

## INSTRUCTION PERMIT

### How do I get an Instruction Permit?

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

### What *can* I do with this permit?

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

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

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

## RESTRICTED MINOR'S PERMIT

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

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

### What *can* I do with a Restricted Permit?

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

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

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

### Passenger Limit While Driving Without Adult Supervision on Restricted Permit

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

## UNRESTRICTED LICENSE

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

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

## PENALTIES

### What if I get a ticket?

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

### How can I get my permit or license back?

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

## FAQ's

### Can I use my hospital birth certificate?

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

### Can my parent/guardian cancel my permit or license?

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

## Distracted Driving

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

### What is required?

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

## SOUTH DAKOTA TEEN DRIVER GRADUATED LICENSING



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

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

Phone: 605-773-6883

### Please bring the following:

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

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

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