moved into an adult seatbelt too early. When the middle of your child's head is higher than the back of a high-backed booster seat, or when your child can comfortably sit up straight and have his/her legs bend easily over the edge of the seat, then it is safe to allow your child to ride using only a lap/shoulder belt combination. Additionally, any child under the age of 16 must be restrained.

It is very important that you read and understand your vehicle's owner manual and the instructions that come with your child-restraint device. The location of the device in the vehicle, its position, whether forward facing or rear facing and in the front or back seats may determine whether or not your child will suffer injury, even in a minor bump or accident. The child's position in relationship to the air bags in your vehicle is also very important for your child's safety. Proper fit, the proper use of blankets or covers and the use of clips, belts and buckles may prevent serious injury. NEVER try and hold a child. At 30 mph, a 10 lb. baby in a crash becomes a force of 300 lbs., which no one can hold!!

The Delaware Office of Highway Safety conducts free monthly child safety seat checks. Federally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will check your seat for recalls and correct installation. They will then provide one-on-one assistance for parents, grandparents, child care providers, etc. who need to have their seats re-installed properly. No appointment is necessary. For a list of upcoming car seat checks in your county, safety brochures, and additional in-

formation, contact the Office of Highway Safety at (302) 744-2740 or by mail at P.O. Box 1321, Dover, DE 19903-1321.

WARNING! WHEN IT'S HOT OUTSIDE, DO NOT LEAVE CHILDREN UNATTENDED.

On a hot summer day the interior of a car can get dangerously hot. One study found that with the windows up and the temperature outside at 94 degrees, the inside of a car could be 122 degrees in just half an hour, or 132 degrees after an hour.

Prevent a needless tragedy, and make sure no one leaves small children in a hot vehicle unattended.

If You Can't Afford A Child Safety Seat

If you are low income and cannot afford a child restraint, you may borrow one from one of the State Service Centers at: Wilmington 577-3150; Newark 368-6700; Dover 739-5301; or Georgetown 856-5574.

Bad Information

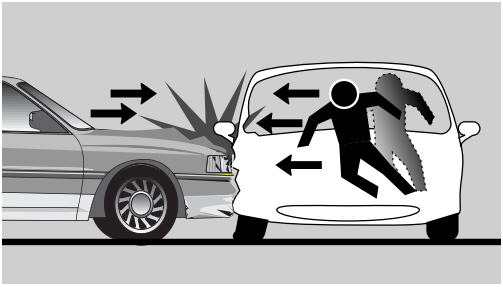
Some people still have ***"bad information"*** about using safety belts. For example,

"Safety belts can trap you inside a car." It takes less than a second to undo a safety belt. Crashes where a vehicle catches fire or sinks in deep water and you are "trapped," seldom happen. Even if they do, a safety belt may keep you from being "knocked out." Your chance to escape will be better if you are conscious.

"Safety belts are good on long trips, but I do not need them if I am driving around town." Over half of all traffic deaths happen within 25 miles of home. Many of them occur on roads posted at less then 45 mph.

"Some people are thrown clear in a crash and walk away with hardly a scratch." Your chances of not being killed in an accident are much better if you stay inside the vehicle. Safety belts can keep you from being thrown out of your vehicle, into the path of another one. Staying inside the vehicle will definitely reduce injuries.

"If I get hit from the side, I am better off being thrown across the car; away from the crash point." When a vehicle is struck from the side, it will move sideways. Everything in the vehicle that is not fastened down, including the passengers, will effectively slide toward the point of crash, not away from it.



"At slow speeds, I can brace myself." Even at 25 mph, the force of a head-on crash is the same as pedaling a bicycle full-speed into a brick wall or diving off a three-story building onto the sidewalk. No one can "brace" for that.

BASIC DRIVING

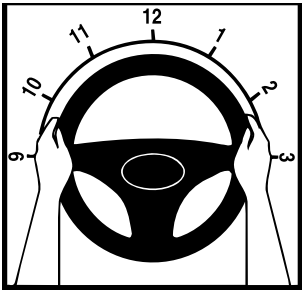
Starting

Check the vehicle owner's manual for how to best start the vehicle. Make sure the parking brake is on before you start the vehicle. If the vehicle has a manual transmission, it must not be in gear and in some vehicles the clutch must be depressed. For a vehicle that has an automatic transmission, you must put the shift selector in "park."

Accelerating

Accelerate gradually and smoothly. Trying to start too fast can cause the drive wheels to spin, particularly on slippery surfaces, and cause the vehicle to slide. With a manual-shift vehicle, practice using the clutch and accelerator so that the engine does not over-rev or stall when shifting between gears.

Steering



Both hands should be placed on opposite sides of the steering wheel (e.g., left hand between 8 and 10 o'clock and right hand between 2 and 4 o'clock). This position is comfortable, and on high speed roads it allows you to make turns without taking your hands off the wheel.

Look both well down the road and on both sides of the road, not at the road just in front of your vehicle. Look for traffic situations where you will need to steer before you get to them. This way, you have time to steer smoothly and safely.

When turning sharp corners, turn the steering wheel using the "hand-over-hand" technique. When you complete a turn, straighten out the steering wheel by hand. Letting it slip through your fingers could be dangerous.

Speeding

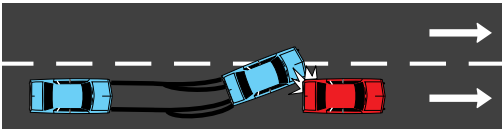
The best way not to speed is to know how fast you are going. Check the speedometer often. People are not very good at judging how fast they are going. It is easy to be traveling much faster than you think. This is especially true when you leave high speed roads and are driving on much slower local roads.

Follow the speed limit signs. They are there for your safety.

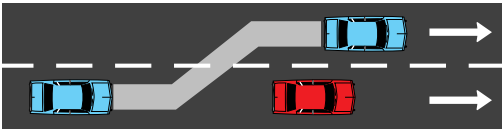
Stopping

Be alert so that you know when you will have to stop well ahead of time. Stopping suddenly is dangerous and usually points to a driver who was not paying attention. When you brake quickly, you could skid and lose control of your vehicle. You also make it harder for drivers behind you to stop without hitting you.

Try to avoid panic stops by seeing events well in advance. By slowing down or changing lanes, you may not have to stop at all, and if you do, you can make a more gradual and safer stop.



In emergency or slippery conditions without Anti-Lock Braking System, all wheels lock; car skids and is unsteerable.



In emergency or slippery conditions with Anti-Lock Braking System, wheels don't lock; car is stable and remains steerable.

Braking

Newer automobiles and trucks are equipped with Anti-Lock Brake Systems (ABS), which prevent vehicles from locking wheels and skidding in emergency or slippery conditions. With ABS you should brake as hard as possible and, if necessary, steer to avoid crashing. Without ABS, you should brake as hard as possible without locking the wheels.

Seeing Well

Most of what you do in driving depends on what you see. To be a good driver, you need to see well. The single biggest contributor to crashes is failing to see what is happening. You must look down the road, to the sides and behind your vehicle and be alert for unexpected events. At night and at other times when it's hard to see, you must use your headlights.

You must be alert to what is going on around you. Many crashes occur because drivers do not pay enough attention to their driving. Do not take your eyes off the road for more than a few seconds at any one time. If you need to look at a map, pull safely off the road before you try to look at it. Do not try to read the map while you are driving. In many crashes with motorcycles, bicycles and pedestrians, drivers reported that they looked but did not see them.

If you have a cellular phone or CB radio, avoid using it when the vehicle is in motion. Even with “hands free” equipment, conversing on a phone or radio takes your attention away from driving and can cause you to be less likely to notice a dangerous situation.

Do not drive with head or earphones that cover or go in both ears. This is illegal in Delaware and many other States because it makes it hard to hear emergency horns or sirens.

Do not slow down just to look at a crash, someone getting a ticket, or other roadside activity (rubbernecking). This could cause you to be in a crash. If you take your eyes off the road to look at something, you could run into a vehicle ahead that has slowed or stopped. Rubbernecking also can increase congestion. When you pass these roadside activities, keep your eyes on the road and get past them as soon and as safely as you can.

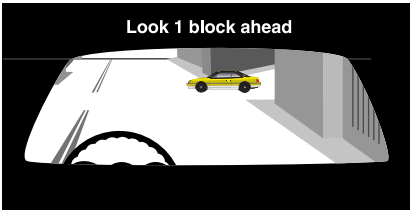
Scan All The Time

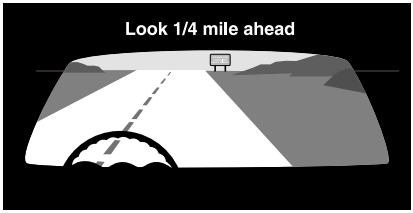
Scanning

To be a good driver, you must know what is happening around your vehicle. You must look ahead, to the sides and behind the vehicle. Scanning helps you to see problems ahead, vehicles and people that may be in the road by the time you reach them, signs warning of problems ahead and signs giving you directions.

Look ahead - In order to avoid last-minute braking or the need to turn, you should look well down the road. By looking well ahead and being ready to stop or change lanes if needed, you can drive more safely, save on fuel, help keep traffic moving at a steady pace, and allow yourself time to better see around your vehicle and alongside the road. Looking well down the road will also help you to steer straighter with less weaving. Safer drivers tend to look at least 10 seconds ahead of their vehicle. How far is this? It is the distance that your vehicle will travel in 10 seconds.

In the city, 10 seconds is about one block. When you drive in city traffic, you should try to look at least one block ahead. On the highway, 10 seconds is about four city blocks or a quarter of a mile.





How do you know how many seconds you are looking ahead? Here is how to figure how far ahead you are looking.

1. Find a non-moving object like a sign or telephone pole near the road about as far ahead as you are looking.
2. Start counting: one-one-thousand, two-one-thousand, three-one-thousand, etc., until you reach the object.

3. The number of seconds you have counted is the number of seconds ahead that you were looking.

You can be a safer driver by looking well ahead. You can avoid the need to stop or turn quickly. The less you have to stop or turn quickly, the less likely you are to run into someone or have someone run into you.

By looking well ahead, you can save on fuel. Every time you have to stop quickly, it takes time and fuel to get your vehicle back up to speed. Drivers who look ahead, can slow down gradually or change lanes and avoid unnecessary braking that leads to lower miles per gallon.

Traffic would flow more smoothly if everyone looked well ahead. Making driving changes before the last moment gives drivers behind you more time to react. The earlier you act, the less often someone behind you has to react quickly to your vehicle. By seeing needed driving changes early, you can drive more safely, and that helps drivers behind you drive more safely too. It also keeps traffic moving at a steady pace.

Look to the sides - As other vehicles or pedestrians may cross or enter your path anytime, you should look to the sides to make sure no one is coming. This is especially true at intersections and railroad crossings.

Intersections - Intersections are any place where traffic merges or crosses. They include: cross streets, side streets, driveways and shopping center or parking lot entrances. Before you enter an intersection, look to both the left and right for approaching vehicles and/or crossing pedestrians. If stopped, look to both the left and right just before you start moving. Look across the intersection before you start to move to make sure the path is clear all the way through the intersection and you will not block it if you have to stop.

Before you turn left across oncoming traffic, look for a safe gap in the traffic. Look to the street you are turning into to make sure that no vehicles or pedestrians are in your path, leaving you stranded in the path of oncoming traffic. Look one more time in the direction of oncoming traffic before you turn.

Before turning right, make sure that there is no traffic approaching from your left and no oncoming traffic turning left into your path. Do not begin your turn without checking for pedestrians crossing where you will be turning. You may turn right on red unless prohibited. You may also turn left from a one-way street into another one-way street unless prohibited.

Do not rely on traffic signals or signs to tell you that no one will be crossing in front of you. Some drivers do not obey traffic signals or signs. At an intersection, look left and right, even if other traffic has a red light or a stop sign. This is especially important just after the light has turned green. This is when people on the cross street are most likely to hurry through the intersection before the light changes to red. Others who may not stop are individuals who have been drinking or other reckless drivers.

Make sure you can clearly see crossing traffic before entering an intersection. If you were stopped and your view of a cross street is blocked, edge forward slowly until you can see. By moving forward slowly, crossing drivers can see the front of your vehicle before you can see them. This gives them a chance to slow down and warn you if needed.

Whenever there is a lot of activity along the side of the road, there is a good chance that someone will cross or enter the road. Therefore, it is very important to look to the sides when you are near shopping centers and parking lots, construction areas, busy sidewalks, and playgrounds and school yards.

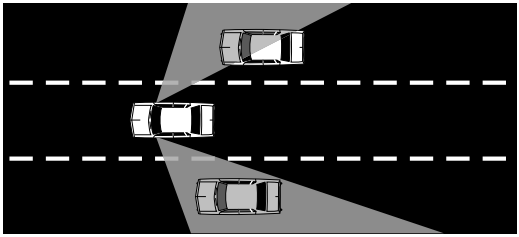
Railroad crossings - As you approach any railroad crossing, slow down and look up and down the tracks to make sure a train is not coming. Do not assume that a train is not coming even if you have never seen one at that crossing before. ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN. Assuming that a train is not coming is one of the leading causes of fatalities at railroad crossings. Make sure there is room for your vehicle on the far side before you cross the tracks. DO NOT BLOCK THE CROSSING.

At crossings with more than one track, wait until the passing train is well down the track before starting to cross. Another train may be hidden by the one that just passed.

Look behind - Besides watching traffic ahead of you, you must check traffic behind you. You need to check more often when traffic is heavy. This is the only way you will know if someone is following too closely or coming up too fast and will give you time to do something about it. It is very important to look for vehicles behind you when you change lanes, slow down, back up, or are driving down a long or steep hill.

When changing lanes - Whenever you want to change lanes, you must check that there are no vehicles in the lane you want to enter. This means you must check for traffic to the side and behind your vehicle before you change lanes. Changing lanes includes: changing from one lane to another, merging onto a roadway from an entrance ramp, and entering the roadway from the curb or shoulder. When changing lanes, you should:

- Signal your intention to change lanes.
- Look in your rearview and side mirrors. Make sure there are no vehicles in the lane you want to enter. Make sure that nobody is about to pass you.
- Look over your shoulder in the direction you plan to move. Be sure no one is near the rear corners of your vehicle. These areas are called "blind spots" because you cannot see them through your mirrors. You must turn your head and look to see vehicles in your blind spot.
- Check quickly. Do not take your eyes off the road ahead for more than an instant. Traffic ahead of you could stop suddenly while you are checking traffic to the sides, rear, or over your shoulder. Also, use your mirrors to check traffic while you are preparing to change lanes, merge, or pull onto the roadway. This way you can keep an eye on vehicles ahead of you at the same time. Check over your shoulder just before you change lanes for traffic in your blind spot. Look several times if you need to so as not to look for too long a period at any one time. You must keep track of what traffic is doing in front of you and in the lane you are entering.



- Check the far lane. Be sure to check the far lane, if there is one, as someone in that lane may be planning to move into the same lane you want to enter.
- Check for other road users. Remember that there are other road users such as motorcycles, bicycles and pedestrians that are harder to see than are cars and trucks. Be especially alert when you are entering the roadway from the curb or driveway.

When you slow down - You must check behind your vehicle whenever you slow down. This is very important when you slow down quickly or at points where a following driver would not expect you to slow down, such as private driveways or parking spaces.

When you back up - It is hard for you to see behind your vehicle. Try to do as little backing as possible. In a shopping center, try to find a parking space you can drive through, so you can drive forward when you leave. Where backing is necessary, here are some hints that will help you back your vehicle safely.

- Check behind your vehicle before you get in. Children or small objects cannot be seen from the driver's seat.
- Place your right arm on the back of the seat and turn around so that you can look directly

through the rear window. Do not depend on your rearview or side mirrors as you can not see directly behind your vehicle.

- Back slowly, your vehicle is much harder to steer while you are backing.
- Whenever possible use a person outside the vehicle to help you back.

When going down a long or steep hill - Check your mirrors when you are going down hills or mountains. Vehicles often build up speed going down a steep grade. Be alert for large trucks and buses that may be going too fast.

Scan All The Time

Use Your Lights

It is much harder to see at night. Here are some things you can do that will help you see better:

- Use your high beams whenever there are no oncoming vehicles. High beams let you see twice as far as low beams. It is important to use high beams on unfamiliar roads, in construction areas, or where there may be people along the side of the road.
- Dim your high beams whenever you come within about a one-block distance of an oncoming vehicle (within 500 feet by Delaware law).
- Use your low beams when following another vehicle or when in heavy traffic.
- Use the low beams in fog or when it is snowing or raining hard. Light from high beams will reflect back, causing glare and making it more difficult to see ahead. Some vehicles have fog lights that you also should use under these conditions.
- You should also turn on your lights in rain, mist, and snow, and at any time you have your wipers on. It's the law in Delaware.
- Do not drive at any time with only your parking lights on. Parking lights are for parking only.

If a vehicle comes toward you with high beams on, flash your headlights quickly a couple of times. If the driver fails to dim the lights, look toward the right side of the road. This will keep you from being blinded by the other vehicle's headlights and allow you to see enough of the edge of the road to stay on course. Do not try to "get back" at the other driver by keeping your bright lights on. If you do, both of you may be blinded.

COMMUNICATING

Crashes often happen because one driver does not see another driver, or when one driver does something the other driver does not expect. It is important that drivers let other road users know they are there and what they plan to do.

Letting Others Know You Are There

Some drivers do not always pay attention to what is going on around them. It is important that other road users know that you are there.

Use headlights - Besides helping you to see at night, headlights help other people see you. If needed, flick your headlights to alert other road users you are there. Remember to turn on your headlights whenever you have trouble seeing others. If you have trouble seeing them, they may be having trouble seeing you.

- On rainy, snowy, or foggy days, it is sometimes hard for other drivers to see your vehicle. In these conditions, headlights make your vehicle easier to see. Remember, if you turn on your wipers, turn on your headlights, it's the law in Delaware and some other states.
- Turn on your headlights when it begins to get dark. Even if you turn them on a little early, you will help other drivers see you.
- Whenever driving and lights are necessary, use your headlights. Parking lights are for parked vehicles only.

- When driving away from a rising or setting sun, turn on your headlights. Drivers coming towards you may have trouble seeing your vehicle. Your headlights will help them see you.

Use your horn - People cannot see you unless they are looking your way. Your horn can get their attention. Use it whenever it will help prevent an accident. If there is no immediate danger, a light tap on the horn should be all you need. Give your horn a light tap:

- when a person on foot or on a bike appears to be moving into your lane of travel
- when you are passing a driver who starts to turn into your lane
- when a driver is not paying attention or may have trouble seeing you
- when coming to a place where you cannot see what is ahead - like a steep hill, a sharp curve, or exiting a narrow alley

If there is danger, do not be afraid to sound a SHARP BLAST on your horn. Do this:

- when a child or older person is about to walk, run, or ride into the street
- when another vehicle is in danger of hitting you
- when you have lost control of your vehicle and are moving towards someone

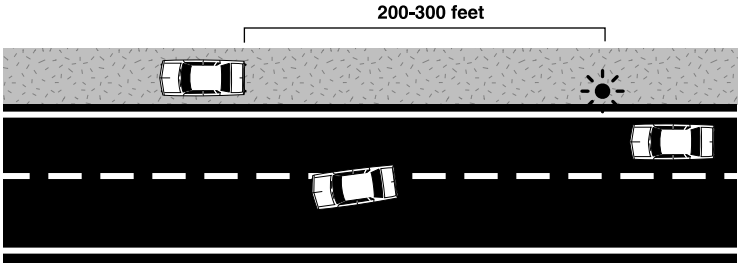
When not to use your horn - There are several occasions when you should not use your horn. They include:

- encouraging someone to drive faster or get out of the way
- apprising other drivers of an error
- greeting a friend
- around blind pedestrians.

Use emergency signals - If your vehicle breaks down on a highway, make sure that other drivers can see it. All too often crashes occur because a driver did not see a stalled vehicle until it was too late to stop.

If available, use your 2-way radio or telephone to notify authorities that your vehicle or someone else has broken down. Many roadways have signs that tell you the CB channel or telephone number to call in an emergency. If you are having vehicle trouble and have to stop;

- Get your vehicle off the road and away from traffic if at all possible
- Turn on your emergency flashers to show you are having trouble
- Try to stop where other drivers have a clear view of your vehicle if you cannot get your vehicle off the roadway. (Do not stop just over a hill or just around a curve.)
- Try to warn other road users that your vehicle is there. Place emergency flares behind the vehicle. This allows other drivers to change lanes if necessary.



- If you do not have emergency flares or other warning devices, stand by the side of the road where you are safe from traffic and wave traffic around your vehicle. Use a white cloth if you have one.
- Never stand in the roadway. Do not try to change a tire if it means you have to be in a traffic lane.
- Lift the hood or tie a white cloth to the antenna, side mirror or door handle to signal an emergency.

Stay out of the blind spot - Drive your vehicle where others can see you. Do not drive in another vehicle's blind spot.

- Try to avoid driving on either side and slightly to the rear of another vehicle. You will be in his/her blind spot. Either speed up or drop back so the other driver can see your vehicle more easily.
- When passing another vehicle, get through the other driver's blind spot as quickly as you can. The longer you stay there, the longer you are in danger of him/her turning into you.
- Never stay along side a large vehicle such as a truck or bus. These vehicles have large blind spots, and it's hard for drivers of large vehicles to see you.

Letting Others Know What You Are Doing

Generally other drivers expect you to keep doing what you are doing. You must warn them when you are going to change direction or slow down. This will give them time to react if needed, or at least not to be surprised by what you do.

Signal when you change direction - Signaling gives other drivers time to react to your moves. You should use your turn signals before you change lanes, turn right or left, merge into traffic, or park.

- Get into the habit of signaling every time you change direction. Signal even when you do not see anyone else around. It is easy to miss someone who needs to know what you are doing.
- Signal as early as you can. Try and signal at least three seconds before you make your move, although Delaware law states you must signal for at least 300 feet before turning.
- Be careful that you do not signal too early. If there are streets, driveways, or entrances between you and where you want to turn, wait until you have passed them to signal.
- If another vehicle is about to enter the street between you and where you plan to turn, wait until you have passed it to signal your turn. If you signal earlier, the other driver may think you plan to turn where they are, and they might pull into your path.
- After you have made a turn or lane change, make sure your turn signal is off. After small turns, the signals may not turn off by themselves. Turn it off if it has not clicked off by itself. If you don't, others might think you plan to turn again.

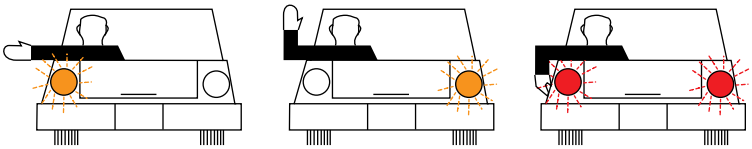
Signal when you slow down - Your brake lights let people know that you are slowing down. Always slow down as early as it is safe to do so. If you are going to stop or slow down at a place where another driver does not expect it, tap your brake pedal three or four times quickly to let those behind you know you are about to slow down.

Signal when you slow down:

- To turn off a roadway which does not have separate turn or exit lanes.
- To park or turn just before an intersection. Following traffic expects you to continue to the intersection.

- To avoid something in the road or stopped or slowing traffic that a driver behind you cannot see.

You must make a hand and arm signal or use your electrical directional (turn) signal or both continuously for at least 300 feet before turning. You should signal for a much greater distance (longer time interval) when traveling at a high speed. This is particularly important in changing lanes on all express highways such as the interstate system.



ADJUSTING SPEED

The faster your vehicle is going, the more distance it will take to turn, slow or stop. For example, stopping at 60 mph does not take twice the distance it takes at 30 mph as one might think, but over three times the distance. Driving safely means adjusting your speed for road and traffic conditions, how well you can see, and obeying speed limits.

Adjusting To Road Conditions

There are various road conditions where to be safe you must slow down. For example, you must slow down before a sharp curve, when the roadway is slippery, and when there is standing water on the road.

The only contact your vehicle has with the road is through the tires. How good a grip the tires have with the road depends on the type and condition of the tires and the type and condition of the road surface.

Many drivers do not pay enough attention to the condition of their tires or to the condition of the roadway. It is important that the tires be in good condition and have enough air in them. See the vehicle owner's manual for correct tire pressure.

You do not have as much traction on gravel or dirt roads as you do on concrete or asphalt roads. When driving on gravel or dirt, you must slow down. It will take you much longer to stop and it is much easier to skid when turning.

Curves - A vehicle can travel much faster in a straight line than it can in a curve. It is easy to go too fast in a curve. If you go too fast, then the tires will not be able to grip the road and the vehicle will skid. Always slow down before you enter the curve so you do not have to brake in the curve. Braking in a curve can cause the vehicle to skid.

Slippery roads - Slow down at the first sign of rain, snow or sleet. These all make the roadway slippery. When the road is slippery, the vehicle's tires do not grip as well as they do on a dry road. How slow should you go? On a wet road you should reduce your speed about 10 mph. On packed snow you should cut your speed in half. Use snow tires or chains when the road has snow on it. On ice, you must slow to a crawl. It is very dangerous to drive on ice.

If at all possible, do not drive when the roads are icy. In some areas where there is a lot of icy weather, special studded tires are allowed. Because these tires can cause road damage, they are not allowed in many areas or on certain roads, or during summer months. (See Prohibited Equipment.)

Some road surfaces are slippery at certain times or places. Here are some clues to help you spot slippery roads:

- On cold, wet days shady spots can be icy. These areas freeze first and dry out last.
- Overpasses and other types of bridges can have icy spots. The pavement on bridges can be icy even when other pavement is not. This is because bridges can be colder and more icy than other roadways.
- When the temperature is around the freezing point, ice can become wet. This makes it more slippery than at temperatures well below freezing.
- If it starts to rain on a hot day, pavement can be very slippery for the first few minutes. Heat causes the oil in the asphalt to come to the surface. The road is more slippery until the oil is washed off.

Water on the roadway - When it is raining or the road is wet, most tires have good traction up to about 35 mph. However as you go faster, your tires will start to ride up on the water, like water skis. This is called "hydroplaning." In a heavy rain, your tires can lose all traction with the road at about 50 mph. Bald or badly worn tires will lose traction at much lower speeds. The best way to keep from hydroplaning is to slow down in the rain or when the road is wet.

If it feels like your tires have lost traction with the surface of the road you should:

- Ease your foot off the gas pedal.
- Keep the steering wheel straight. Only try to turn if it's an emergency. If you must turn, do it slowly, or you will cause your vehicle to skid.
- Do not try to stop or turn until your tires are gripping the road again.

If you must drive in slippery conditions, review "Dealing with Skids" in the Emergencies section at the back of this manual.

Adjusting To Traffic

Vehicles moving in the same direction at the same speed cannot hit one another. Crashes involving two or more vehicles often happen when drivers go faster or slower than other vehicles on the road.

Keep pace with traffic - If you are going faster than traffic, you will have to keep passing others. Each time you pass someone, there is a chance for a collision. The vehicle you are passing may change lanes suddenly, or on a two-lane road, an oncoming vehicle may appear suddenly. Slow down and keep pace with other traffic. Speeding does not save more than a few minutes an hour.

Going much slower than other vehicles can be just as bad as speeding. It tends to make vehicles bunch up behind you and causes the other traffic to pass you. If vehicles are piled up behind you, pull over when safe to do so and let them pass. You should either drive faster or consider using roads with slower speeds.

Entering into traffic - When you merge with traffic, try to enter at the same speed that traffic is moving. High-speed roadways generally have ramps to give you time to build up your speed. Use the ramp to reach the speed of other vehicles before you pull onto the road. Do not drive to the end of the ramp and stop or you will not have enough room to get up to the speed of traffic. Also, drivers behind you will not expect you to stop. If they are watching the traffic on the main road, you may be hit from the rear. If you have to wait for space to enter a roadway, slow down on the ramp so you have some room to speed up before you have to merge.

Leaving traffic - Keep up with the speed of traffic as long as you are on the main road. If the road you are traveling has exit ramps, do not slow down until you move onto the exit ramp. When you turn from a high speed, two-lane roadway, try not to slow down too early if you have traffic following you. Tap your brakes and reduce your speed quickly but safely.

Slow moving traffic - Some vehicles cannot travel very fast or have trouble keeping up with the speed of traffic. If you spot these vehicles early, you have time to change lanes or slow down safely. Slowing suddenly can cause a traffic accident.

- Watch for large trucks and small underpowered cars on steep grades or when they are entering traffic. They can lose speed on long or steep hills, and it takes longer for these vehicles to get up to speed when they enter traffic.
- Farm tractors, animal-drawn vehicles, and roadway maintenance vehicles usually go 25 mph or less. These vehicles should have a slow-moving vehicle decal (an orange triangle) on the back.

Trouble spots - Wherever people or traffic gather your room to maneuver is limited. You need to lower your speed to have time to react in a crowded space. Here are some of the places where you may need to slow down:

- **Shopping centers, parking lots, and downtown areas** - These are busy areas with vehicles and people stopping, starting and moving in different directions.
- **Rush Hours** - Rush hours often have heavy traffic and drivers that always seem to be in a hurry.
- **Narrow bridges and tunnels** - Vehicles approaching each other are closer together.
- **Toll plazas** - Vehicles are changing lanes and preparing to stop and then speeding-up again when leaving the plaza. The number of lanes could change both before and after the plaza.
- **Schools, playgrounds, and residential streets** - These areas often have children present. Always be alert for children crossing the street or running or riding into the street without looking.
- **Railroad crossings** - You need to make sure that there are no trains coming, and that you have room to cross. Some crossings are bumpy, so you need to slow down to safely cross. DO NOT BLOCK THE CROSSING.

NIGHT DRIVING

Night driving is always more difficult than day driving, and it is more dangerous. Per mile driven, the fatal accident rate at night throughout the nation is two-and-one-half times as high as during the day. At night the driver does not see as far, as soon, or as much, and everything has a different appearance.

The glare of oncoming headlights greatly increases the difficulty, especially for older drivers. The glare causes the pupils of the eyes to contract, and it takes time for them to readjust to less intense light. During this recovery period you may be driving as though blind.

You can make your night driving safer in these ways:

- Most important of all, DON'T OVER DRIVE YOUR HEADLIGHTS.
- Keep your speed low enough to be able to stop in the distance you can see ahead.
- When meeting vehicles do not stare at their headlights. Use quick glances to:
  - Learn lane position of oncoming vehicles
  - Learn your own position.
  - Be certain of the **right edge** of road.
  - Look ahead for objects in your path.

DRIVE DEFENSIVELY

Don't trust the other driver to do what you think he is going to do, or what you would do in his place. For example, when his turn signal is flashing, don't assume that he will make a turn. Plan ahead and decide what to do if he doesn't turn as well as if he does. Don't assume that every driver will stop when there is a stop sign or a red traffic light. Some drivers deliberately "run" stop signs and traffic lights; others may be daydreaming.

You should constantly be thinking of an "escape route" as you drive. After a few weeks of practice this will become "second nature." Then, if a sudden emergency arises, you will have a plan of action ready. For instance, if you see an approaching vehicle start to pass and you think he may not have room, slow down of course; but having studied the shoulder and nearby area, you will know where you can go if necessary. The same consideration applies to curves, bridges, and hills.

HOW WELL CAN YOU SEE?

If something is in your path and you need to stop, you need to see it in time to be able to stop. It takes much longer and further to stop than many people think. If you have good tires and brakes and dry pavement:

- At 50 mph, it can take about 400 feet to react to something you see and bring your vehicle to a stop. That is about the length of a city block.
- At 30 mph, it can take about 200 feet to stop. That is almost half a city block in length.

If you cannot see 400 feet ahead, it means you may not be driving safely at 50 mph. If you cannot see 200 feet ahead, you may not be driving safely at 30 mph. By the time you see an object in your path, it may be too late to stop without hitting it.

Here are some things that limit how well you can see and hints you can follow to be a safer driver.

Darkness

It is harder to see at night. You must be closer to an object to see it at night than during the day. You must be able to stop within the distance you can see ahead with your headlights. Your headlights will let you see about 400 feet ahead. You should drive at a speed that allows you to stop within this distance or about 50 mph.

Rain, Fog or Snow

In a very heavy rain, snowstorm or thick fog, you may not be able to see much more than 200 feet ahead. When you cannot see any farther than that, you cannot safely drive faster than 30 mph. In a very heavy downpour, you may not be able to see well enough to drive. If this happens, pull off the road in a safe place and wait until it clears.

Hills And Curves

You may not know what is on the other side of a hill or just around a curve, even if you have driven the road many times. If a vehicle is stalled on the road just over a hill or around a curve, you must be able to stop. Whenever you come to a hill or curve where you cannot see over or around, adjust your speed so you can stop if necessary.

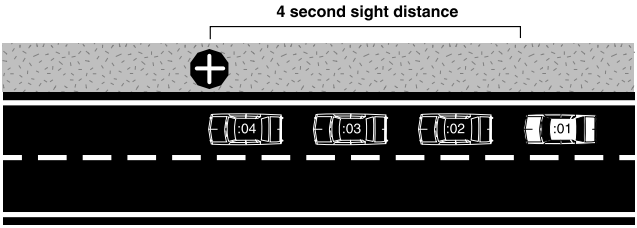
Parked Vehicles

Vehicles parked along the side of the road may block your view. People may be ready to get out of a vehicle or walk out from between parked vehicles. Give parked vehicles as much room as you can.

Sight-Distance Rule

Drive at a speed where you can always safely stop. To tell if you are driving too fast for conditions, use the "Four Second Sight Distance Rule." Pick out a stationary object as far ahead as you can clearly see (e.g. a sign or a telephone pole). Start counting "one-one-thousand, two-one-thousand, three-one-thousand, four-one-thousand." If you reach the object before you finish saying "four-one-thousand," you need to slow down. You are going too fast for your sight distance. You must not drive faster than the distance you can see. If you do, you are not safe and could injure or kill yourself or others.

You should also use the "Four Second Sight Distance Rule" at night to make sure you are not "over-driving your headlights."



Speed Limits

You must comply with speed limits. They are based on the design of the road, and the type of vehicles that use them. They take into account things you cannot see, such as side roads and driveways where people may pull out suddenly, and the amount of traffic that uses the road.

Remember, speed limits are posted for ideal conditions. If the road is wet or icy, if you cannot see well, or if traffic is heavy, then you must slow down. Even if you are driving under the posted speed limit, you can get a ticket for traveling too fast under these conditions.

SHARING SPACE

You always must share the road with others. The more distance you keep between yourself and everyone else, the more time you have to react. This space is like a safety cushion. The more you have, the safer it can be. This section describes how to make sure you have enough space around you when you drive.

Space Ahead

Rear-end crashes are very common. They are caused from drivers following too closely to be able to stop before hitting the vehicle ahead when it suddenly stops. There is an easy way to tell if you are following too closely. It is called the "two-second rule," and it works at any speed.

- Watch for when the rear of the vehicle ahead passes a sign, pole, or any other stationary point.
- Count the seconds it takes you to reach the same spot. ("One-thousand-one, one-thousand-two.")
- You are following too closely if you pass the mark before you finish counting.
- If so, drop back and then count again at another spot to check the new following distance. Repeat until you are following no closer than "two seconds."

There are situations where you need more space in front of your vehicle. In the following situations, you may need a four-second following distance to be safe.

- **On slippery roads** - Because you need more distance to stop your vehicle on slippery roads, you must leave more space in front of you. If the vehicle ahead suddenly stops, you will need the extra distance to stop safely.
- **When the driver behind you wants to pass** - Slow down to allow room in front of your vehicle. Slowing also will allow the pass to be completed sooner.
- **When following motorcycles** - If the motorcycle should fall, you need extra distance to avoid the rider. The chances of a fall are greatest on wet or icy roads, gravel roads, or metal surfaces such as bridges, gratings, or streetcar or railroad tracks.
- **When following drivers who cannot see you** - The drivers of trucks, buses, vans or vehicles pulling campers or trailers may not be able to see you when you are directly behind them. They could stop suddenly without knowing you are there. Large vehicles also block your view of the road ahead. Falling back allows you more room to see ahead.
- **When you have a heavy load or are pulling a trailer** - The extra weight increases your stopping distance.
- **When it is hard for you to see** - When it is hard for you to see ahead because of darkness or bad weather, you need to increase your following distance.
- **When being followed closely** - If you are being followed closely, you should allow extra room. You will then be able to stop without being hit from behind.
- **When following emergency vehicles** - Police vehicles, ambulances and fire trucks need more room to operate.
- **When approaching railroad crossings** - Leave extra room for vehicles required to come to a stop at railroad crossings, including transit buses, school buses, or vehicles carrying hazardous materials.
- **When stopped on a hill or incline** - Leave extra space when stopped on a hill or incline. The vehicle ahead may roll back when it starts up.

Space Behind

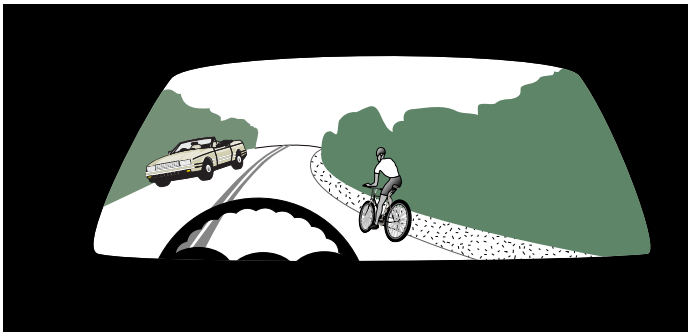
It is not always easy to maintain a safe distance behind your vehicle. However, you can help keep the driver at a safe distance by keeping a steady speed and signaling in advance when you have to slow down or turn.

- **Stopping to pick up or let off passengers** - Try to find a safe place out of traffic to stop.
- **Parallel parking** - If you want to parallel park and there is traffic coming behind you, put on your turn signal, pull next to the space, and allow following vehicles to pass before you park.
- **Driving slowly** - When you have to drive so slowly that you slow down other vehicles, pull to the side of the road when safe to do so and let them pass. There are "turnout" areas on some two lane roads you can use. Other two lane roads sometimes have "passing lanes."
- **Being tailgated** - Every now and then you may find yourself being followed closely or "tailgated" by another driver. If you are being followed too closely and there is a right lane, move over to the right. If there is no right lane, wait until the road ahead is clear then reduce speed slowly. This will encourage the tailgater to drive around you. Never slow down quickly to discourage a tailgater, all that does is increase your risk of being hit from behind.

Space To The Side

You need space on both sides of your vehicle to have room to turn or change lanes.

- Avoid driving next to other vehicles on multi-lane roads. Someone may crowd your lane or try to change lanes and pull into you. Move ahead or drop back of the other vehicle.
- Keep as much space as you can between yourself and oncoming vehicles. On a two-lane road, this means not crowding the center line. In general, it is safest to drive in the center of your lane.
- Make room for vehicles entering on a roadway that has two or more lanes. If there is no one next to you, move over a lane.
- Keep extra space between your vehicle and parked cars. Someone could step out from a parked vehicle, or from between vehicles, or a parked vehicle could pull out.
- Give extra space to pedestrians or bicycles, especially children. They can move into your path quickly and without warning. Do not share a lane with a pedestrian or bicyclist. Wait until it is safe to pass in the adjoining lane.
- "Split the difference." Split the difference between two hazards. For example, steer a middle course between oncoming and parked vehicles. However, if one is more dangerous than the other, leave a little more space on the dangerous side. In this example, if the oncoming vehicle is a tractor-trailer, leave a little more room on the side that the truck will pass.
- When possible, take potential hazards one at a time. For example, if you are overtaking a bicycle and an oncoming vehicle is approaching, slow down and let the vehicle pass first so that you can give extra room to the bicycle.



Space To Merge

Anytime you want to merge with other traffic, you need a gap of about four seconds. If you move into the middle of a four-second gap, both you and the vehicle that is now behind you have a two-second following distance. You need a four-second gap whenever you change lanes, enter a roadway, or when your lane merges with another travel lane.

- Do not try to merge into a gap that is too small. A small gap can quickly become even smaller. Enter a gap that gives you a big enough space cushion to be safe.
- If you want to cross several lanes, take them one at a time. Like going up or down stairs one step at a time, it is safest and easiest to merge one lane at a time. It is very difficult to determine that all the lanes are free and safe to cross. If you wait until all the lanes are clear, you can tie up traffic and even cause a crash.

Space To Cross Or Enter

When you cross traffic, you need a large enough gap to get all the way across the road. When you enter traffic, you need enough space to first turn and then to get up to speed.

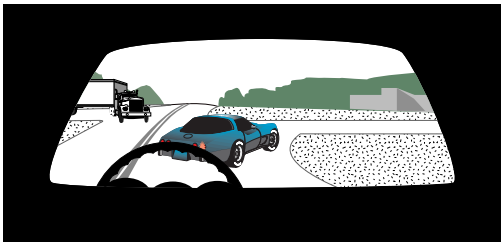
- When you cross traffic, you need room to get all the way across. Stopping halfway across is only safe when there is a median divider large enough for your vehicle. Do not stop in a divider where part of your vehicle is sticking into traffic.
- If you are turning left, make sure there are no vehicles or pedestrians blocking your path. You do not want to be caught waiting for a path to clear while stuck across a lane that has oncoming vehicles coming towards you.
- Even if you have the green light, do not start across the intersection if there are vehicles blocking your way. If you are caught in the intersection when the light changes to red you will block other traffic. You can get a ticket for blocking an intersection.
- Never assume another driver will share space with you or give you space. For example, do not turn just because an approaching vehicle has a turn signal on. The driver may plan to turn after passing your vehicle or may have forgotten to turn the signal off from a prior turn. This is particularly true of motorcycles as their signals often do not cancel by themselves. Wait until the other driver actually starts to turn and then go if it is safe to do so.
- When you cross railroad tracks, make sure you can cross without having to stop on the tracks.

Space To Pass

Whenever signs or road markings permit you to pass, you will have to judge whether you have enough room to pass safely. Do not count on having enough time to pass several vehicles at once. Be safe. As a general rule only pass one vehicle at a time.

- **Oncoming vehicles** - At a speed of 55 mph, you need about 10 seconds to pass. That means you need a 10-second gap in oncoming traffic and sight-distance to pass. You must judge whether you will have enough space to pass safely.

  At 55 mph you will travel over 800 feet in 10 seconds. So will an oncoming vehicle. That means you need over 1600 feet or about one-third of a mile to pass safely. It is hard to judge the speed of oncoming vehicles at this distance. They do not seem to be coming as fast as they really are. A vehicle that is far away generally appears to be standing still. In fact, if you can actually see that it is coming closer, it may be too close for you to pass. If you are not sure, wait to pass until you are sure that there is enough space.
- **Hills and curves** - You have to be able to see at least one-third of a mile or about 10 seconds ahead. Anytime your view is blocked by a curve or a hill, you should assume that there is an oncoming vehicle just out of sight. Therefore you should treat a curve or a hill as you do an oncoming vehicle. This means you should not start to pass if you are within one-third of a mile of a hill or curve.
- **Intersections** - It is dangerous to pass where a vehicle is likely to enter or cross the road. Such places include intersections, railroad crossings, and shopping center entrances. While you are passing, your view of people, vehicles, or trains



can be blocked by the vehicle you are passing. Also, drivers turning right into the approaching lane will not expect to find you approaching in their lane. They may not even look your way before turning.

- **Lane restrictions** - Before you pass, look ahead for road conditions and traffic that may cause other vehicles to move into your lane. You might lose your space for passing because of:
  - people or bicyclists near the road,
  - a narrow bridge or other situation that causes reduced lane width, or
  - a patch of ice, pot hole or something on the road.
- **Space to return** - Do not pass unless you have enough space to return to the driving lane. Do not count on other drivers to make room for you.
- **Railroad grade crossing** - do not pass if there is a railroad grade crossing ahead.

Before you return to the driving lane, be sure to leave enough room between yourself and the vehicle you have passed. When you can see both headlights of the vehicle you just passed in your rearview mirror, it is safe to return to the driving lane.

Space For Special Situations

There are certain drivers and other road users you should give extra room. Some are listed here.

Those who cannot see you - Anyone who cannot see you may enter your path without knowing you are there. Those who could have trouble seeing you include:

- drivers at intersections or driveways whose view is blocked by buildings, trees, or other vehicles,
- drivers backing into the roadway, or backing into or pulling out of parking spaces,
- drivers whose windows are covered with snow or ice, or are steamed-up, or
- pedestrians with umbrellas in front of their faces or with their hats pulled down.

People who are distracted - Even when others can see you, allow extra room or be extra cautious if you think they may be distracted. People who may be distracted include:

- delivery persons.
- construction workers, or
- children or drivers who are not paying attention to their driving.

People who may be confused - People who are confused may cause an unsafe situation. People who may be confused include:

- tourists or others who do not seem to know where they are going,
- drivers who slow down for what seems like no reason, or
- drivers looking for street signs or house numbers.

Drivers in trouble - If another driver makes a mistake, do not make it worse. Drivers who pass you when they do not have enough room for example. Slow down and let them return to the drive lane safely. If another driver needs to suddenly change lanes, slow down and let them merge. These gestures will keep traffic moving smoothly and safely.

BE IN SHAPE TO DRIVE

Driving safely is not always easy. In fact it is one of the most complex things that people do. It also is one of the few things we do regularly that can injure or kill us. It is worth the effort to be a careful driver.

Being a safe driver takes a lot of skill and judgment. This task is even more difficult when you are just learning to drive. Driving can easily take every ability you have. If anything happens so you are not up to your ability, you may not be a safe driver. Your ability to be a safe driver depends on being able to see clearly, not being overly tired, not driving while on drugs, being generally healthy and being emotionally fit to drive. In other words, being in "shape" to drive safely.

Vision

Good vision is a must for safe driving. You drive based on what you see. If you cannot see clearly, you will have trouble identifying traffic and road conditions, spotting potential trouble, or reacting in a timely manner.

Vision is so important that Delaware requires that you pass a vision test before you get a driver's license. To pass this test you must have at least 20/40 vision in at least one eye, with or without corrective lenses. Those with 20/50 vision are restricted to daylight driving only.

Other important aspects of vision are:

- **Side vision** - You need to see "out the corner of your eye." This lets you spot vehicles and other potential trouble on either side of you while you look ahead. Because you cannot focus on things to the side, you also must use your side mirrors and glance to the side if necessary.
- **Judging distances and speeds** - Even if you can see clearly, you still may not be able to judge distances or speeds very well. In fact you are not alone; many people have problems judging distances and speeds. It takes a lot of practice to be able to judge both. It is especially important in knowing how far you are from other vehicles, judging safe gaps when merging and when passing on two-lane roads, or when judging the speed of a train before crossing tracks safely.
- **Night vision** - Many people who can see clearly in the daytime have trouble seeing at night. It is more difficult for everyone to see at night than in the daytime. Some drivers have problems with glare while driving at night, especially with the glare of oncoming headlights. If you have problems seeing at night, don't drive more than is necessary, and be very careful when you do.

Because seeing well is so important to safe driving, you should have your eyes checked every year or two by an eye specialist. You may never know you have poor vision unless your eyes are tested.

If you need to wear glasses or contact lenses for driving, remember to:

- Always wear them when you drive, even if it is only to run down to the corner. If your driver's license says you must wear corrective lenses, you do not and you happen to be stopped, you could get a ticket.
- Try to keep an extra pair of glasses in your vehicle. If your regular glasses are broken or lost, you can use the spare pair to drive safely. This also can be helpful if you do not wear glasses all the time as it is easy to misplace them.
- Avoid using dark glasses or tinted contact lenses at night, even if you think they help with glare. The problem is that they cut down the light that you need to see clearly.

Hearing

Hearing can be helpful to safe driving. The sound of horns, a siren, or screeching tires can warn you of danger. Hearing problems, like bad eyesight, can come on so slowly that you do not notice it. Drivers who know they are deaf or have hearing problems can adjust and be safe drivers. These drivers learn to rely more on their vision and tend to stay more alert. Studies have shown that the driving records of hearing-impaired drivers are just as good as those drivers with good hearing.

Fatigue

You cannot drive as safely when you are tired as when you are rested. You do not see as well, nor are you as alert. It takes you more time to make decisions, and you do not always make good decisions. You can be more irritable and can get upset more easily. When you are tired you could fall asleep behind the wheel and crash, injuring or killing yourself or others.

There are things you can do to help from getting tired on a long trip.

- Try to get a normal night's sleep before you leave.
- Do not leave on a trip if you are already tired. Plan your trips so you can leave when you are rested.
- Do not take any medicine that can make you drowsy.
- Eat lightly. Do not eat a large meal before you leave. Some people get sleepy after they eat a big meal.
- Take breaks. Stop every hour or so or when you need to. Walk around, get some fresh air, and have some coffee, soda or juice. The few minutes spent on a rest break can save your life. Plan for plenty of time to complete your trip safely.
- Try not to drive late at night when you are normally asleep. Your body thinks it is time to go to sleep and will try to do so.
- Never drive if you are sleepy. It is better to stop and sleep for a few hours than to take a chance you can stay awake. If possible, switch driving tasks with another driver so you can sleep while they drive.

Drinking And Driving

Nationally, alcohol is involved in about 40% of the traffic crashes in which someone is killed. If you drink alcohol, even a little, your chances of being in an accident are much greater than if you did not drink any alcohol.

No one can drink alcohol and drive safely, even if you have been driving for many years. New drivers are more affected by alcohol than experienced drivers because they are still learning to drive.

Because drinking alcohol and then driving is so dangerous, the penalties are very tough. People who drive after drinking risk heavy fines, higher insurance rates, loss of license, and even jail sentences. Penalties in Delaware are summarized in the Alcohol, Drugs and Driving paragraph in Section Two of this manual.

Health

Many health problems can affect your driving – a bad cold, infection, or virus. Even little problems like a stiff neck, a cough, or a sore leg can affect your driving. If you are not feeling well and need to go somewhere, let someone else drive.

Some conditions can be very dangerous:

- **Epilepsy** - So long as it is under medical control, epilepsy generally is not dangerous. In Delaware those persons who are subject to loss of consciousness due to disease of the central nervous system must be certified that the infirmity is under sufficient control to permit them to drive safely.
- **Diabetes** - Diabetics who take insulin should not drive when there is any chance of an insulin reaction, blackout, convulsion, or shock. Such a situation could result from skipping a meal or snack or from taking the wrong amount of insulin. It also might be a good idea to have someone else drive for you during times when your doctor is adjusting your insulin dosage. If you have diabetes you also should have your eyes checked regularly for possible night blindness or other vision problems.
- **Heart condition** - People with heart diseases, high blood pressure, or circulation problems or those in danger of a blackout, fainting, or a heart attack should not get behind the wheel. If you are being treated by a doctor for a heart condition, ask if the condition could affect your driving safely.

Emotions

Emotions can have a great affect on your driving safely. You may not be able to drive well if you are overly worried, excited, afraid, angry, or depressed.

- If you are angry or excited, give yourself time to cool off. If necessary take a short walk, but stay off the road until you have calmed down.
- If you are worried, down, or are upset about something, try to keep your mind on your driving. Some find listening to the radio helps.
- If you are impatient, give yourself extra time for your driving trip. Leave a few minutes early. If you have plenty of time, you may not tend to speed or do other things that can get you a traffic ticket or cause a crash. Don't be impatient waiting for a train to cross in front of you. Driving around lowered gates or trying to beat the train can be fatal.

EMERGENCIES

All drivers sooner or later will find themselves in an emergency situation. As careful as you are, there are situations that could cause a problem for you. If you are prepared, you may be able to prevent any serious outcomes.

VEHICLE EMERGENCIES

There is always a chance of a vehicle problem while driving. You should follow the recommended maintenance schedule listed in the vehicle owner's manual. Following these preventive measures greatly reduces the chance your vehicle will have a problem. Possible vehicle failures and what you can do if they happen are listed below.

Steering Wheel Locking Device

Never turn your vehicle's ignition to the "lock" position while it is still in motion. This will cause the steering to lock if you try to turn the steering wheel, and you will loose control of your vehicle.

Brake Failure

If your brakes stop working:

- Pump the brake pedal several times. This will often build up enough brake pressure to allow you to stop.
- If that does not work, use the parking brake. Pull on the parking brake handle slowly so you will not lock the rear wheels and cause a skid. Be ready to release the brake if the vehicle does start to skid.

- If that does not work, start shifting to lower gears and look for a safe place to slow to a stop. Make sure the vehicle is off the roadway. Do not drive the vehicle without brakes.

If your brakes are wet:

- After driving through deep water you should test your brakes. They may pull to one side or not hold at all.
- To dry brakes, put car in low gear, drive slowly, and apply brakes lightly.
- Test every 200 feet, continuing until braking action returns to normal.

The Following May Save Your Life

Running Off The Pavement

Running off the pavement causes serious accidents. To avoid doing so, be attentive. If you run off the pavement or are forced off:

- Don't panic.
- Don't jam on the brakes. Brake carefully or not at all.
- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Grip the steering wheel tightly as the unusual stress may twist it from your hands.
- Don't try and get back onto the pavement until you have vehicle under control, your speed is reduced to 15 MPH or less, and you have looked for traffic behind you. Then turn front wheels sharply toward pavement. Be careful not to cross the centerline.

Tire Blowout

If a tire suddenly goes flat:

- Hold the steering wheel tightly and keep the vehicle going straight.
- Slow down gradually. Take your foot off the gas pedal and use the brakes lightly.
- Do not stop on the road if at all possible. Pull off the road in a safe place.

Power Failure

If the engine dies while you are driving:

- Keep a strong grip on the steering wheel. Be aware that the steering may be difficult to turn, but you can turn it.
- Pull off the roadway. The brakes will still work but you may have to push very hard on the brake pedal.

Headlight Failure

If your headlights suddenly go out:

- Try the headlight switch a few times.
- If that does not work, put on the emergency flashers, turn signals, or fog lights if you have them.
- Pull off the road as soon as possible.

Gas Pedal Sticks

The motor keeps going faster and faster:

- Keep your eyes on the road.
- Quickly shift to neutral.
- Pull off the road when safe to do so.
- Turn off the engine.

Fire

- If smoke comes from under the hood get off the roadway.
- If no chemical fire extinguisher is available, use dirt or sand to smother the fire. Do not use water – burning gas will float on it and spread the fire.
- If fire gets out of control, move at least 100 feet away from vehicle as the gas tank may explode.

Stalling On Railroad Tracks

- Look both ways for trains. If none are coming, try and restart your vehicle. If it does not start, or you are not sure whether a train is coming, get out and go far away from your vehicle.
- If there is a train coming, get out, get off the tracks. Get as far away as you can, and run in the general direction the train is coming from, so that debris from the collision will not hit you.

AVOIDING COLLISIONS

When it looks like a collision may happen, many drivers panic and fail to act. In some cases they do act, but they do something that does not help to reduce the chance of the collision. There almost always is something you can do to avoid the crash or reduce the impact of the crash. In avoiding a collision, drivers have three options: stop, turn, or speed up.

Stopping Quickly

Many newer vehicles have an ABS (Antilock Braking System). Be sure to read the vehicle owner's manual on how to use the ABS. The ABS system will allow you to stop without skidding. In general, if you need to stop quickly:

With ABS

- Press on the brake pedal as hard as you can and keep pressing on it.
- You might feel the brake pedal pushing back when the ABS is working. Do not let up on the brake pedal. The ABS system will only work with the brake pedal pushed down.

Without ABS

- You can cause the vehicle to go into a skid if you brake too hard.
- Apply the brakes as hard as you can without locking them.
- If the brakes lock up, you will feel the vehicle start to skid. Quickly let up on the brake pedal.
- As soon as the vehicle stops skidding, push down on the brake pedal again. Keep doing this until the vehicle has stopped.

Turning Quickly

In most cases, you can turn the vehicle quicker than you can stop it. You should consider turning in order to avoid a collision.

Make sure you have a good grip with both hands on the steering wheel. Once you have turned away or changed lanes, you must be ready to keep the vehicle under control. Some drivers steer away from one collision only to end up in another. Always steer in the direction you want the vehicle to go.

With ABS - One aspect of having ABS, is that you can turn your vehicle while braking without skidding. This is very helpful if you must turn and stop or slow down.

Without ABS - If you do not have ABS, you must use a different procedure to turn quickly. You should step on the brake pedal, then let up and turn the steering wheel. Braking will slow the vehicle, put more weight on the front tires, and allow for a quicker turn. Do not lock up the front wheels while braking, or turn so sharply that the vehicle can only plow ahead.

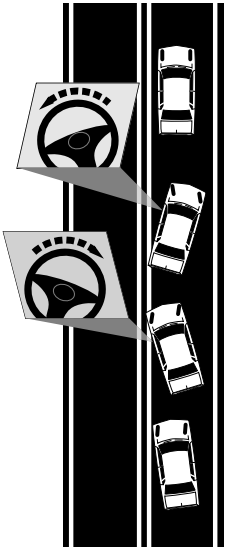
Remember that generally it is better to run off the road than to crash head-on into another vehicle.

Speeding Up

Sometimes it is best or necessary to speed up to avoid a collision. This may happen when another vehicle is about to hit you from the side or from behind and there is room to the front of you to get out of danger. Be sure to slow down once the danger has passed.

Dealing With Skids

Any road that is safe under normal conditions can be dangerous when it is wet or has snow or ice on it. High speeds under normal conditions also increase the possibility of a skid if you must turn or stop suddenly. Skids are caused when the tires can no longer grip the road. As you cannot control a vehicle when it is skidding, it is best not to cause your vehicle to skid in the first place. Skids are caused by drivers traveling too fast for conditions.



If your vehicle begins to skid:

- Stay off the brake. Until the vehicle slows, your brakes will not work and could cause you to skid more.
- Steer. Turn the steering wheel in the direction you want the vehicle to go. As soon as the vehicle begins to straighten out, turn the steering wheel back the other way. If you do not do so, your vehicle may swing around in the other direction and you could start a new skid.
- Continue to steer. Continue to correct your steering, left and right, until the vehicle is again moving down the road under your control.

PROTECT YOURSELF IN COLLISIONS

You may not always be able to avoid a collision. Try everything you can to keep from getting hit. If nothing works, try to lessen any injuries that could result from the crash. The most important thing you can do is to use your lap and shoulder belts. Besides your safety belts, there are a couple of other things that could help prevent more serious injuries.

Hit From The Rear

If your vehicle is hit from the rear, your body will effectively be thrown backwards. Press yourself against the back of your seat, and put your head against the head restraint. Be ready to apply your brakes so that you will not be pushed into another vehicle.

Hit From The Side

If your vehicle is hit from the side, your body will effectively be thrown towards the side that is hit. Air bags will not help in this situation. Your lap and shoulder belts are needed to help keep you behind the wheel. Get ready to steer or brake to prevent your vehicle from hitting something else.

Hit From The Front

If your vehicle is about to be hit from the front, it is important to try and have a "glancing blow" rather than being struck head on. This means that if a collision is going to happen, you should try to turn the vehicle. At worse, you hit with a glancing blow. You might miss it. If your vehicle has an air bag, it will inflate. It also will deflate following the crash, so be ready to prevent your vehicle from hitting something else. You must use your lap and shoulder belts to keep you behind the wheel and to protect you if your vehicle has a second crash.

CRASHES/ACCIDENTS

Do not stop at an accident unless you are involved or if emergency help has not yet arrived. Keep your attention on your driving and keep moving, watching for people who might be in or near the road. Never drive to the scene of an accident, fire, or other disaster just to look. You may block the way for police, firefighters, ambulances, tow trucks, and other rescue vehicles.

No matter how good a driver you are, there may be a time when you are involved in a crash. If you are involved in an accident you must stop. If you are involved in an accident with a parked vehicle, you must try and locate the owner. If any person is injured or killed, the police must be notified. It is a crime for you to leave a crash site where your vehicle was involved, if there is an injury or death, before police have talked to you and gotten all the information they need about the crash.

You may want to carry a basic vehicle emergency kit. These kits have emergency flares, first aid supplies and basic tools.

At The Accident Scene

- Stop your vehicle at the accident site. You must not move the vehicle from the place of the accident except to move an injured person for medical help.
- Do not stand or walk in traffic lanes. You could be struck by another vehicle.
- Turn off the ignition of wrecked vehicles. Do not smoke around wrecked vehicles. Fuel could have spilled and fire is a real danger.
- If there are power lines down with wires in the road, do not go near them.
- Make sure that other traffic will not be involved in the crash. Use flares or other warning devices to alert traffic of the accident.

If Someone Is Injured

- Get help. Make sure the police and emergency medical or rescue squad have been called. If there is a fire, tell this to the police when they are called.
- Do not move the injured unless they are in a burning vehicle or in other immediate danger of being hit by another vehicle. Moving a person can make his/her injuries worse.
- First help anyone who is not already walking and talking. Check for breathing then check for bleeding.
- If there is bleeding, apply pressure directly on the wound with your hand or with a cloth. Even severe bleeding can almost always be stopped or slowed by putting pressure on the wound.
- Do not give injured persons anything to drink, not even water.
- To help prevent an injured person from going into shock, cover them with a blanket or coat to keep them warm.

Reporting Accidents

The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in apparent damage to property shall immediately stop such vehicle at the scene of the accident. If the damage resulting from such an accident is to the property of the driver only, with no damage to the person or property of another, the driver need not stay at the scene of the accident but shall immediately report the accident.

The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to any person shall immediately stop such vehicle at the scene of the accident. The driver shall render aid to any person injured, including the carrying of the injured person to a hospital or physician for medical treatment as is needed.

Exchange information with other drivers involved in the crash. If there is personal property damage, injury, or death, the driver shall provide his/her name, address, vehicle registration number, driver's license number and insurance company and the policy number.

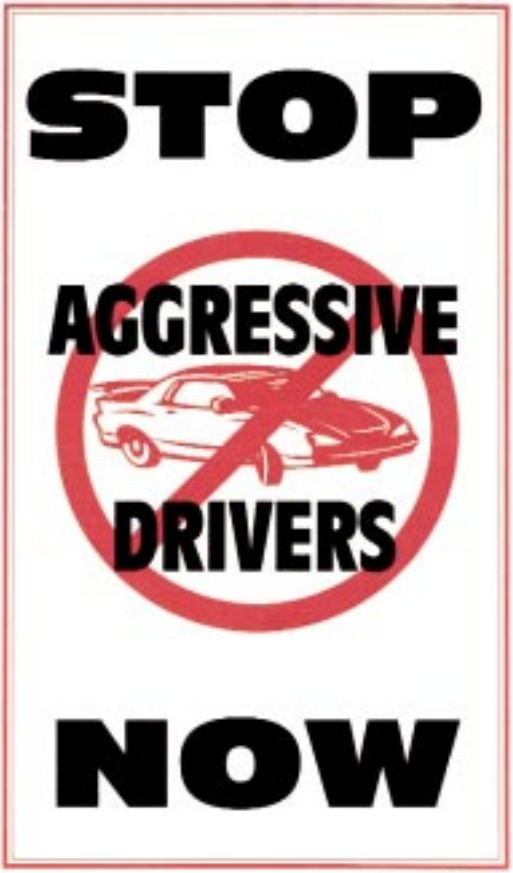
Get the names and addresses of all people involved in the accident and any witnesses including the injured persons.

Should the accident involve a parked vehicle, try to find the owner. If you cannot, leave a note in a place where it can be seen with information on how the owner can reach you and the date and time of the accident.

The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident shall immediately report such accident to the police agency which has primary jurisdictional responsibility for the location in which the accident occurred:

1. When the accident results in injury or death to any person;
2. When the accident occurs on a public highway, and it results in property damage to an apparent extent of $500 or more;
3. When it appears that an accident involves a driver whose physical ability has been impaired as a result of alcohol or drug use.

Accident forms are available from most insurance agents. The form on the following pages may be useful when reporting an accident.



Delaware's Law Enforcement Agencies ...

will be out in force to stop and ticket those individuals who carelessly endanger our lives each and every day.

YOU CAN ASSIST US BY:

- Remaining Calm
- Not Taking Traffic Problems Personally
- Avoiding Eye Contact with Aggressive Drivers
- Not Challenging Them
- Staying Away from Erratic Drivers

ADDITIONALLY,

you can halp make Delaware's roadways safer by reporting Agressive Driving with your cellular phone. Get their tag number and report it.

CAll 911

ACCIDENT REPORTING FORM

Accident Date Time

Street/Hwy./Intersection City State

Police Dept./Sheriff Case # Tickets Issued? Yes_____ No _____

If yes, to whom? Charge

OTHER VEHICLE:

Year Make Model

Color License Plate # State

DRIVER OF OTHER VEHICLE:

Name Age Apparent Injuries? Yes_____ No_____

Street City State Zip

Home Phone Business Phone Ext.

Drivers License #/State Insurance Carrier

REGISTERED OWNER OF OTHER VEHICLE:

Name

Street City State Zip

Home Phone Business Phone Ext.

Drivers License #/State Insurance Carrier

PASSENGERS IN OTHER VEHICLE

Name

Street City State Zip

Home Phone Business Phone Ext.

Age Sex Ht. Wt. Position in vehicle at time of accident

Injury Type

Name

Street City State Zip

Home Phone Business Phone Ext.

Age Sex Ht. Wt. Position in vehicle at time of accident

Injury Type

WITNESSES:

Name

Street | City | State | Zip

Home Phone | Business Phone | Ext.

Name

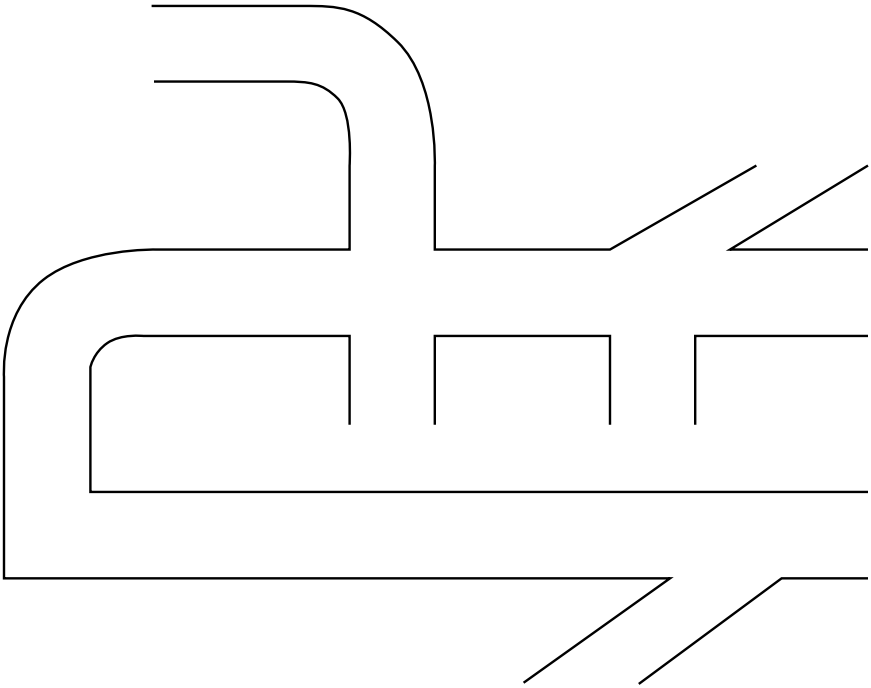
Street | City | State | Zip

Home Phone | Business Phone | Ext.

DESCRIPTION:

DRAWINGS:

Suggestion: Record light, signs, etc.



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10 BIG TIPS

for safely using your wireless phone while driving

1. **Get to know your wireless phone and its features such as speed dial and redial.**
2. **When available, use a hands free device.**
3. **Position your wireless phone within easy reach.**
4. **Let the person you are speaking with know you are driving; if necessary, suspend the call in heavy traffic or hazardous weather conditions.**
5. **Do not take notes or look up phone numbers while driving.**
6. **Dial sensibly and assess the traffic; if possible, place calls when you are not moving or before pulling into traffic.**
7. **Do not engage in stressful or emotional conversations that may divert your attention from the road.**
8. **Dial 9-1-1 or other local emergency number to report serious emergencies—it's free from your wireless phone!**
9. **Use your wireless phone to help others in emergencies.**
10. **Call roadside assistance or a special non-emergency wireless number when necessary.**

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For more information, please call 1-888-901-SAFE or visit our website www.wow-com.com™

Provided by the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association

INFORMATION PHONES

Wilmington: 434-3200 **Dover: 744-2500**
New Castle: 326-5000 **Georgetown: 853-1000**

MAILING ADDRESSES

WILMINGTON DMV	NEW CASTLE DMV	DOVER DMV	GEORGETOWN DMV
2230 Hessler Blvd.	Airport/Churchman Rd.	P.O. Box 698	P.O. Box 399
New Castle, DE	New Castle, DE	Dover, DE	Georgetown, DE
19720	19720	19903	19947

LOCATIONS (Please Do Not Use for Mail)

- **Greater Wilmington DMV** at Minquadale is immediately South of the Rt. 13 and I-495 Interchange. Turn from Rt. 13 into Hessler Boulevard which leads straight into DMV.
- **New Castle DMV** is on Airport Rd., West of the Wilmington Airport, just South of Churchman and Airport Roads intersection.
- **Georgetown DMV** is West of Georgetown on South Bedford St. extended, and just before the Rt. 113 intersection.
- **Dover DMV** is on Transportation Circle, behind the DELDOT building on Rt. 113, just South of the Rt. 13 and 113 split.

HOURS AT ALL OFFICES

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
12:00 Noon to 8:00 PM on Wednesdays

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