

# COLORADO

## Driver Handbook



**COLORADO**  
Department of Revenue  
Division of Motor Vehicles

[Colorado.gov/DMV](https://colorado.gov/dmv)



**As a part of the state's continuing commitment to safety on the roads and responsible driver education, I am proud to present the Colorado Driver Handbook.**

John Hickenlooper  
Governor  
State of Colorado



**DON'T DRINK  
AND DRIVE**

***THE HEAT IS ON!***

To report a drunk driver, call CSP (\*277) from a cellular phone.  
The call is free and may save lives!



"The Heat is On" is sponsored by the Colorado Department of Transportation and supported by the Colorado State Patrol and law enforcement across the State of Colorado.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Section One: The Driver License</b>	4
About this handbook	4
1: Licensing requirements	4
2: Types of instruction permits and licenses	6
3: New resident and renewal	8
4: Duplicate driver license	8
5: Extension of a Colorado driver license	8
6: Keeping your license	9
<b>Section Two: Colorado Motor Vehicle Laws</b>	10
7: Understanding Colorado’s motor vehicle laws	10
8: Driving under the influence	12
<b>Section Three: Before You Drive</b>	13
9: Be a safe driver	13
<b>Section Four: Rules of the Road</b>	15
10: Basic driving	15
11: Traffic controls	15
<b>Section Five: Safe Driving Tips</b>	27
12: Defensive driving	27
<b>Section Six: Sharing the Road</b>	28
13: Large trucks and buses	28
13.1: Railroad crossings	29
13.2: Light rail	29
13.3: Aggressive drivers	30
13.4: Pedestrians	30
13.5: Bicycles	31
<b>Section Seven: The Drive Test</b>	31
<b>Section Eight: Emergencies</b>	32
14: Avoiding collisions	32
14.1: Vehicle emergencies	33
14.2: Animals	33
15: Accidents	33
<b>Section Nine: Organ and Tissue Donation</b>	34
16: Donate Life Colorado Organ and Tissue Donor Registry	34

# SECTION ONE: THE DRIVER LICENSE

## About this handbook

The purpose of this driver handbook is to provide you with information on how to become a safe driver.

The Driver Handbook is a summary of the laws, rules and safe driving practices that apply to all persons who drive a vehicle in the state of Colorado. It is based on current laws, legislation and department policies and is subject to change. It is not a book of laws and should not be used as a basis for any legal claims or actions. It is a book of information only and does not supersede Colorado Revised Statutes. Traffic regulations in cities, towns, counties and federal territories may go beyond state laws, as long as they do not conflict with state law. For more information on Colorado motor vehicle laws refer to the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) Vehicles and Traffic, Title 42 Common Code book.



Do not discard this handbook after you have obtained your license; keep it as a reference or pass it on to another applicant.

## 1: Licensing requirements

Any person who operates a motor vehicle, motor-driven cycle or moped on the public streets and highways in Colorado is required to be at least 16 years of age and have a valid driver license.

**Resident (C.R.S. 42-1-102 [81]):** Any person who owns or operates a business in Colorado or who has resided within the state continuously for 90 days or who has obtained gainful employment within this state, whichever shall occur first, is considered a Colorado resident.

**Special exemptions (C.R.S. 42-2-102 and 24-60-1106):** The following persons need not obtain a Colorado license provided they are 16 years of age or older and possess a valid license from their home state or state of last assignment.

**Colorado residents employed in other states:** Any resident of Colorado who is employed in another state, where the laws of that state require licensing to drive in order to engage in a regular trade or profession, does not need a Colorado driver license as long as such other license to drive is valid and the employment is not terminated. This special exemption applies only if the other state is a member of the Interstate Driver's License Compact Agreement.

**Military:** Anyone who is serving as a member of the United States Armed Forces on active duty; this also includes the member's spouse and children.

**Foreign military personnel:** On duty or assigned to temporary duty with the United States Armed Forces; this also includes the member's spouse and children.

**Students:** Any nonresident who is temporarily residing in Colorado for the principle purpose of furthering his/her education and is considered a nonresident for tuition purposes. Students must have a valid driver license from his/her state of residence.

**Non-resident aliens:** Foreign tourists, instructors and business persons may drive any private (non-commercial) vehicle with their personal driver license.

### 1.1: Persons who cannot be issued a Colorado driver license

- Any person who does not submit proof of their date of birth, proof of identity or both, as required by the department.
- Any person unable to pass the driver license examinations.
- Any person with a license from another state that does not surrender that license (C.R.S. 24-60-1106).
- Any person under suspension, revocation or denial of driving privileges in this or any other state.
- Any person adjudicated to be mentally incompetent, an alcoholic, or an habitual user of narcotic drugs.
- Emancipated minors without an Affidavit of Liability (DR 2460).
- Any person who has unpaid fines or outstanding judgments for traffic violations.
- Any person under 16 years of age.

### 1.2: Obtaining a Colorado driver license

It is recommended that all applicants allow ample time to complete the process for obtaining a driver license.

Depending on what is required (written test, drive test, etc.), the length of the process can vary significantly.

Additionally, as Colorado issues different types of licenses that have different requirements, please refer to the appropriate sections of this handbook for guidance on your particular situation.

Generally, Mondays, Fridays and days after holidays are the busiest. Appointments are available at most offices. Please check [Colorado.gov/DMV](http://Colorado.gov/DMV) to verify the information you need before visiting an office.

**To apply for a driver license or instruction permit:**

Applicants who are U.S. citizens, or who can demonstrate permanent lawful presence in the U.S., are required to:

1. Submit identification establishing their date of birth, full legal name, identity and lawful presence in the U.S. such as (photocopies or notarized copies are not accepted):
  - U.S. passport with the applicant's full legal name.
  - Certified state or county birth certificate.
  - Consular report of birth abroad.
  - Previous Colorado license or identification card.

- Permanent resident card (I-551).
  - Certificate of naturalization.
  - Social Security Number (SSN).
  - Two documents that demonstrate your Colorado residence address.
2. Pass all required examinations - physical, vision, written and driving test.
  3. Pay the required fees.
  4. Be fingerprinted (C.R.S. 42-2-104) and photographed (C.R.S. 42-2-114).

Applicants who can demonstrate temporary lawful presence are required to:

1. Submit identification establishing their date of birth, full legal name, identity and temporary lawful presence in the U.S. such as:
  - Foreign passport with photograph accompanied by U.S. Visa and I-94 that is verified by SAVE.
  - Valid Employment Authorization Document (EAD) including I-766 verified by SAVE.
  - Pending application for asylum in the U.S..
  - Pending or approved application for temporary protected status in the U.S..
  - Approved deferred action status.
  - One document that demonstrates your Colorado residence address.
2. Pass all required examinations - physical, vision, written and driving test.
3. Pay the required fees.
4. Be fingerprinted (C.R.S.42-2-104) and photographed (C.R.S. 42-2-114).

**Please note:** Applicants under the section above are part of the Colorado Road and Community Safety Act (CO-RCSA) (C.R.S. 42-2-501) and may visit any state driver license office.

Applicants who are unable to demonstrate lawful presence in the U.S. are required to:

1. Submit identification establishing their date of birth, full legal name and identity (from their country of origin) with a:
  - Passport.
  - Consular identification card.
  - Military identification document.
2. Demonstrate residency in either of the following two ways:
  - Sign an affidavit that states the applicant is currently a resident of Colorado, present evidence of residence in Colorado, and present certified proof of tax filing (from the Department of Revenue) for the immediately preceding year;

or

- Sign an affidavit that states that the applicant has continuously been a resident in Colorado for the immediately preceding twenty-four months and present evidence of residence in Colorado for the immediately preceding twenty-four months.
3. Submit documentation of their Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) issued by the Internal Revenue Service.
  4. Pass all required examinations - physical, vision, written and driving test.
  5. Pay the required fees.
  6. Be fingerprinted (C.R.S. 42-2-104) and photographed (C.R.S. 42-2-114).

**Please note:** Applications under the section above are part of CO-RCSA (C.R.S. 42-2-501) and will be by appointment only at the following offices:

- Westgate: 3265 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood, Colo. 80227.
- Colorado Springs: 2447 N. Union Blvd, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80909.
- Grand Junction: 222 S. 6th, Ste 111, Grand Junction, Colo. 81501.

**Driving record analysis:** The Division of Motor Vehicles examines your driving record and present license status to determine eligibility before issuing a new license.

**Physical aptitude analysis:** This is a determination by the driver license employee of any physical ailment or disability which may impact your driving. A confidential medical examination report is required for many physical ailments or disabilities such as epilepsy or paralysis.

**Vision screening:** Your vision will be tested to determine if you can see well enough to drive safely. If the test discloses that you need corrective lenses to meet the minimum visual standards, your license will show this restriction. Failure to meet established vision standards will result in initial rejection and referral to a vision specialist for correction and recommendations at the applicant's expense. The minimum vision standard is 20/40.

**Written test:** This covers various aspects of driving knowledge and safety. The test questions will cover the contents of this handbook, including road signs, driving under the influence, as well as other driving rules, safety rules and legal items.

While no appointment is necessary for the written test, it is recommended. Please visit [Colorado.gov/DMV](https://colorado.gov/dmv) to schedule an appointment.

No basic written tests will be started within 30 minutes of the scheduled office closing time and no Commercial Driver License (CDL) written tests will be started within one hour of the scheduled office closing time.

**Please note:** For individuals unable to demonstrate lawful presence in the U.S., written tests will be administered by appointment only.

**Driving test:** All drive tests are by appointment only and will not be scheduled within one hour prior to the scheduled office closing time.

### 1.3: Classes of Colorado driver licenses

Colorado driver licenses are issued in various classes according to your age group and the type of vehicle for which you qualify.

All classes of licenses are valid for chauffeur purposes. **Chauffeur** is defined as: “Every person who is employed for the principal purpose of operating a motor vehicle and every person who drives a motor vehicle while in use as a public or common carrier of persons or property.”

**Class R (regular license):** Any motor vehicle which is not considered a motorcycle or commercial vehicle as described below.

At a minimum, a valid Class R license is required for the operation of low-power scooters (engine size of 50cc or less or 4476 watts or less, if electric, 40 MPH max.) and low-speed electric vehicles.

**Class A, B and C:** A driver must have a CDL to operate the following types of vehicles:

- Any motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or combination vehicle weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more.
- Any vehicle that transports quantities of hazardous materials that require warning placards under Department of Transportation regulations.
- Any vehicle that is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
- The GVWR or GCWR of the vehicle(s) is not the weight of the vehicle(s), but the weight rating that the manufacturer assigned to the vehicle(s).

For further information including requirements, qualifications, endorsements and restrictions on the Commercial Driver License, please obtain a Commercial Driver Manual from [Colorado.gov/DMV](https://colorado.gov/dmv) or at any driver license office.

For information on adding a motorcycle endorsement to either a basic or Commercial Driver License, please obtain a Motorcycle Operator’s Handbook from any driver license office or from [Colorado.gov/DMV](https://colorado.gov/dmv).

### 1.4: Parent consent for minors/affidavit of liability and guardianship

If you are under 18 years of age, an Affidavit of Liability (DR 2460) must be signed by a parent, stepparent, grandparent with power of attorney (POA), legal guardian or spouse 18 years of age or older, or any other responsible person willing to accept legal liability for the minor. If the

signer is a grandparent with power of attorney, the original POA must be presented and a copy of the POA must be surrendered upon application for the permit.

If the signer is a legal guardian, original court documents showing guardianship, custody or adoption must be presented. Spouses must show their marriage certificate.

The affidavit must be signed in front of the examiner or a notary public. Whoever signs the affidavit agrees to take legal responsibility for your actions as a driver. If the signer decides later not to accept responsibility for your driving, that person may withdraw their signature and your permit/license will be canceled.

## 2: Types of instruction permits and licenses

**Instruction permits:** An instruction permit allows limited driving privileges for people learning to drive. Regardless of age, if you are driving with an instruction permit, you must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older who holds a valid Colorado license and is riding in the seat beside you.

**Age groups:** See the following categories for specific requirements and restrictions other than those listed previously.

**Minor age groups:**

- **15 to 15 and six months:** Can apply for a driver education permit if they have completed a department approved driver education course within the last six months.
- **15 and six months to 16:** Can apply for a minor instruction permit if they have completed either a 30 hour department approved driver education course within the last six months or completed a prequalification driver awareness program approved by the department.

**Driver awareness permit:** Available to customers 15 years, six months to 16 years of age.

- Expires three years after issuance.
- Must present a completed affidavit of liability and guardianship and documentation indicating completion of an approved driver awareness program.
- While holding this type of permit you may only drive with the person(s) who signed the affidavit of liability. This restriction is automatically lifted when you reach 18 years of age.
- While you are under 18 years of age, if the person(s) who signed the DR 2460 does not hold a valid Colorado driver license, they may appoint an alternate permit supervisor to supervise you while you are driving. The alternate permit supervisor must hold a valid Colorado driver license and be 21 years of age or older.

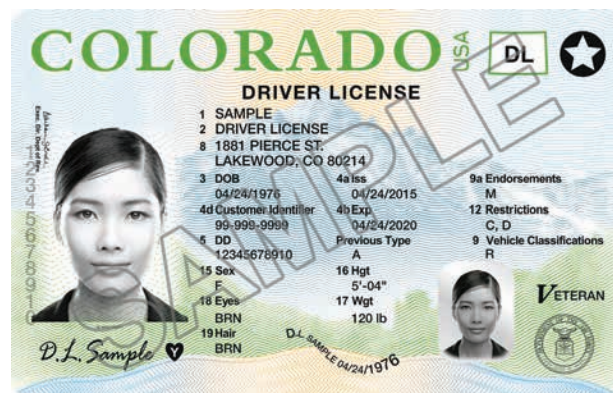
- Drive time with an alternate permit supervisor will count toward the 50 hour total required on the log sheet. The person who signed the DR 2460 may also allow any person 21 years of age or older, who holds a valid license, to supervise you while you are driving, but that driving time does not count toward the 50 hour total required on the log sheet.

**Minor instruction permit:** Available to customers 16 years to 21 years of age.

- Expires three years after issuance or on 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.
- Minors under 18 must present a completed DR 2460.
- While holding this type of permit, you may only drive with the person who signed the DR 2460 until you are 18.
- While you are under 18, if the person who signed the DR 2460 does not hold a valid Colorado driver license, they may appoint an alternate permit supervisor to supervise you while you are driving. The alternate permit supervisor must hold a valid Colorado driver license and be 21 years of age or older. Drive time with an alternate permit supervisor will count toward the 50 hour total required on the log sheet. The person(s) who signed the DR 2460 may also allow any person 21 years of age or older, who holds a valid license, to supervise you while you are driving but that driving time does not count toward the 50 hour total required on the log sheet.

**Minor driver license:** Expires 20 days after the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. For individuals applying under the CO-RCSA (C.R.S. 42-2-501), the driver license expires 20 days after the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday or in three years (whichever comes first).

- Minors under the age of 18 must hold an instruction permit for at least 12 months and be at least 16 years of age before obtaining a driver license.
- Minors under 16 years and six months of age at the time they apply for their driver license must complete behind-the wheel (BTW) training prior to being issued the license. The BTW must be either six hours of behind-the-wheel training with an approved driver education instructor or 12 hours of BTW training with their parent/guardian/alternate permit supervisor, if there is not an approved driving school, offering at least 20 hours of BTW training per week, within 30 miles of the permit holder's residence. If 12 hours are completed with the parent/guardian/alternate permit supervisor, the 12 hours are in addition to the 50-hour requirement of the log sheet, for a total of 62 hours.
- Minors under 18 must present a completed and signed drive time log sheet when applying for their driver license.



- Minors 18 and older do not have to hold an instruction permit for any required amount of time but do have to first obtain an instruction permit and take a written test before taking a drive test.
- For restrictions on minors under 18 driving on the job, visit [www.youthrules.dol.gov](http://www.youthrules.dol.gov).

**Instruction permit:** Expires three years after issuance. Adults do not have to hold an instruction permit for any required amount of time but do have to first purchase an instruction permit before taking a drive test.

**Adult license:** Expires on the birthday five years from the year of issuance. For individuals applying under the CO-RCSA (C.R.S. 42-2-501), the license expires three years from the date of issuance.

**Temporary document:** While your driver license is being processed and mailed to you, the driver license offices will issue a paper temporary license, permit or ID card, which is valid for 30 days.

**Please note:** You will receive your card in the mail. It is important that your address is correct. If you do not receive your card in the mail after 30 days, you should report it to the office where you originally applied.

**Motorcycle endorsement:** See the Motorcycle Handbook, available at [Colorado.gov/DMV](http://Colorado.gov/DMV).

**Identification cards:** Any Colorado resident not holding a valid driver license may apply for a Colorado identification card. Per C.R.S. 42-2-114 and 42-2-302, Colorado law prohibits a person from holding both a valid driver license and an identification card.

- You must present identification establishing date of birth, identity and lawful presence in the United States. Lawful presence is not required for individuals applying under the CO-RCSA (C.R.S. 42-2-501) who are unable to demonstrate lawful presence.
- If you are age 60 or older, there is no charge for an ID card.
- Expiration:
  - Minor ID cards expire on the holder's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. For individuals applying under the CO-RCSA (C.R.S. 42-2-501), minor ID cards expire on the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday or three years from the date of issuance, whichever comes first.

- Adult ID cards expire on the birthday, five years from the year of issue. For individuals applying under the CO-RCSA (C.R.S. 42-2-501), the ID card expires three years from the date of issuance.

### 3: New resident and renewal

Check the list of offices at [Colorado.gov/DMV](https://colorado.gov/dmv) for locations, services provided, and hours of operation.

#### 3.1: New resident with a valid license

If you are 16 years of age or older and have a valid license in your possession which was issued by another U.S. state, territory or certain other countries, you will normally not be required to take the written test or the drive test. The driver license employee has a responsibility to require a drive test, even if you turn in a valid license, if there is a problem with your physical aptitude analysis or vision screening.

You must surrender your valid out-of-state driver license (C.R.S. 24-60-1106) and present identification showing proof of lawful presence in the U.S. along with your surrendered out-of-state driver license. Lawful presence is not required for individuals applying under the CO-RCSA (C.R.S. 42-2-501) who are unable to demonstrate lawful presence.

If you are under the age of 18, an Affidavit of Liability (DR 2460) must be signed.

#### 3.2: Renew a driver license or instruction permit

To renew a Colorado driver license (issued for five years) or instruction permit (issued for three years), you will need to present your old license or permit, pass a vision test, pay the required fee and be fingerprinted and photographed.

Once you obtain a Colorado driver license or instruction permit, you will not normally have to repeat the written or drive test unless:

- You apply for a different class of license or add an endorsement.
- You receive traffic tickets which result in suspension.
- The license or permit is canceled, revoked or denied.
- Your license or permit has been expired for more than one year.

You may renew an adult Colorado driver license at any time prior to the expiration date. Minor licenses cannot be renewed before the day of the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and will expire 20 days after the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. For individuals applying under the CO-RCSA (42-2-501 C.R.S.), the license expires 20 days after the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday or in three years, whichever comes first.

You may be eligible to renew your driver license or ID card over the internet or by mail if you are at least 21 years of age and you have been issued an adult, non-commercial driver license or adult ID card. Internet or mail renewal is available for two consecutive renewal cycles.

CDL holders and individuals applying under the CO-RCSA are not eligible for this service. If you wish to have your name changed or a new photograph taken, you must appear in person at a driver license office.

Internet renewal is available for eligible individuals 21 through 65 years of age at [Colorado.gov/DMV](https://colorado.gov/dmv).

Renew-by-mail is available for eligible individuals 21 and older at [Colorado.gov/DMV](https://colorado.gov/dmv).

### 4: Duplicate driver license

#### 4.1: Lost, stolen, or destroyed license or permit

If your driver license is lost, stolen or destroyed and you are 21 years of age or older, you will be required to renew the license for the standard renewal fee (C.R.S. 42-2-117 [1.5]). Duplicates are only available to minor drivers and instruction permit holders.

#### 4.2: Change of name and/or address

Colorado law (C.R.S. 42-2-119 [1] [a]) requires that you notify the Division of Motor Vehicles in writing within 30 days of a name change or a change of address.

**Change of name:** If you are changing your name, you must appear at a driver license office in person, with legal, original or certified documentation (i.e. recorded marriage certificate, divorce decree, court order). If you have a social security number, you must change your name with the Social Security Administration before visiting a driver license office.

At the time you change your name, you will be required to renew your driver license for the standard renewal fee.

**Change of address:** For emergency notification purposes, to receive a renew-by-mail application or to receive your license in the mail, it is important to keep the Division of Motor Vehicles informed of your current address. You can do this online ([Colorado.gov/DMV](https://colorado.gov/dmv)), at any driver license office or by mailing our self-service change of address postcard.

### 5: Extension of a Colorado driver license

The Division of Motor Vehicles examines your driving record, driver license status and the type of license before issuing an extension.

**Please note:** Please include your full name, date of birth and license number on any extension requests.

#### For non-CDL licenses:

- **Military:** Only one three-year extension is given for Colorado residents and their dependents on active duty outside the state. You may request an extension card prior to the expiration date of the license. The request must include a copy of your military orders or a letter from your commanding officer stating that you are active duty military and currently stationed outside the state. Military dependents are not eligible for a military extension, they are eligible for one year civilian extension.



- **Civilian:** The charge for a one-year extension is \$6.50. Add \$1.00 if you have a motorcycle endorsement.
  - If you are out of state when your license will expire, you may obtain a one-year extension.
  - If you are out of the country when your license will expire, you may obtain up to two one-year extensions.
  - If you are unable to renew your license due to a medical condition, you may obtain a one-year extension. The request must include a statement from your doctor.

Mail all extension requests and required information to:

<b>Regular mailing address:</b>	<b>Overnight requests:</b>
Motor Vehicle Division Driver Services , Rm 164 PO Box 173350 Denver, CO 80217-3350	Motor Vehicle Division 1881 Pierce St., Rm 164 Lakewood, CO 80214

**For CDL licenses:** Due to medical and testing requirements for CDL drivers, only a 30-day extension is available. Please contact either of the above addresses.

## 6: Keeping your license

**License/driving privilege status:** Having a driver license is a privilege. Protect that privilege by driving with care and consideration for others.

**Valid driving privilege:** An individual may apply for or hold a Colorado driver license as long as there are no restraint actions against that privilege.

**Valid driver license:** The driver license is considered legally in force and authorizes the individual to drive.

**Clearance:** A formal indication from a state, on letterhead, or an official state form, that the applicant has valid driving privileges and is clear to apply for a Colorado driver license.

**Reinstatement:** A procedure to restore an individual's driving privilege. Reinstatement of driving privileges does not always reinstate the driver license. Reinstatement of the driving privilege may be processed even with outstanding tickets, however, a new permit or license may not be issued until the individual can show clearance of any such tickets. The following are actions that affect your driving privilege or driver license. These actions may be for a specific amount of time and/or until certain conditions are satisfied. You may not drive while under any of these actions.

**Cancellation:** An action to void a valid driver license. This action does not require reinstatement.

**Denial:** A restraint action taken when an individual does not have a Colorado driver license. This action may require reinstatement.

**Suspension:** A restraint action that temporarily invalidates the driver license and withdraws the driving privilege. This action requires reinstatement. The following actions require the individual to reinstate their driving privilege, pass the written test, purchase an instruction permit, pass the driving test, and purchase a new driver license.

**Cancellation and denial:** A restraint action to cancel the driver license and withdraw the driving privilege.

**Revocation:** A restraint action that invalidates the driver license and revokes the driving privilege.

### 6.1: Re-examination

A re-examination (vision, written and driving) will be required for one or more of the following reasons:

- Involvement in two accidents within three years.
- Involvement in a fatal accident.
- Incident report from any law enforcement agency.
- Medical report from a doctor.
- A family member submitting a written request.
- Requested by a DMV employee.

The notice of re-exam allows you 20 days to complete the re-exam (pass or fail). Failure to complete the re-exam within 20 days will result in cancellation and denial of your driving privilege.

After you have taken the examination, your license may be returned, you may be issued a license or permit with restrictions or your driving privilege could be canceled and denied depending on the results of the examination.

### 6.2: Colorado point system

As a driver, you start out with a clean record, no points against you. If you accumulate too many points against your driving record within a certain period of time, you will lose your driver license through a point suspension.

Each time you are convicted of a traffic violation, the court notifies the Division of Motor Vehicles. A conviction occurs when you plead guilty, pay the ticket, or accept a plea bargain. Each type of conviction causes a certain number of points to be placed on your traffic record.

Points assessed against your record are not erased when you get a new license or get reinstated. The number of point accumulations for suspension are:

#### **Minor driver under 18 years of age:**

- Six points in any 12 consecutive months.
- Seven or more points for the period of the license.

#### **Minor driver between 18 and 21:**

- Nine points in any 12 consecutive months.
- 12 points in any 24 consecutive months.
- 14 points in the period of the license.

**Adult driver:**

- 12 points in any 12 consecutive months.
- 18 points in any 24 consecutive months.

**Chauffeur points:**

- 16 points in any 12 consecutive months.
- 24 points in any 24 consecutive months.
- 28 points in any 48 consecutive months.

All chauffeur violations must have been received in a motor vehicle in use as a public or common carrier of persons or property.

### 6.3: Suspension, revocation or cancellation of your driving privilege

Your driving privilege may be suspended, revoked or canceled if you:

- Meet or exceed the minimum point accumulation for suspension (See Colorado point system §6.2).
- Are convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Refuse to be tested for alcohol or drug content.
- Are convicted of failing to report an accident or leaving the scene of an accident without stopping, exchanging information and rendering aid.
- Fail to report an accident to the Motor Vehicle Division according to the Financial Responsibility Law.
- Give false information on your driver license application.
- Fail to settle a judgment against you as a result of an accident while operating a vehicle.
- Lend your license to someone else or misuse it in any way.
- Alter or deface your license.
- Fail to appear for a re-examination requested by the Motor Vehicle Division.
- Are convicted of manslaughter as a result of a motor vehicle accident.
- Fail to pay a fine for a traffic violation from this or any other state.
- Fail to register, in Colorado, all vehicles owned within 30 days of becoming a resident.
- Fail to pay ordered child support.
- Fail to provide valid evidence of insurance when requested by a law enforcement officer.

**Please note:** If you are convicted of driving while under restraint, your driving privilege will be suspended again effective for one year from the date you would have been reinstated.

## SECTION TWO: COLORADO MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS

### 7: Understanding Colorado's motor vehicle laws

#### 7.1: Motor vehicle insurance database law

A state-wide database tracks compliance and noncompliance, within Colorado, of motor vehicle insurance requirements. Vehicle insurance companies are required to submit, on a weekly basis, information on policies issued during the previous week. Vehicle registration offices also submit information to the database on vehicles registered. Should you be stopped by a police officer, if you do not have evidence of insurance in your vehicle and you are not listed in the database as having insurance, your license is subject to confiscation and suspension.

Per C.R.S. 42-2-127.7, you may request a hearing or present evidence of insurance that was valid at the time you were stopped at a driver license office. Visit [Colorado.gov/DMV](http://Colorado.gov/DMV) for a list of locations and services.

**Evidence of insurance:** Evidence of insurance includes the insurance company, policy number, date of expiration and vehicle covered and must be in your motor vehicle while in operation.

#### 7.2: Financial responsibility law/ compulsory insurance

**Compulsory insurance (C.R.S. 42-4-1409):** “No owner of a motor vehicle required to be registered in this state shall operate the vehicle or permit it to be operated on the public highways of this state when the owner has failed to have a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance in full force and effect as required by law.”

The minimum insurance you must have in addition to personal injury protection is:

- \$25,000 for bodily injury or death to one person in any one accident.
- \$50,000 for bodily injury or death to two or more persons in any one accident.
- \$15,000 property damage coverage.

In the event of an accident, evidence of insurance must be shown for all vehicles involved even if:

- The driver was not at fault in the accident.
- The vehicle was parked.
- There was no injury or damage to any other party.
- The accident results in damages that are less than \$1,000.

The Division of Motor Vehicles may accept the insurance information noted on the traffic officer's accident report or on counter reports filed with law enforcement agencies. The Division of Motor Vehicles continues to have the authority to send notice for additional information to the driver if the insurance information is incomplete on the officer's report or if the report indicates there was no insurance at the time of the accident.

### 7.3: Colorado safety belt laws

Colorado's safety belt laws require that a fastened safety belt must be worn in all motor vehicles that were factory equipped with a safety belt system while in operation on public roadways by:

- The driver.
- Every front seat passenger.
- Every child between the ages of 8 and 18 seated anywhere in the vehicle.
- Occupants in motor vehicles driven by persons under 18 shall be properly restrained or wear seat belts as required in C.R.S. 42-4-236 and 42-4-237.

The only exceptions are:

- Emergency personnel.
- Passenger buses and school buses.
- Farm equipment.
- Motorcycles.
- Driver of delivery vans on the job.
- Anyone carrying a written medical statement from a physician stating why he or she is not physically or psychologically required to wear the safety belts.

**Please note:** Always wear both shoulder and lap safety belts low and tight.

### 7.4: Colorado child passenger protection law

Children are required, by law, to be properly fastened into an appropriate child restraint system. If a parent is not in the motor vehicle, it is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that each child is properly fastened into one of the following:

- Children less than one year of age, and less than 20 pounds, in a rear-facing child restraint system in a rear seat of the vehicle.
- Children one year of age or older, but less than four years of age and less than 40 pounds, in a rear-facing or forward-facing child restraint system.
- Children under eight years of age, being transported in a motor vehicle in this state shall be properly restrained in a child restraint system according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Children at least eight years of age, but less than 18 years of age, being transported in a motor vehicle in this state shall be properly restrained in a safety belt or child restraint system according to the manufacturer's instructions.

According to the National Safety Council:

- Never place an infant in a rear-facing child safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger side air bag.

- Children should ride in an appropriate child restraint system in the back seat. This eliminates the possibility of airbag-related deaths or injuries and studies show that children are up to 29 percent safer in the back seat.

### 7.5: Colorado graduated license law

Colorado law requires a minor applying for an instruction permit to hold that permit for at least 12 months and submit a log of their driving experience at the time they apply for their license. They must show 50 hours of driving experience; 10 of which must have been at night. There are additional driver license restrictions for drivers under 18 years of age.

**Passenger restrictions:** For the first six months, you cannot have any passengers under age 21, unless a parent or another licensed adult driver is in the vehicle. After the first six months, you may do so with only one passenger under age 21 for the next six months. Siblings and passengers with medical emergencies are exceptions.

**Curfew:** For the first year as a licensed driver, teen drivers must abide by a curfew - no driving between midnight and 5 a.m. unless accompanied by an instructor, parent or legal guardian. Exceptions include driving to and from school or work (signed statement from school or work is required), medical emergencies and emancipated minors.

### 7.6: The duties of occupants of vehicles involved in accidents resulting in personal injury

If you are a passenger in a vehicle involved in an accident where the driver is physically incapable of reporting the accident, you are required to report the accident and, if directed by police, to remain at the scene of the accident until police arrive. Failure to do so is a Class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.

### 7.7: Using a mobile telephone while driving

Colorado law prohibits drivers under 18 years of age from using a mobile phone while driving unless it is to contact the police or fire department, or in an emergency.

Drivers 18 years of age and older may not use a cell or mobile telephone for text messaging while driving unless it is to contact the police or fire department, or in an emergency.

### 7.8: Toy vehicles prohibited on a public road

A toy vehicle includes, but is not limited to, gas-powered or electric-powered mini bikes, pocket bikes, kamikaze boards, go-peds and stand-up scooters that are not designed, approved or intended for use on public roadways or highways.

### 7.9: License plates

Any motor vehicle owned by a Colorado resident cannot be parked or driven on a public street or highway unless it is properly registered in Colorado and displays Colorado license plates. If you own a motor vehicle, you must register the vehicle in the county in which you live. (See the county office locations at [Colorado.gov/DMV](http://Colorado.gov/DMV))

The registration card must be carried in the vehicle or in the possession of the operator whenever the vehicle is being operated. The license plates must be fastened horizontally, in a manner to prevent swinging, at a height of at least 12 inches from the ground. They must be clearly visible and kept clean and legible. Vehicles must have plates attached to both the front and rear of the vehicle.

**Exceptions:** Motorcycles, trailers and semi-trailers must have one plate attached to the rear, semi-tractors must have one plate attached to the front. Temporary registration permits should be attached in a place clearly visible on the rear of the vehicle.

**Please note:** Any change of address or name must be reported within 30 days to your local county motor vehicle office.

If you are moving to Colorado, you must obtain new license plates within 30 days of establishing Colorado residency (C.R.S. 42-2-107 [a] [b]).

**Emissions test required:** Colorado's "AIR" Program requires emissions tests for gasoline and diesel vehicles registered in the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson. Emissions tests are required for diesel vehicles only in El Paso, Larimer and Weld counties. Check with your county clerk or call (303) 456-7090 for more information.

## 8: Driving under the influence

### 8.1: Alcohol and driving

Driving while impaired by alcohol is one of the greatest factors in roadway crashes and the resulting injuries and fatalities. Every year, tens of thousands of people are killed in alcohol related traffic crashes.

Impaired drivers are more likely to take excessive risks such as speeding or turning abruptly. The impaired driver will also have slowed reaction times and will not be able to react quickly to avoid a crash.

It is also unlawful for someone to drink from or possess an open container of alcohol while in the passenger area of a motor vehicle that is on a public road.

Alcohol is a depressant drug that affects the central nervous system which affects the brain. Alcohol slows reflexes and reaction times while reducing the ability to make decisions necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle. As the amount of alcohol in the body increases, a person's judgment worsens and skills decrease.

The amount of alcohol absorbed in your blood stream is what causes you to feel the effects of drinking. This is called Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC). BAC is identified by a chemical test of blood or breath. The driver with a BAC between 0.05 percent and 0.07 percent is presumed to be Driving While Ability is Impaired (DWAI).

If a driver over 21 years of age has a BAC is 0.08 percent or greater, he or she is presumed to be Driving Under

the Influence (DUI). (The BAC standards and penalties for drivers of commercial vehicles are stricter. See the Commercial Drivers Manual at [Colorado.gov/DMV](http://Colorado.gov/DMV)).

Alcohol concentration in the body may affect some people more than others, even if they have consumed the same amount of alcohol over the same time period.

A person's BAC depends on several factors:

- Body weight.
- The period of time in which the alcohol was consumed.
- The amount of time since the last drink was consumed.
- Gender.

It does not make any difference whether a drink is beer, wine or liquor. Standard servings of each have the same amount of alcohol. Per the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](http://National Highway Traffic Safety Administration), a standard drink is defined as 12 ounces of beer, five ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of 72-proof distilled spirits, all of which contain the same amount of alcohol; about 0.54 ounces.

Food can slow down the absorption of alcohol. Drinking on a full stomach prevents large amounts of alcohol from going to the brain immediately. Once alcohol is in the blood stream, the body eliminates it through normal bodily processes. In spite of popular opinion, coffee, cold showers and other so-called cures will not make a person sober. Only the passage of time will make a person sober.

On average, after a person reaches a peak BAC, it will drop by 0.015 percent per hour. For example, if the person reaches a maximum BAC of 0.15 percent, it will take about ten hours to eliminate all of the alcohol.

### 8.2: Drugs and driving

Driving while impaired by drugs is illegal and subject to the same penalties as driving while impaired by alcohol.

Besides alcohol, there are many drugs that can affect a person's ability to safely operate a vehicle. This is true for many prescription drugs such as tranquilizers, as well as over-the-counter medications for allergies and colds. If a person is taking medication, they should be sure to check the label for warnings about the medication's effects prior to driving. If they are not sure it is safe to take the drug and drive, they should ask their doctor or pharmacist about any side effects.

Alcohol and drugs should not be consumed at the same time. Mixing alcohol and drugs often multiplies the affects of the alcohol and any other drugs. For example, one drink, when you are also taking an allergy or cold medication, could have the same effect as several drinks.

Illegal drugs such as LSD and heroin, and controlled substances such as marijuana, also affect a person's reflexes, judgment and alertness along with their many other dangerous side effects. These drugs can give a person a false sense of alertness and self-confidence or make a person drowsy and unable to react to simple situations.

**Table 1: Possible penalties for drinking and driving and/or drugs and driving for age 21 and older**

Conviction	Presumed by blood alcohol content	Points toward suspension	Fine	Jail	Public service
1st Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI)	0.05 percent	8	\$200 - \$500	2 days - 180 days	24 - 48 hours
1st Driving Under the Influence (DUI)	0.08 percent	Revocation: 9 months	\$600 - \$1000	5 days - 1 year	48 - 96 hours
2nd DWAI or DUI	0.08 percent	Revocation: 1 year	\$600 - \$1500	10 days - 1 year	48 - 120 hours
3rd or subsequent DWAI or DUI		Revocation: 2 years	\$600 - \$1500	60 days - 1 year	48 - 120 hours

### 8.3: Express consent law

The express consent law (C.R.S. 42-4-1301) means that when a person operates a motor vehicle within the state, they have already agreed to take a chemical test of their blood, breath or urine to determine the alcohol and/or drug content in the body.

If a law enforcement officer suspects that a person is driving while impaired or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, the law enforcement officer can require that a person take a chemical test of their blood, breath or urine.

If a person refuses to take the test or does not comply with the testing procedure, their driver license will be revoked for a period of 60 days and they will be required to install an interlock device on any vehicle they drive for a period of two years. If other suspensions or revocations come about from this same incident, they will be added onto the end of the revocation (consecutively).

Because driving “under the influence” is so dangerous, the penalties for alcohol or drug related violations are very tough, and DUI enforcement efforts by Colorado law enforcement are a top priority that can include jail, fines, and suspension of driving privileges. Colorado law does not allow a person to plea bargain out of an alcohol or drug-related driving offense.

The only sure way to avoid the consequences is not to use alcohol or drugs at all when driving.

### 8.4: Under age 21

Effective August 5, 2009, any driver under the age of 21, convicted of DUI or DWAI, is subject to revocation for the first conviction if they fail to complete a court-ordered evaluation or program. A second or third conviction is a mandatory revocation.

**Zero tolerance:** Drivers under the age of 21 with a BAC of .02 but less than .08 are subject to a mandatory revocation of their driving privilege.

**Buy and possess:** Any person under the age of 21 who buys or possesses liquor (including beer) is subject to mandatory revocation of their driving privilege even if driving is not a factor.

**Supplying alcohol to persons under 21:** The driving privilege of anyone convicted of providing any alcoholic beverage to minors under 21 must be suspended for six months. This includes providing identification for a minor under 21 to use to purchase alcohol.

## SECTION THREE: BEFORE YOU DRIVE

### 9: Be a safe driver

Being a safe driver depends on being able to see clearly, not being overly tired, not driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, being generally healthy, and being emotionally fit to drive.

**Road conditions:** There are several sources of up-to-date accurate information on Colorado road conditions and construction:

- [Cotrip.org](http://Cotrip.org)
- [Codot.gov](http://Codot.gov)
- Call 511

**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 and reacting in a timely manner.

It is important to have your eyes checked every year or two by an eye specialist. If you have a corrective lens restriction on your license, you need to wear glasses or contact lenses while driving.

**Hearing:** Hearing can be helpful to safe driving. The sounds 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. These problems should be addressed on a regular basis. And, per C.R.S. 42-4-1411, it is illegal to wear any type of headphones while you are driving because they can interfere with your hearing.

**Fatigue:** When you are tired, you cannot drive as safely as when you are rested. Your reactions and decision making skills are greatly reduced. Break long driving periods into two-hour segments. If you become drowsy, pull off the road and rest.

**Health:** Many health problems can affect your driving including a bad cold, infection or a virus. Even little problems like a stiff neck, a cough or a sore leg can affect your driving. Some conditions can be very dangerous, such as epilepsy, diabetes and heart conditions. Check with your doctor if you think your health condition could affect your driving.

**Emotions:** Emotions can have a great affect on safe driving. You may not be able to drive well if you are overly worried, excited, afraid or angry. Do not give in to road rage. See page 30 on aggressive driving.

**Distractions:** A distraction is anything that diverts your attention, even momentarily, from the task of driving. Driving requires your full attention. Before you begin your trip, adjust your seat, your mirrors, the radio and the temperature and secure any loose objects in the car. Be sure you and everyone else in the vehicle, particularly children, are wearing age-appropriate restraint devices. Do not allow yourself to become distracted by your cell phone, conversations with passengers, noisy children or rubbernecking. Limit your cell phone use while driving to brief, essential or, if under 18, emergency calls, only. Pull off the road to a safe area for longer cell phone conversations or to control children. Do not attempt to eat or drink, read, smoke, apply makeup, shave or adjust the music while you are driving. In the time it takes to change radio stations, lives may be changed forever.

**Vehicle:** How safely you can drive includes the vehicle you are driving. It is the responsibility of drivers to make certain that the vehicles they drive are safe to operate.

A vehicle that is in poor operating condition is unsafe, costs more to run and may not get you out of an emergency situation such as a breakdown or collision. You should follow your vehicle owner's manual for routine maintenance.

A few simple checks will prevent trouble on the road and ensure your vehicle is in compliance with Colorado motor vehicle laws:

**Braking system:** If the brakes do not seem to be working properly, such as the brake pedal goes to the floor, have a mechanic check them immediately.

**Lights:** Make sure that turn signals, brake lights, tail lights, and head lights are operating properly.

**Windshield and wipers:** Damaged glass can easily break in a minor collision or when something hits the windshield. Have the windshield replaced. Windshield wipers keep the rain and snow off the windshield. Make sure they are in good operating condition. If the blades have not been working well, replace them. Keep the windshield clean inside and out, and keep your window washer bottle full. Clear snow, ice or frost from all windows.

**Steering system:** If the vehicle is hard to turn have the steering checked by a mechanic.

**Suspension system:** If the vehicle bounces excessively, keeps bouncing after a bump or after you stop, you may need new shocks or other suspension parts. Have a mechanic check it out.

**Exhaust system:** Fumes from a leaky exhaust system can cause death in a very short time. Never run the motor in your garage or sit in the car with the motor running, without opening a window. Most exhaust problems are easily heard. Have them fixed.

**Engine:** A poorly tuned 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 problems for you and other traffic.

**Tires:** Worn or bald tires can increase your stopping distance, make turning more difficult, can cause "hydroplaning" at lower speeds when the road is wet, and increase the chance of having a flat tire. Unbalanced wheels and low tire pressure increases tire wear, reduces fuel economy and makes the vehicle harder to steer and stop. If the vehicle bounces or the steering wheel shakes or the vehicle pulls to one side, have a mechanic check your tires.

### Check tire pressure with a pressure gauge

- Buy a tire pressure gauge if you don't have one already.
- Open your car door; on the inside jamb, you should see a sticker. Write down or take a picture of the number that says "PSI" (the measurement for tire pressure).
- Remove the cap from the valve stem and use the pressure gauge to check the tire pressure (make sure you check when they are cold).
- Compare the number on the gauge with the number you wrote down. If the number is too high, let air out of your tires. If the number is too low, inflate your tires until the numbers match.

### Check tread depth with a penny

- Hold a penny with Abraham Lincoln's body between your thumb and forefinger.
- Place Lincoln's head first into the deepest looking groove.
- Can you see all of his head? If yes, your tires are too worn—don't drive on them, and make sure to get them replaced.

**Horn:** The horn should be checked for operation periodically.

**Mirrors:** Adjust your rear view mirror and side mirrors before you begin to drive. You should be able to see out the back window with the rear view mirror and adjust your side mirrors to let you see the lane behind and most of the lane next to you.

**Loose objects:** Make sure that there are no packages or other objects on the rear shelf or back seat that could injure 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 or accelerator and interfere with your safe driving.

**Head restraints:** They should be adjusted so the head restraint contacts the back of the head.

**Air bags:** Supplemental restraints are designed to work best in combination with safety belts. In a crash, air bags and safety belts reduce the chance that your head and upper body will strike some part of the vehicle's interior.

Safety belts help to properly position your body to maximize the air bag's benefits and help restrain you during the initial, and any subsequent crashes. It is extremely important that safety belts are always worn, even in air bag-equipped vehicles. Read your vehicle owner's manual for specific information about the air bags in your vehicle.

## SECTION FOUR: RULES OF THE ROAD

### 10: Basic driving

**Starting the engine:** Check the vehicle owner's manual for how to start the vehicle. To start the engine, place your right foot on the brake pedal and check the gear selector lever for park. Place the key in the ignition and turn the ignition switch to the on position. Check indicator lights and gauges (fuel, ABS, air bags, etc.).

**Moving the vehicle:** Move gear selector lever to "D" (drive). Check forward for safe path and check for traffic to the sides and behind. Signal and (if safe) move your foot to the accelerator and press gently. Accelerate gradually and smoothly with the top of your foot on the pedal and the heel of your foot on the floor.

**Stopping the vehicle:** Check your mirrors for traffic to the rear of your vehicle. Move your foot from the accelerator to the brake pedal. Press with steady pressure until your vehicle comes to a stop.

**Steering:** The steering wheel is always turned in the direction you want the vehicle to move, whether moving forward or in reverse.

**Hand position:** Both hands should be placed on the outside of the steering wheel on opposite sides, at the three and nine o'clock positions, to maintain control of the vehicle.

Placing your hands at the two and 10 o'clock positions is no longer recommended because it can be dangerous in a vehicle equipped with air bags. Your grip on the steering wheel should be firm but gentle. Use your fingers instead of the palms of your hands and keep your thumbs up along the face of the steering wheel. Never turn the wheel while gripping it from the inside of the steering wheel.

**Backing up:** To safely back up your vehicle, you should:

- Check behind your vehicle before you get in. Children and small objects cannot be seen from the driver's seat.
- Place your foot on the brake and shift to reverse. Grasp the steering wheel at the 12 o'clock position with your left hand. Place your right arm on the back of the seat and look directly through the rear window. Use your mirrors for backing up but keep in mind that these mirrors do not show the area immediately behind your vehicle.

- Accelerate gently and smoothly, keeping your speed slow. Your vehicle is much harder to steer while you are backing up. Steer slightly in the direction the rear of the vehicle should move. If backing up while turning, make quick checks to the front and sides. Continue looking to the rear until coming to a complete stop.

### 11: Traffic controls

Traffic controls include traffic signals, traffic signs, and pavement markings. Traffic control also can be provided by law enforcement, highway personnel, or school crossing guards. You must obey directions from these persons.

#### 11.1: Traffic signals

Traffic signals are lights that tell you when or where to stop and go. Traffic lights are usually at intersections and are red, yellow, and green, from top to bottom. There are intersections and other locations where there are single green, yellow or red lights. If the traffic signal is not operating or is malfunctioning, treat the intersection as a four-way stop (C.R.S. 42-4-612 [1]).

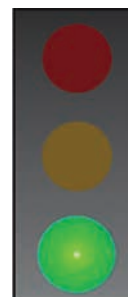
**Steady red light:** Stop until a green light appears. After stopping and yielding to pedestrians and other traffic, and if not prohibited by a traffic sign, you may turn right while the light is red. Also, you may turn left on a red light if you are turning from a one-way street onto another one-way street, unless prohibited by a sign.



**Steady yellow light:** A red light is about to appear. Stop unless you are already within the intersection.



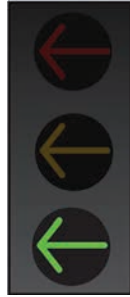
**Steady green light:** You may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign prohibits such turns. However, you must yield to any vehicle or pedestrian within the intersection or adjacent crosswalk.



**Red arrow:** A lighted red arrow means that you may not proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow.



**Green arrow:** A lighted green arrow, by itself or along with a red, green or yellow light means you may make the turn indicated by the arrow. If the green arrow goes off, but the circular green is on, you may still turn after yielding to through vehicles, unless prohibited by a sign or red arrow.



**Yellow arrow:** A lighted red arrow is about to appear. Stop if you are not already in the intersection.



**Flashing yellow arrow:** A flashing yellow arrow indicates that the driver turning left should proceed with caution and must yield to oncoming traffic. The signal will then switch to yellow, telling the driver the light is about to turn red and to not enter the intersection if they can stop safely. Finally the signal will turn red indicating the driver must stop.



**Flashing red light:** A flashing red light means the same as a stop sign. Stop and then proceed only after yielding to pedestrians and other traffic.



**Flashing yellow light:** A flashing yellow light is a warning of a hazard. Slow down and proceed with caution.



### 11.1a: Traffic signs

Traffic signs tell you about traffic rules, hazards, where you are, directions and where services are located. The shape and color of these signs give clues to the type of information they provide.

**Regulatory:** These signs tell you of laws and regulations that apply at a specific location. They are black or red on a white background. Failure to obey these signs is a traffic violation.

**Speed limit signs:** These signs indicate the maximum or minimum safe speed that is allowed. The maximum limits are for ideal conditions and you must reduce your speed when conditions require it.



**Stop signs:** This sign means you must come to a complete stop. Stop at the marked stop line or, if none, at the point just before the intersecting street. If there is a crosswalk, marked or unmarked, you must come to a complete stop before entering it. You may proceed only after yielding to all pedestrians and vehicles.



**Yield signs:** This sign indicates drivers must reduce speed or stop if necessary to yield right-of-way to any traffic on the roadway they are crossing or entering.



**Do not enter/Wrong way signs:**

These signs are used to warn and redirect drivers who are heading the wrong way on one-way streets or freeway ramps. Do not proceed past one of these signs.



**One way signs:** Travel only in the direction indicated by the arrow on the sign.





**Lane control signs:** These signs give direction and information about where you can turn and often use an arrow symbol. The signs are along the road or hanging over the road. Sometimes arrows are painted on the road.



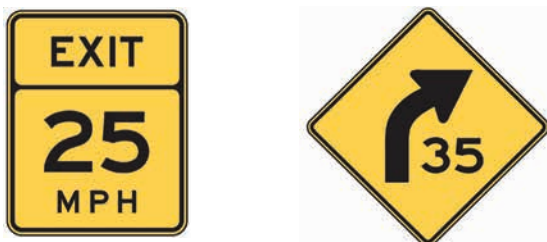
**Prohibited signs:** These signs indicate you cannot do something, for example no left turn, or no U-turn.



**Warning signs:** These signs are yellow or fluorescent green with black symbols, and most are diamond-shaped. They warn you to slow down and be prepared to stop and may warn of intersections, different types of highways, traffic entering your area, curves, etc.



**Advisory speed signs:** These cautionary signs show the safe speed around curves, corners, and off-ramps.



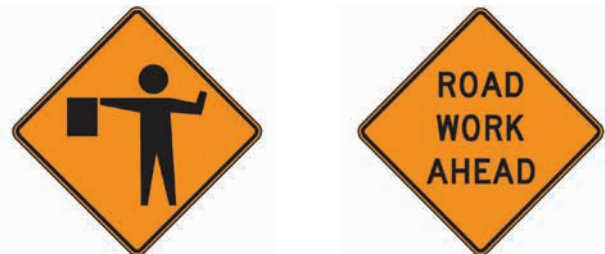
**Railroad crossings:** Many railroad crossings have signs or signals to warn drivers. Never try to beat a train across the tracks. Never start to cross the tracks until there is enough room for your vehicle to clear the tracks on the other side. Do not shift gears when crossing the railroad tracks in case your vehicle stalls.



**Railroad emergency notification system (ENS):** The blue colored sign is at every highway-rail grade crossing, and provides the public with a 24/7/365 telephone number to call to report problems or emergencies at these railroad locations. Directly below the dispatch number on the ENS sign is a Department of Transportation number that identifies the exact location of the crossing in question.



**Work zone signs:** These signs have an orange background with black letters or symbols. They are used with other traffic control devices or flag persons to help direct traffic safely through work areas and to protect highway workers.



**Guide signs:** These signs have a green background and provide directional and mileage information to specific destinations.



**Service signs:** These signs have blue backgrounds and provide directions to service facilities. Signs with brown backgrounds indicate recreational, historic or cultural areas.



**Route signs and markers:** The shape of the sign indicates the type of roadway: Interstate, U.S., State or County highway.



**Slow moving vehicle:** A reflective orange triangle on the rear of a vehicle means it is designed to travel at speeds less than 25 miles per hour.

**Disabled parking signs:** These signs mark special parking areas for only those vehicles displaying a disabled parking permit.

Disabled parking indicators may also appear on the pavement in designated parking spaces. Crosshatched sections are for van access only and parking is not allowed at any time. In order to park in a disabled parking space, the person who owns the disabled placard must be entering or exiting the vehicle.

If an individual parks illegally in a designated disabled parking spot without a placard or plate, they will be subject to a misdemeanor with a fine of between \$350 and \$5,000, possible jail time, loss of driving privileges and/or their car being impounded. If someone parks in one of these spaces with a placard or plate not issued to them personally, they will be subject to double the fines listed above, as well as jail time, loss of driving privileges and towing.



**11.1b: 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 mark where you must stop for traffic signals or signs.

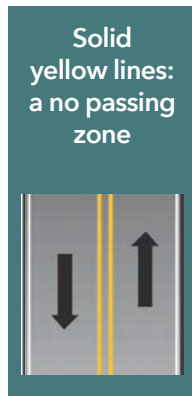
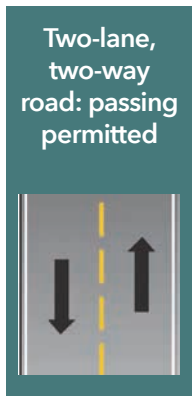
**Yellow lines:** Separate traffic moving in opposite directions.

**Broken yellow line:** Drive on the right side of the road and pass with care.

**Solid yellow lines:** No passing zone.

**Double solid yellow lines:** Neither side can pass.

**Solid and broken yellow lines:** You may not pass if the solid yellow line is on your side. If the broken yellow line is on your side, you may pass if it is safe to do so. You may cross a solid yellow line for a left turn into an alley, private road or driveway when such movement can be made safely.



**White lines:** Separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction.

**Broken white line:** You may change lanes if it is safe to do so.

**Solid white line:** Requires you to stay within the lane and also marks the shoulder of the roadway.

**Crosswalks:** Crosswalks define the area where pedestrians are to cross the roadway. They exist whether the lines are marked or unmarked. You must stop behind the crosswalk to allow any pedestrians to cross. Whenever you approach any vehicle from the rear that is stopped at a crosswalk, you may not pass that vehicle.

These are some of the most common types of crosswalk markings. Be aware that there are other types as well.



**High Intensity Activated Crosswalk (H.A.W.K.) signals:** HAWK signals are used for pedestrian crossings. When the signal is black the driver will proceed with caution. When a pedestrian activates the signal, it will start flashing yellow, which means for the driver to slow down and get ready to stop. The light will then turn solid yellow to tell the driver to stop if possible. Then the signal will turn to a solid red, indicating for the driver to stop. Finally, the signal will flash red, telling the driver to stop, yield to pedestrians and then proceed if clear.

**11.1c: Intersections**

At all intersections search for:

- Traffic control devices.
- Oncoming and cross traffic.
- Pedestrians and bicyclists.
- The roadway condition.
- Areas of limited visibility.

Do not rely on other road users to obey traffic control signals or signs. Some road users may not yield the right-of-way. Be prepared to avoid a crash. After stopping at an intersection, take the extra time to check for crossing traffic and bicyclists before moving. It is recommended that you look left and then right and left again before entering the intersection.

At a traffic signal when the light turns green, avoid immediately moving into the intersection.

Take the time to make sure your path of travel is clear and there is no crossing traffic. You need a large enough gap to get your vehicle across the roadway. You need enough space to turn into the appropriate lane and get up to speed.

Never assume another driver will share space with your vehicle or give your vehicle any additional space. Do not turn into a lane just because an approaching vehicle has a turn signal active. The driver with an active turn signal may plan to turn after they go past your vehicle or may have forgotten to turn the signal off from a prior turn.

**11.1d: Lane controls**

As a rule, you must drive your vehicle on the right half of the road. Use only one lane, do not straddle lanes. On roadways without designated bicycle lanes, bicycles are generally required to stay to the far right side of the right lane. They may use the entire lane to pass another vehicle, avoid objects in the road and turn left.

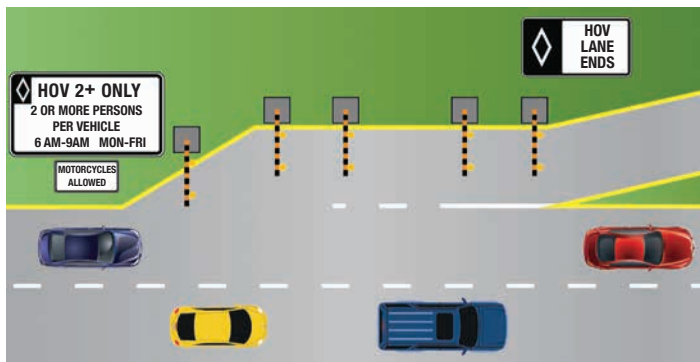
**Restricted lane:** One or more lanes may be restricted for special use. Restricted lanes are marked by signs or pavement markings. There will be a white diamond painted on the road within the lane, and/or a sign posted at the side of the road that specifies its use. Examples are transit, bus or bicycle lanes.



**High occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane:** These lanes are identified by a white diamond painted on the roadway. Signs will identify the types of vehicles and the number of occupants required per vehicle to use the lane.

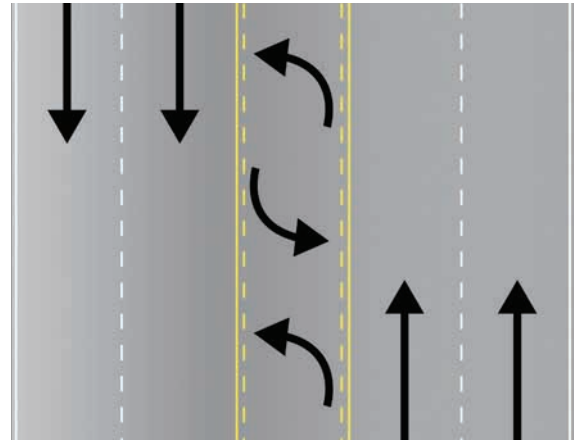


**Reversible lane:** Some travel lanes are designed to carry traffic in one direction at certain times and in the opposite direction at other times. These lanes are separated by a barrier or marked by double-broken yellow lines. There may be signs posted by the side of the road or overhead. Sometimes special lights are used.



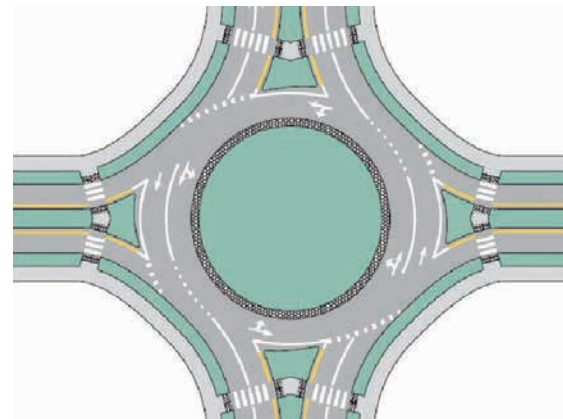
**Shared center turn lane:** These center lanes are reserved for turning left and are used by vehicles traveling in both directions. You may turn into or from the road using this lane. You may stop in this lane until it is safe to complete the turn. When a street has a shared center turn lane, you may not turn left from any other lane. This lane is not to be used to pass another vehicle.

A shared center lane is a multi-lane, two-lane roadway with two way left turn reserved exclusively for left turning vehicles.



**Unmarked lane:** When there are no signs or pavement markings to control the use of lanes, there are rules that indicate which lane is to be used.

- Drive just to the right of the center of the road.
- Do not drive on the shoulder of the road.
- The same rules for passing and turning on marked roads apply with unmarked roads.



**Rotary island/Roundabout lane:** Yield to traffic already within the rotary island. Drive to the right and watch for directional signs and signals.

**Diverging diamond interchange (DDI):** A diverging diamond interchange crosses traffic to the opposite side of the road across an interchange so vehicles have uninterrupted movements onto the freeway ramps. Left-turn movements, which are a typical challenge with standard four-way interchanges, are eliminated with a DDI, which allows for fewer conflicts with other vehicles.

## 11.2: Right-of-way

Yielding right-of-way rules provide drivers with guidance for situations when other drivers or pedestrians are present. These rules determine which driver should yield the right-of-way and the sequence for entering and driving through an intersection or other driving scenarios.

Although yielding right-of-way rules provide a guide to determine who should yield the right-of-way, no one should assume he or she automatically has the right-of-way. The situation and circumstances at the intersection must always be considered.

You should yield the right-of-way to:

- The driver who is at or arrives before you at the intersection;
- Drivers in the opposing traffic lane when you are making a left turn;
- The driver on your right at a four-way intersection controlled by stop signs if both of you arrive at the intersection at the same time;
- Drivers on a public highway if you are entering the highway from a driveway or a private road;
- Drivers already on a limited access or interstate highway if you are on the entrance or acceleration ramp and
- pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers who are still in the intersection.



**Pedestrians:** When driving, you should yield the right-of-way to pedestrians under all conditions. Be particularly watchful for children, elderly and blind persons.

Pedestrians have the right-of-way at all intersections and crosswalks. Drivers must come to a complete stop and let the person pass safely.

**Bicycles:** Bicycles on the road are considered vehicles and have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicles.

**Four-way stop:** You must yield the right-of-way to the vehicle that reached the intersection first. When more than one vehicle reaches the intersection at the same time the vehicle on the left must yield the right-of-way and allow the vehicle on the right to go first.

**Uncontrolled intersections:** When more than one vehicle reaches an uncontrolled intersection at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right and allow the vehicle on the right to go first.

**Turning left:** You must yield to all oncoming traffic.

**Changing lanes and passing:** You must yield the right-of-way to vehicles already occupying the lane you wish to enter or use for passing. Do not change lanes if another vehicle must slow down for you.

**Merging:** You must yield to all vehicles on that roadway. Do not merge if another vehicle must slow down for you.

**Backing:** You must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles close enough to be a hazard.

**Narrow mountain roadway:** When vehicles meet on a steep, narrow road which is not wide enough for two vehicles, the vehicle going downhill must yield the right-of-way by backing up to a wider place or by stopping to leave sufficient space for the vehicle going uphill, except where it is more practicable for the vehicle going uphill to return to a wider space or turnout.

**Emergency vehicles:** You must yield the right-of-way to all emergency vehicles using a siren, air horn, and/or flashing red, blue or white lights. Where possible, you must pull over to the right edge of the road. If you are in an intersection, drive through the intersection before you pull over. On a roadway with two or more lanes traveling in the same direction, if you are approaching an emergency vehicle that has stopped along the side of the road, when possible you must leave at least one lane between your vehicle and the emergency vehicle by changing lanes, unless directed otherwise by a police officer or emergency personnel or conditions prohibit the lane change. If the road only has one lane on your side, or you cannot change lanes, slow down to a safe speed and use due care and caution as you pass.

**Maintenance vehicles:** Yield the right-of-way to service vehicles and maintenance equipment engaged in work on the roads using flashing yellow and blue warning lights. Use extra caution in approaching, overtaking or passing maintenance vehicles and snowplows. Because of their traveling speed and size, snowplows tend to create large clouds of blowing snow that conceal the plow, making it invisible.

**School bus:** You must stop your vehicle at least 20 feet before reaching a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing whether it is on your side of the road, the opposite side of the road, or at an intersection you are approaching. You must remain stopped until the flashing red lights are no longer operating. Watch carefully for children near the school bus and children crossing the roadway before proceeding.

You are not required to stop if the school bus is traveling toward you on a roadway that is separated by a median or other physical barrier.

**Transit buses:** Drivers in the same lane of traffic behind a transit bus are required to yield the right-of-way to the bus if the bus, after stopping to allow passengers to board or exit, is signaling to enter a traffic lane and the yield warning sign on the back of the bus is illuminated. These yield signs are a warning to drivers behind transit buses that they are required to yield when the bus is entering a traffic lane.

**Road work/Construction zone:** You must yield the right-of-way to all workers and construction vehicles. Drivers are responsible for knowing how to read and react to work zone directional signs, roadway markings and flag persons. Normal speed limits are reduced for safety reasons and are clearly marked. Reduce speed, adjust lane position away from workers, and prepare for the unexpected. Failure to comply can result in double fines for certain violations.

### 11.3: Speed

Of all the possible causes of accidents, speeding or driving too fast for conditions is perhaps the most common and the most dangerous.

**Limits:** Speed limit signs indicate the maximum speed allowed in ideal conditions. Some roads, such as freeways, have minimum speed limits posted. Driving slower than the minimum speed limit, in ideal conditions, is a traffic violation. Regardless of what the posted limit is, your safety and the safety of others may be affected by many things and it may be necessary to reduce your speed (See Safe driving tips).

**Exceeded safe speed for conditions**

**(C.R.S. 42-4-1101[3]):** “No driver of a vehicle shall fail to decrease the speed of such vehicle from an otherwise lawful speed to a reasonable and prudent speed when a special hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.”

**Reduced speed zones:** At various locations, such as school zones and construction zones, a reduced speed is required during certain hours or periods of the day when temporary hazards exist. Signs will indicate when the lower speed limit is in effect.

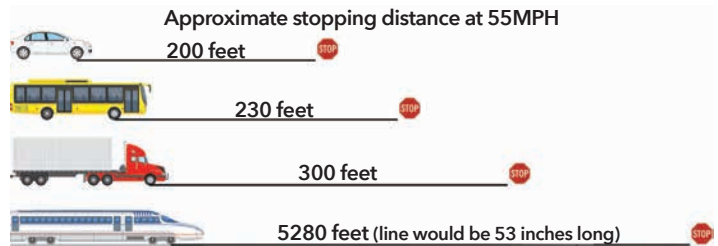
Unless otherwise posted, Colorado speed limits are as follows:

- 20 m.p.h. on narrow, winding mountain highways and blind curves.
- 25 m.p.h. in any business district.
- 30 m.p.h. in any residence district.
- 40 m.p.h. on open mountain highways.
- 45 m.p.h. for vehicles in the business of hauling trash.
- 55 m.p.h. on urban interstate and highways.
- 65-75 m.p.h. on designated rural interstate and highways.

**Stopping distance:** 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.

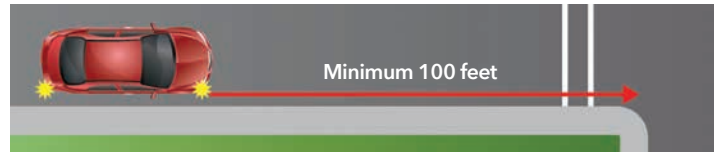
Try to avoid panic stops by seeing events well in advance. By slowing down or changing lanes, you may not have to stop at all, and if you do, it can be a more gradual and safer stop.

According to the National Safety Council, a lightweight passenger car traveling at 55 m.p.h. can stop in about 200 feet. Other vehicles require different stopping distances. This chart shows stopping distances, under ideal conditions:



### 10.4: Turning

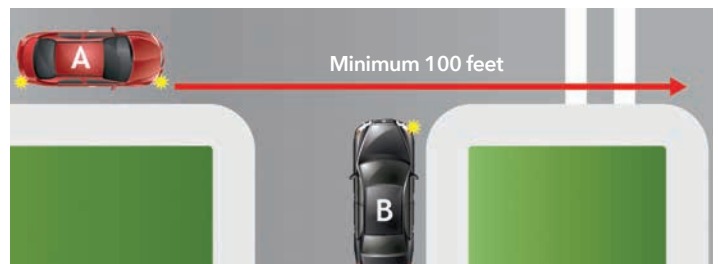
The most common faults when making turns are failing to signal, not signaling long enough, failing to search for hazards, turning from the wrong lane, and failing to turn properly.



In urban or metropolitan areas, you must signal continuously for 100 feet before making a turn or lane change.



At speeds above 40 m.p.h. you must signal continuously for 200 feet before making a turn or lane change.



Extra caution should be used by the drivers of cars A and B when a private drive or side street is near a main intersection.

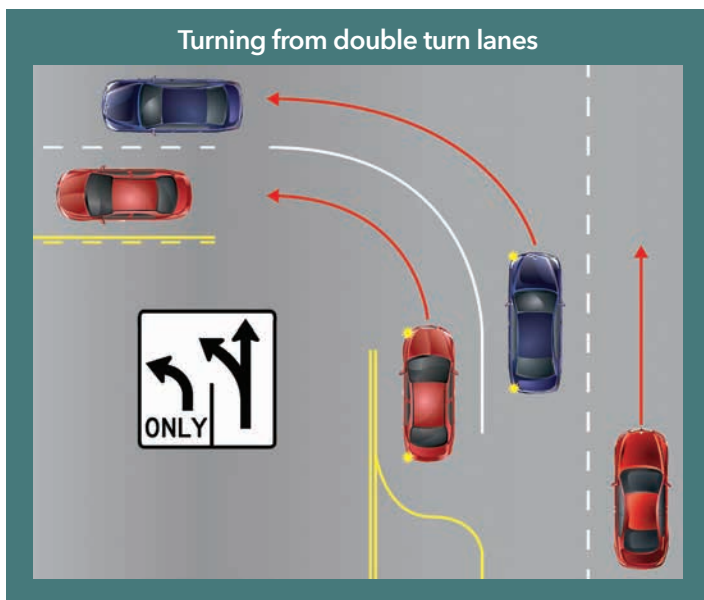
- Driver A should not assume that driver B will yield the right-of-way.
- Driver B should not assume where driver A is turning.

**Signaling:** Failing to signal is a traffic violation. Before making any turn, whether the turn is into another roadway, a parking lot, another traffic lane or leaving a parked position it is extremely important that you signal. Your signal lets other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians know your intentions.

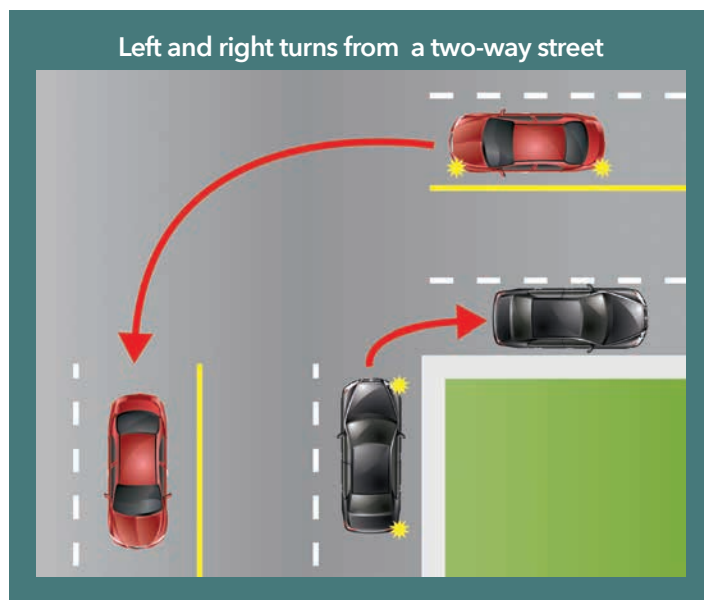
In urban or metropolitan areas, you must signal continuously for 100 feet before making a turn or lane change. On four-lane highways, where the posted speed limit is more than 40 m.p.h., you must signal for 200 feet.

If your vehicle's turn signals do not work, you must use hand signals. If using hand signals, end your signal before starting to make your turn, and place both hands on the wheel while making your turn.

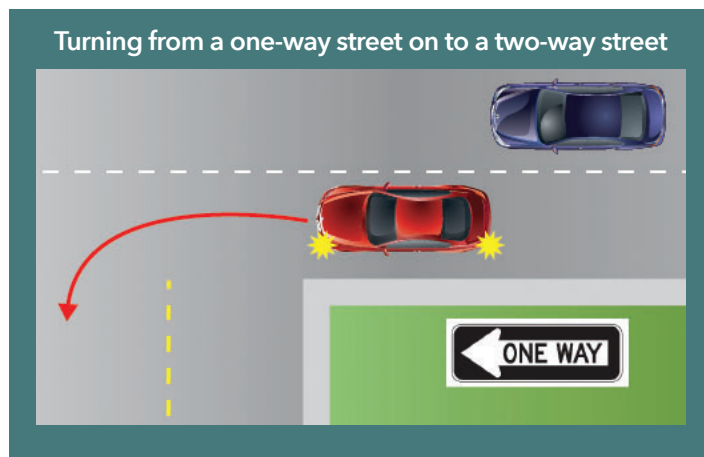
**Turning from the proper lane:** If you are making a left turn, you must begin in the left-most lane. If you are making a right turn, you must begin in the right-most lane, unless traffic signs, signals or lane markings clearly permit turning from more than one lane.



**Turning in a correct path:** Do not turn too short so as to cut corners on left turns or run over the curb on right turns. Turning too wide or too late, straddling lanes, or turning into the wrong side of the street will result in not being able to turn into the correct lane. Complete your turn in the lane closest to you on your side of the street. And always follow the solid white lines in intersections using multiple turn lanes.



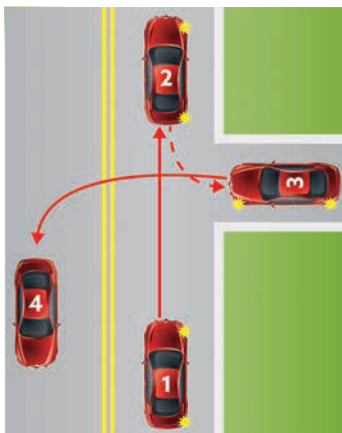
**Left turns:** If you are turning left, you should wait at the stop line or crosswalk until there is a gap in traffic large enough to allow you to pull into the intersection and complete your turn. Pulling into the intersection to wait to turn left blocks the intersection for emergency vehicles, limits visibility for oncoming traffic and puts you in a position to get in an accident if the light changes and oncoming traffic runs the red light while you are making your turn. Never turn the front wheels towards the left while you are waiting to turn. If you happen to get rear ended, you would be pushed into oncoming traffic.



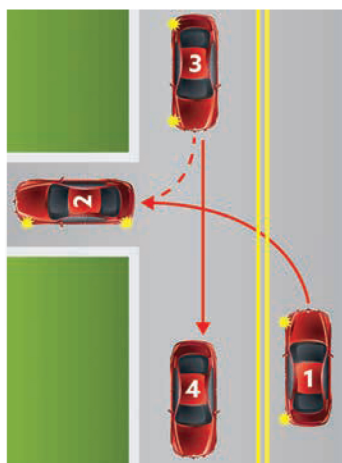
**U-turns:** U-turns are forbidden unless they can be made without endangering other traffic. Prohibitory signs are usually posted at hazardous locations. U-turns are normally permitted where your vehicle can be seen for a great distance. However, it is always preferable to continue to the next street or turn-around area if a U-turn cannot be made safely. Do not try to make a sudden turn in front of traffic traveling either direction.

**Two-point turnabout:** In this type of turn, a street, alley, or driveway is used to reverse the direction you are traveling when it is not practical or possible to drive around a block.

- **Reverse two-point turnabout:** Signal your intention to turn right. Stop and check traffic to the sides and rear of the vehicle. Move back until the rear bumper of the vehicle reaches the near edge of the driveway. While backing slowly, steer rapidly all the way to the right. As the vehicle centers in the driveway, straighten the wheels and stop. Shift to drive and check in both directions; if clear, signal and turn left into the proper lane and accelerate as appropriate.



- **Forward two-point turnabout:** Check your mirrors and signal your intention to turn left. Move close to the center of the road and turn into the driveway or alley as near as possible to the right side. Stop as the rear of the vehicle clears the curb or edge of the driveway. Check in all directions for traffic, signal a right turn, and shift to reverse. When the path is clear, move slowly back while turning the steering wheel quickly all the way to the right. As the vehicle centers in the nearest lane, straighten the wheels, stop, shift to drive, cancel the right signal and move forward.



**Three-point turnabout:** Use this type of turnabout only when the road or street is too narrow to make a U-turn and you cannot go around the block. This type of turn should only be used on a two-lane roadway.

To perform a three-point turnabout:

- Check the mirrors and activate your right turn signal to communicate your intention to pull off to the right side of the road. Stop on the right side of the road.
- Activate your left turn signal, check traffic, and check any blind spots by looking over your left shoulder. When traffic is clear, turn hard left to the other side of the road and stop when you have reached the other side.
- Place the vehicle in reverse, check traffic, and check blind spots on both sides by looking over your shoulders. When traffic is clear, turn hard right to the other side of the road and stop.

- Place the vehicle in drive, activate the left turn signal and check traffic and blind spots. When traffic is clear, turn hard left and drive forward into the right lane of traffic heading in the new direction. Check traffic and make sure your turn signal has canceled. Continue driving straight in the new direction.

## 11.5: Parking

There are several locations where it is forbidden to stop or park a vehicle. Among these are:

- On a crosswalk, sidewalk, bridge, elevated structure, railroad tracks or any controlled access highway.
- Within 30 feet of a traffic signal, stop sign, railroad crossing or within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- Within an intersection, tunnel, runaway truck ramp, on/off ramp, or blocking a driveway.

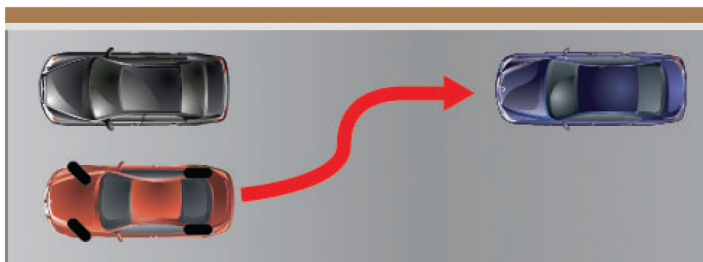
### Parallel parking:

Stop even with the car ahead. Turn the wheel sharp right and back slowly toward the car behind.

When clear of the car ahead, turn the wheel sharply to the left and back slowly towards the car behind. Turn wheel sharp right and pull towards the curb in the center of the parking space.

When you pull away from the parallel parked position, you should signal, glance in the mirrors, look over your shoulder and pull away when it is safe.

Where parking is permitted, your vehicle must be within 12 inches of the curb or as close as possible to the outside edge of the shoulder, so that traffic will not be impeded.

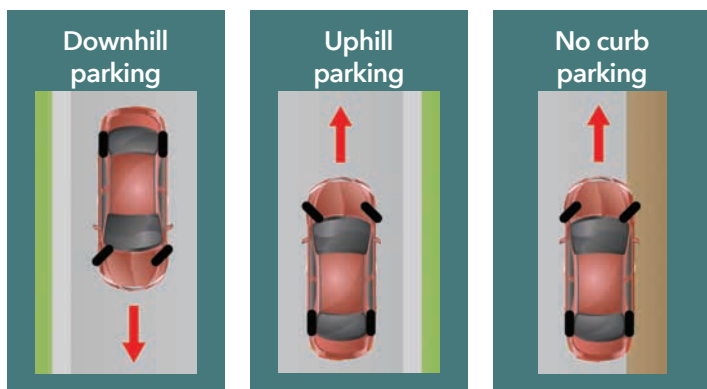


Leave the car in low gear if headed uphill and in reverse gear if headed downhill or in park position if your vehicle has automatic transmission. Set the emergency brake and remember to remove the ignition key when leaving the car.

**Downhill:** When you stop your car headed downhill, turn your front wheels toward the curb. Let your vehicle roll slowly until the front tire rests against the curb using it as a block.

**Uphill:** When headed uphill at a curb, turn the front wheels away from the curb and let your vehicle roll backwards slowly until the rear part of the front wheel rests against the curb using it as a block.

**No curb:** When headed uphill with no curb, always turn your front wheels to the right so that if your vehicle moves, it will roll off the highway, not into traffic.

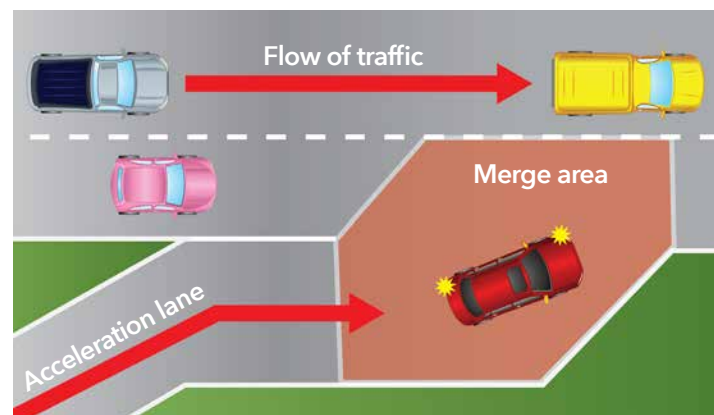


### 11.6: Entering the freeway

High speed roadways generally have acceleration ramps to give you time to build up your speed. When entering a freeway from an on-ramp try to increase your speed to match that of the freeway traffic.

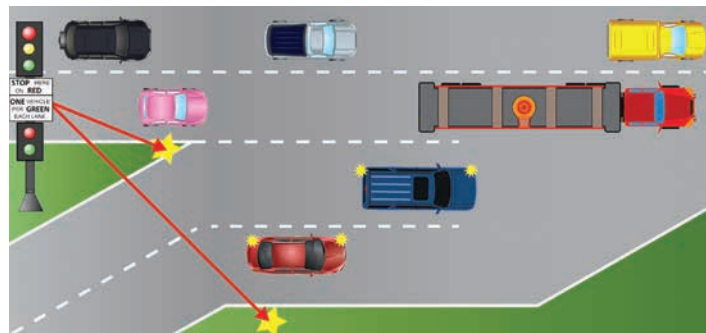
Do not merge into traffic until the solid white line has ended. Do not stop in the acceleration lane unless absolutely necessary. Remember, you must yield the right-of-way to the traffic already on the freeway.

- Adjust to freeway speed in the acceleration lane.
- Do not cross the solid white line.
- Signal and move carefully into the freeway lane.



Some freeway entrance ramps have traffic signals which regulate the release of vehicles onto a freeway to allow easier merging and a smoother traffic flow.

Motorists on metered ramps will be required to stop and wait to be released on a green light to enter the freeway.



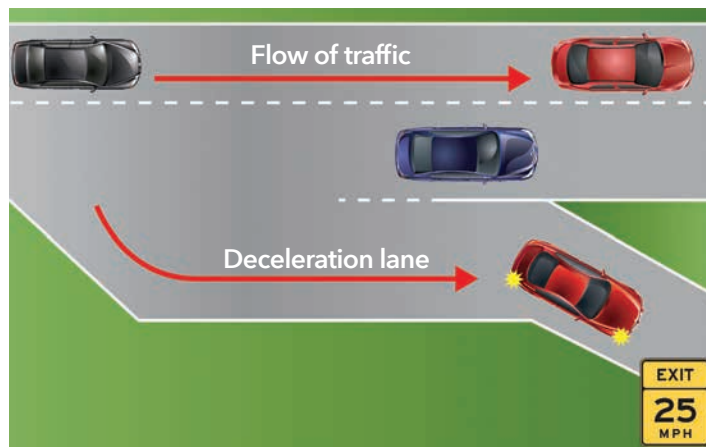
### 11.6a: Freeway driving

Freeway driving is different from driving on a regular street or highway mainly because the freeways are designed to move a greater volume of traffic at a higher rate of speed.

- Traffic moving at less than the normal speed should always use the right lane.
- To be courteous to vehicles entering the freeway, you should change to the left (or center) lane, if you can do so safely and without slowing the traffic flow.
- Observe the movement of traffic well ahead of you, around you, and behind you. Be particularly aware of any vehicles traveling in your blind spots.
- Plan ahead and look for directional signs and guidance signs.
- Signal at least 200 feet before you change lanes and avoid frequent lane changes.
- Do not drive across, over or within any median or island.

### 11.6b: Leaving the freeway

When exiting the freeway, you must use the deceleration lane. This lane is designed to allow you to slow down before reaching the exit ramp without being a hazard to other vehicles on the freeway.





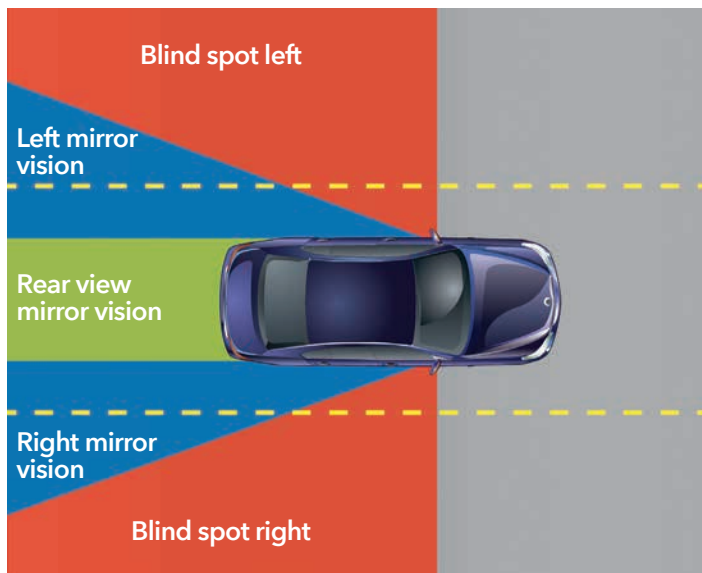
Enter the deceleration lane at approximately the speed you were going on the freeway, then slow down after you have entered the deceleration lane to the advisory speed.

- Do not slow on the freeway.
- Slow down after turning into the deceleration lane.
- Do not make a last second turnoff.
- Check posted safe speed for exit ramp.

### 11.7: Changing lanes

You must check for possible hazards or vehicles in the lane you want to enter. This means you must check for traffic ahead, to the side and behind your vehicle before you change lanes. Changing lanes includes changing from one lane to another, passing another vehicle, merging onto a roadway from an entrance ramp and entering the roadway from the curb or shoulder.

Be aware of any blind spots, which are areas slightly to the sides and the rear of your vehicle, that you can not see in your rear view or side view mirrors.



When changing lanes, you should:

- Turn your signal on.
- Check your mirrors.
- Check your blind spot (look over your shoulder).
- If it is safe, you may change lanes.
- Turn off your signal after completing the lane change.

### 11.8: Passing

Whenever signs or road markings permit you to pass, you will have to judge whether you have enough room to pass safely. If you do, follow the steps for changing lanes.

Return to the driving lane when you can see both headlights of the other vehicle in your inside rear view mirror, using the steps for changing lanes again. Do not count on having enough time to pass several cars at once. To be safe, as a general rule, only pass one vehicle at a time.

You may pass another vehicle on the right side on a one-way street or on a roadway with two or more lanes of traffic in each direction. At no time shall such pass be made by driving off the pavement of the main traveled portion of the roadway.



Do not pass:

- If you cannot safely return to the right-hand side before coming within 200 feet of an oncoming vehicle, including a bicyclist, in the oncoming lane or shoulder.
- If you cannot safely return to the right-hand side before the solid yellow line begins. If passing a bicyclist you can briefly cross a solid yellow when there is no oncoming traffic and you have a clear view ahead.
- On a curve or hill when your view is obstructed.
- Within 100 feet of a marked or unmarked intersection, or railroad crossing.
- Within 100 feet of any bridge, viaduct or tunnel when view is obstructed.
- A bicyclist, unless you can allow a minimum three foot buffer zone between your vehicle, including mirrors, and the bicyclist.

### 11.9: 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 hundreds of times. If an obstruction is in the road just over a hill or around a curve, you must be able to stop.

A vehicle can travel much faster in a straight line than it can in a curve. If you go too fast, the tires will not be able to grip the road, and the vehicle will skid.

Always slow down before reaching the curve, and accelerate only after passing the middle of the curve.

### 11.10: Night driving

Driving in the evening, at dusk, at night and just prior to sunrise is normally more hazardous than driving during daylight hours. This is due to limited visibility, the limited area illuminated by your headlights and the blinding effect of high beam lights or low beam lights with fog lights.

Colorado law requires you to drive with your headlights on from sunset to sunrise or when visibility is less than 1,000 feet.

Tips for driving at night:

- Use your bright lights when driving in rural areas and on open highways away from urban and metropolitan areas.
- If you are driving with your high beam lights on or your low beam lights with fog lights on, you must dim them before coming within 500 feet of any oncoming vehicle so the oncoming driver is not blinded by the glare.

- When following another vehicle, you must use your low beam lights, with your fog lights off, if you are within 200 feet of the vehicle ahead of you.
- Never look directly into an approaching car's headlights. As the car draws near, watch the right edge of your lane, noting the position of the oncoming car out of the corner of your eye.
- When driving through fog at night, it is best to use your low beam lights and fog lights, if you have them. Driving with high beam lights is like shining your lights on a mirror.
- Be alert to vehicles, particularly darker vehicles, traveling after sunset without their headlights on.

### 11.11: Bad weather

In bad weather conditions, such as rain, fog, ice, wind and dust, you should slow your speed and drive at a speed that is safe for conditions. When roads are wet, they may become very slippery when water mixes with oil, grease and exhaust particles on the roadway. These conditions affect all types of vehicles including front-wheel drive, sport utility, four-wheel drive and all-wheel drive vehicles.

Hydroplaning is a natural phenomenon whereby the water forms a very thin, but very strong, film on the highway. This film can actually support your vehicle. Your tires may have absolutely no contact with the roadway. This is extremely dangerous because you have little or no control of your vehicle. A vehicle may hydroplane at speeds as low as 50 m.p.h. in water one-eighth of an inch deep. If the highway is wet or icy, do not use cruise control.

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

- Ease your foot off the gas pedal.
- If engaged, immediately turn off your cruise control and allow your vehicle to slow down and regain traction.
- Keep the steering wheel straight.
- Do not try to stop or turn until your tires are gripping the road again.

Here are a few simple precautions that you should follow:

- Make sure your tires have good tread for adequate traction. In winter, chains, snow tires or an alternative traction device are preferable (Remember that even chains and snow tires will slip on slick pavement).
- Make sure your brakes are in good condition and properly adjusted so that the braking power of each wheel is uniform.
- **Anti-lock brakes:** Apply the brakes with hard firm pressure from the start of the skid and maintain this pressure until you have stopped. You may feel or hear vibrations and/or pulsations. This is normal.
- **Threshold breaking (no anti-lock brakes):** Apply the brakes just hard enough to not lock the wheels, release and apply the brakes the same way again.

- Keep the windows clear by making certain the defrosters and windshield wipers are working properly. Use a good window scraper to remove all ice, snow, and frost even if you are just traveling a short distance. Fogging or condensation of moisture on the inside of the windshield can quickly be removed by opening a window.
- Be alert for snow plows and sanding trucks. They use flashing yellow and blue lights as a warning for you to use extreme caution when approaching or passing them.
- Maintain an extra large space between you and the car ahead.
- Start gradually by using a low gear and accelerating gently.

An increasing number of new vehicles are equipped with rear fog lights. These lights help to reduce rear-end collisions in severe weather conditions. If your vehicle is equipped with rear fog lights use them while driving in heavy fog, rain or similar weather conditions. Be sure to switch them off once the conditions clear.

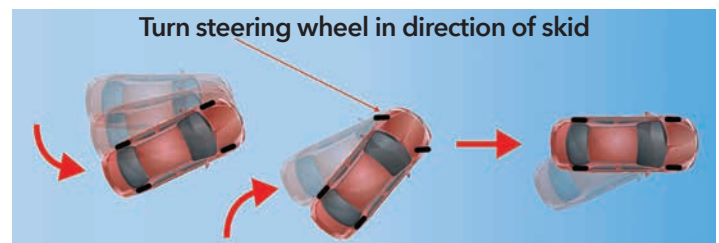
Here are some added tips:

- Pay special attention to speed limit signs and warning signs, such as those warning of curves, steep hills or other hazards.
- Watch for bicyclists near the right side of the road.
- Use a lower gear to control speeds while going up or down long, steep hills.
- You must yield to vehicles going uphill if you are traveling downhill on a narrow road.
- Do not coast downhill by shifting into neutral or disengaging the clutch.

### 11.11a: Snow and ice

Streets and highways covered with snow, snowpack or ice are extremely hazardous. They are most hazardous when the snow or ice begins to melt. The slush or wet surface acts as a lubricant and traction is reduced. Overpasses, bridges, shaded areas and snow packed portions of the road can be icy even when other pavement is not.

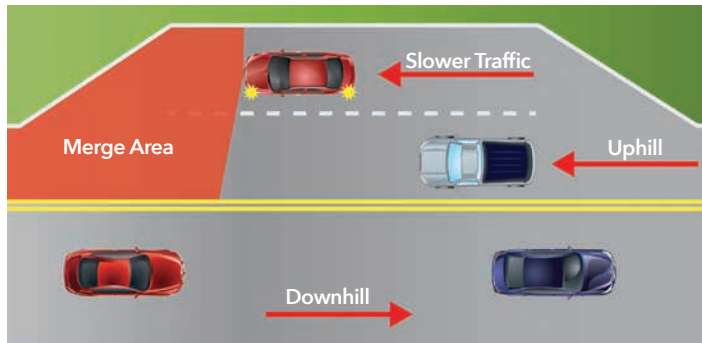
If you begin to skid, let up on the accelerator and keep your wheels pointed in the direction you want to go.



### 11.12: Mountain driving

Mountain driving can be very different from other driving conditions. Some hazards you should be aware of are steep hills, changing weather, wildlife and rocks in the roadway.

If your vehicle experiences difficulty traveling up steep roadways, pull off the road at the first place you may do so safely, or stay in the right lane to allow other vehicles to pass.



### 11.13: Rural driving

When driving in rural or country areas, there are a number of special situations that require attention. Watch for driveways, farm equipment, railroad crossings that might not be marked and bridges that are narrow and poorly surfaced. Some intersections may be hidden by trees, brush and crops. Animals often wander along the roadway.

Extra care and slower speeds should be used when driving on gravel roads because of the reduced traction due to the road surface.

The road surface can be affected by loose gravel, slippery conditions after rain or snow, ruts in the driving lanes, and washboard conditions. When approaching oncoming vehicles, watch for soft shoulders or the absence of shoulders.

### 11.14: Construction zones

Every year drivers are faced with highway construction and maintenance projects, which are designed to improve the efficiency and safety of our transportation systems.

Every construction or maintenance operation creates a work zone with equipment, workers, and, in some cases, daily changes to the road that you may be used to driving. In advance of these projects are signs, cones and other devices designed to warn you of the upcoming changes and hazards associated with the road construction. These changes and additions require you to stay alert and focused at all times while driving. Large construction projects can have complex work zones with flaggers, portable concrete barriers, complicated directional signing and reduced speed limits to safely direct you through the work zone.

The reduced speed limits are critical because they give drivers more time to understand and react to the information and reduced speed allows more time to safely drive through the complex assortment of devices, workers and equipment.

Unfortunately, there is no way to completely separate drivers from these work zone hazards, which places the construction crews at additional risk. Not only are these workers dealing with construction dangers associated with heavy equipment, excavation, power lines and other activities but they are constantly on guard for vehicles that may stray into the work area.

Your safety, your passenger's safety, and the safety of these workers depends on you. From 1982 through 2014, 24,745 individuals (about 750 per year) lost their lives in work zone crashes.

Because of this, increased police enforcement is routinely added to construction projects. In order to ensure drivers understand the importance of complying with signs and directions given in work zones, the fines have been doubled for most of the violations that occur in these work zones.

Remember when driving on Colorado's highways, if you encounter a work zone, for your own safety and the safety of the workers:

- Pay attention, use extra caution and stay focused on the driving task.
- Obey all construction signs (including work zone speed limit signs) and flagger instructions.
- Watch the vehicle in front of you (most work zone crashes are rear-end collisions due to an inattentive driver).
- Drive calmly and avoid aggressive drivers.
- Remember to require all occupants to buckle up.
- This includes making sure children are in the back seat and also properly secured in the vehicle.

## SECTION FIVE: SAFE DRIVING TIPS

### 12: Defensive driving

Everything that is contained in this manual is for the purpose of eliminating driver error. If you obey every highway rule and regulation, your chances of being involved in an accident will be greatly reduced.

It is important that you become a defensive driver. Defensive driving is driving to protect yourself and others from dangerous and unexpected driving situations as well as everyday driving.

#### 12.1: 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. When you are turning, driving through, or entering an intersection always look left, right and left again. Scanning helps you to see problems ahead, vehicles and people that may be in the road or on the shoulder by the time you reach them, warning signs of problems ahead and signs giving you directions.

**Look ahead:** In order to avoid last-minute braking or the need to turn abruptly, you should look down the road at least 10 seconds ahead of your vehicle (City = one block, open road = one half a mile). By looking well ahead and being ready to stop or change lanes if needed, you can drive more safely, save on fuel, and help keep traffic moving at a steady pace.

**Look to the sides:** As other vehicles or pedestrians may cross or enter your path at anytime, you should look to both sides to watch for potential trouble.

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

## 12.2: Following another vehicle

Three second rule: Under normal conditions, use the three second rule. Watch the car ahead of you; when it passes a reference point (such as a mile marker, sign or telephone pole) then count “one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three.” If you pass the reference point before you finish counting, you are following too closely.

It is also important to consider weather, road conditions, the amount of traffic, and time of day. If the road is slick, the stopping distance required is greatly increased.

### **Following Too Closely (C.R.S. 42-4-1008(1)):**

“The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicles and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway.”

## 12.3: Adjusting to traffic

Keep pace with traffic in a reasonable and prudent manner. If you are going faster than traffic, you will have to keep passing others. Each time you pass someone, there is a chance for collision. Driving considerably 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 try to pass you. Remember to obey all posted speed limits.

## 12.4: Trouble spots

Wherever people or traffic gather, your time and room to maneuver is limited.

These areas require slower speeds and increased observation:

- Shopping centers
- Rush-hour traffic
- Schools
- Narrow bridges
- Playgrounds

- Toll plazas
- Residential streets

## SECTION SIX: SHARING THE ROAD

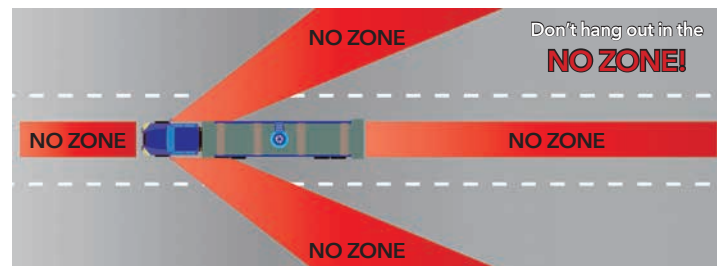
Sharing the road means getting along, not ahead. A courteous, alert and knowledgeable driver will make the highways safer for all. Bicycles, motorcycles, buses, trucks and truck tractors each have unique operating characteristics.

### 13: Large trucks and buses

Due to their size and weight, large trucks and buses present unique problems to motorists who share the highway with them. A loaded truck with good tires and properly adjusted brakes traveling at 55 m.p.h. on a clear, dry roadway requires a minimum of 290 feet to come to a complete stop.

Trucks/buses require more room than automobiles to execute turns, make lane changes and other driving maneuvers.

Trucks/buses have blind spots called ‘No Zones’, which are areas around trucks/buses where cars either disappear into blind spots or are so close that they restrict the truck or bus driver ability to stop or maneuver safely. Both types of No Zones greatly increase the potential for a crash.



### Points to remember:

**Backing:** Do not pass or stop close to a truck/bus that is preparing to, or is backing up, as the trailer will hide objects in the No Zone.

**Passing:** Maintain a constant speed when passing and reentering the lane in front of trucks or buses, since they require longer distances to slow down than cars. Do not pull in front of a truck or bus until you can see the entire front of the vehicle.

**Rear blind spots:** Trucks/buses have large blind spots behind them. If you tailgate, not only do you make it impossible for the driver to see you, but you also cut off your own view of traffic.

Remember, the bigger the truck/bus:

- The bigger the blind spots.
- The more room they need to maneuver.
- The longer it takes them to stop.
- The longer it takes them to accelerate.

- The longer it takes to pass them.
- The more likely you're going to be the loser in a collision.

**Side blind spots:** Trucks/buses have much larger blind spots on both sides than cars. If the truck or bus driver needs to make an emergency maneuver or change lanes, they will not be able to see you and a collision could result.

**Wide turns:** Because of their size, trucks/buses often need to move to the left lane to make right turns. Cutting in between the truck/bus and the curb or shoulder increases the possibility of a crash.



**Runaway truck ramps:** Occasionally truck/buses lose their ability to brake.

In order to prevent serious accidents from occurring due to out-of-control vehicles, runaway truck ramps have been built.

Never park on the ramp or even in the entrance. Not only is this illegal, it is inviting disaster. You may be depriving a truck or bus driver of the chance to survive by denying him or her access to the runaway ramp.

One indication of a runaway truck/bus is smoke coming from the brakes. Get out of the way and/or do not get in front of the truck/bus.

Bus-related issues:

- Buses make frequent stops.
- Avoid being caught behind the bus by making safe lane changes.
- If you are passing a stopped bus use care as the bus may start to move out into your lane of traffic.

## 13.1: Railroad crossings

When approaching a railroad crossing, be cautious because a train can arrive at any time - day, or night. Obey all warning devices, lights, gates and signs. Do not drive onto a crossing until you are sure the tracks are clear, especially when there are multiple tracks. There may be a second train.

Do not misjudge the train's speed and distance. Because of its large size, a train appears to be moving much slower than you think. The average freight train traveling at 55 m.p.h. requires approximately one mile to stop.

**Advance warning signs:** A railroad crossing is ahead. The warning sign is located at a sufficient distance to allow you to stop (if necessary) before reaching the crossing.

**Pavement markings:** Consist of an "R X R" and a stop line and may be painted on the pavement in front of a crossing. Always stay behind the painted stop line while waiting for a passing train.

**Crossbuck signs:** These signs should be treated the same as a yield sign. If there is more than one track, a sign below the Crossbuck indicates the number of tracks at this crossing.

**Flashing light signals:** Always stop when the lights begin to flash. Do not attempt to cross until the lights have stopped flashing.

**Gates:** Gates are used with flashing light signals at certain crossings. Do not cross until the gates are raised and the lights have stopped flashing.



## 13.2: Light rail

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) has added Light Rail Vehicles (LRV) to its bus fleet in the Denver Metropolitan area. Clean, quiet and reliable, light rail is safe, proven technology - but it requires additional attention from pedestrians and motorists.

In some areas, LRVs will operate on streets in the same way as other motor vehicles, and will have the same rights and responsibilities as other motorists. In other areas (such as on Stout and California streets in downtown Denver) LRVs will operate in the opposite direction from other traffic. The LRVs will be governed by all traffic signals and signs when operating on the streets.

Pedestrian safety tips:

- LRVs are very quiet, so when approaching a light rail line stop, look and listen in both directions (even on one way streets) .
- Do not step on the rails as they can be very slippery.
- Never climb between two LRVs that are hooked together.

**Driver safety tips:**

Each light rail car can weigh up to 40 tons and cannot stop quickly.

Remember these important tips while driving in a light rail area:

- Never turn in front of an approaching LRV.
- Never turn across a set of light rail tracks without checking in all directions.
- Watch for people getting on and off a stopped LRV.
- Be especially alert in light rail areas as nearby buildings and foliage can make it difficult for motorists to see them.



- The light rail crossing areas for motorists can have regular traffic lights. Some have warning lights and some have gates with railroad type traffic arms. All these signals mean the same thing: Stop! Do not cross the tracks!
- Never drive around traffic gates, even if a LRV has just passed. Another vehicle may be coming from the other direction.
- Be aware of your vehicle height. Overhead wires are a standard height of 18 feet, six inches above the center of the tracks.
- Always assume a wire hanging from the overhead catenary is electrified, so never touch the wire or anything it is in contact with.

### 13.3: Aggressive drivers

#### *Protecting yourself from aggressive drivers:*

To protect yourself from an aggressive driver, don't engage with that driver. Don't attempt to match his or her aggressive act. Avoid eye contact. Even if you've unintentionally made a mistake that made the other driver angry, back off, give way to the other driver and let the aggressive driver go.

A few seconds engaged with an aggressive driver could change your life, or the lives of the people riding with you, forever.

**Reporting aggressive drivers:** Dial \*CSP (\*277) to report aggressive drivers. The Colorado State Patrol has set aside a special cellular telephone number for motorists and bicyclists to use in reporting aggressive drivers. The call will be handled by the state patrol trooper closest to the caller, or will be referred to a participating local law enforcement agency. There is no charge for the call.

**Could I become an aggressive driver?:** Anyone is capable of becoming an aggressive driver. Some drivers may be more likely to become aggressive. Here is a series of questions to determine whether you have a greater potential to become aggressive behind the wheel. Take a few minutes to ask yourself these questions, and be honest.

Do you:

- Mentally condemn other drivers as incompetent or stupid?
- Make negative comments about other drivers to those riding with you?
- Close up space to stop other motorists from merging or changing lanes?
- Prevent another driver from passing?
- Tailgate a driver to get them to speed up or get out of your way?
- Angrily speed past another driver?
- Run a stop sign, red light or other traffic control device out of frustration or anger?

- Honk or yell at someone to express your anger or frustration?
- Make an obscene gesture at another driver?
- Pursue another vehicle to express your anger?
- Deliberately bump or ram another vehicle?
- Exit your vehicle to teach the other driver a lesson through either a verbal exchange or physical confrontation?
- Fantasize about physically attacking another driver?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, even just a couple, you may be at risk to become an aggressive driver.

#### *How do I avoid becoming an aggressive driver?:*

Leave early for any trip. Too frequently people don't allow enough time to get where they to go want on time! Play music that you like, but not so loud that you can't hear emergency vehicles. Keep cool. Don't transfer the anger you may feel from other situations into your driving. Let people merge, even if you don't agree with what they're doing.

### 13.4: Pedestrians

Pedestrians are those people standing, walking or using a wheelchair on public streets, highways, and private property.

As a pedestrian, you should avoid walking on the traveled portion of a road. When there is no sidewalk, you should walk on the outside of a curb or painted edge strip, if either exists. When walking along a road, you should walk on the side facing traffic. When vision is poor, such as at night, make yourself more visible by wearing light-colored clothing, a white cloth tied around your arm, or some reflective material. You have the right-of-way at crosswalks and intersections whether the crosswalks are marked or not. However, you should always watch for vehicles. If there is an accident you are the one who will be injured.

- Never walk across a freeway or expressway.
- Do not leave the curb or sidewalk so suddenly that an approaching vehicle cannot yield.
- Look for walk and don't walk signals at intersections:
  - Steady don't walk: Do not cross.
  - Steady walk: You may cross.
  - Flashing walk: You may not start across the street.
  - Those pedestrians that started across during a steady walk signal shall complete their crossing to a sidewalk or island.



### 13.5: Bicycles

Bicycles are a legitimate form of transportation and are considered “vehicles” under state law. Per C.R.S. 42-4-1412, bicyclists have the same rights and duties as motorists.

Because motorists and bicyclists share the road, both are responsible for following the rules of the road to ensure safety, and both can be ticketed for not obeying traffic laws, though points are not assessed against the bicyclist’s driver license.

Roads can be safe for all users if motorists and bicyclists understand and obey the following state laws:

- Bicyclists must ride in the same direction as traffic and as far to the right as is judged safe by the bicyclist.
- On a multi-lane one-way street, a bicyclist can ride to the right or the left side of roadway.
- Bicyclists can ride side-by-side as long as they are not impeding the normal and reasonable movement of traffic. Moving to single file to allow easier passing is courteous practice.
- At night and low-light situations, bicyclists are required to have a headlight, side reflectors and a red rear reflector.
- No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped.
- A bicyclist shall not attach himself/herself to any moving vehicle upon the roadway.
- Bicyclists shall keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.
- Motorists must give a bicyclist at least a three foot buffer when overtaking or passing.
- Motorists can cross a center line when passing a bicyclist if the oncoming lane is clear and they don’t interfere with any other traffic.

Bicyclists are required to use hand signals to communicate turns unless the hand is needed in the control or operation of the bicycle.

- For a right turn, extend the right arm straight out to the right or left arm upward from the elbow.
- For a left turn, extend the left arm directly out to the left.
- If slowing or stopping, drop the left arm down at the elbow.

Persons may park bicycles on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by an official traffic control device or local ordinance. Bicycles are allowed on sidewalks and bike paths unless restricted by local ordinance. Bicyclists must give an audible signal before passing a pedestrian.

### 13.5a: Avoiding collisions

Drivers of vehicles can help to prevent collisions with bicyclists by knowing the most common causes of motorist-bicyclist collisions and how to avoid them.

Though bicycles travel in the same direction as motor vehicles, they are generally moving more slowly and usually travel to the right of the right lane, on the shoulder, or in a bike lane.

**Exceptions include:** Making left turns, when a right turn lane is present and the cyclist is traveling straight through, or when the right side of a lane has hazards or debris that the bicyclist must avoid.

Motorists must be aware that bicyclists, like pedestrians, are more vulnerable users of the public roads and that they may change positions in the road to avoid road hazards. Also, be aware that strong winds can unexpectedly move a bicyclist into a different position on the road.

Inexperienced bicyclists or younger bicyclists may be less predictable. Signs of an inexperienced bicyclist include riding against traffic, riding on the sidewalk or swerving.

Take extra precautions when driving around or near bicyclists displaying these behaviors.

Five common errors that can cause a motorist-bicyclist collision include:

Cause of collision	How to prevent
Motorist turning left in front of an oncoming bicyclist.	Look for oncoming bicyclists riding on the shoulder or edge of the lane before turning.
Motorist or bicyclist running a stop sign or stop signal.	Stop first and then proceed into intersection yielding to others.
Motorist opening a vehicle door without looking behind for a passing bicyclist.	Always check behind you before opening a door into the roadway.
Bicyclist riding the wrong way against traffic, toward the motorist.	Ride bicycles in the same direction as traffic.
Motorist pulling out from a driveway and failing to see a bicyclist on the road or sidewalk.	Check both directions when crossing a sidewalk, bike path, or road.

## SECTION SEVEN: THE DRIVE TEST

Drive tests are by appointment only. Generally, Mondays, Fridays and days after holidays are the busiest. To allow for sufficient time to complete the drive test and any processing, the last appointment for a drive test is at 4 p.m. at those offices with 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours of operation. Appointments are scheduled close together. You must be on time. If you are late for your appointment, you will have to reschedule.

Not all driver license offices offer drive tests. Check the list of offices at [Colorado.gov/DMV](http://Colorado.gov/DMV) for locations, services provided and hours of operation.

The drive test will be given in a legally licensed vehicle that you provide. You must show evidence of insurance and registration for that vehicle. The examiner will check the vehicle for safety including brake lights, turn signals, seat belts, the windshield, and tires.

The drive test measures your skill and knowledge of legal and safe driving practices. For safety reasons, only the driver and the examiner are allowed in the vehicle during the test.

You may question the examiner before the test begins. After that, any unnecessary talking will only hamper the test. You will be scored during the entire test.

The drive test will be administered using guidelines from the [American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators](http://American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators) (AAMVA). The skills measured will be an assessment of all three of the following categories:

**Perceptual:** The ability to interpret the traffic environment in a way that permits proper vehicle operation. (See and know what to do)

**Perceptual-motor:** The ability to couple driving responses with traffic stimuli. (See, know what to do, and do it)

**Attention sharing:** The ability to carry out two or more performances simultaneously. (Steer, control speed, watch)

Your driving test score will be based upon how well you perform the following maneuvers:

- Left and right turns.
- Stop intersections.
- Through intersections.
- Lane changes in traffic.
- General driving behavior.
- Merging to and from traffic.

Specific maneuvers have grading factors that are associated with the performance requirements. These are:

- **Lane selection:** Enters/exits traffic from proper lane, approaches intersections in proper lane, ends maneuver in proper lane.
- **Lane management:** Remaining entirely within the turning lane, keeps both hands on the wheel, uses approved method of steering control (hand-over-hand or push-pull-slide), keeping vehicle centered in appropriate lane at start and finish of maneuver, starts/finishes turns in proper lane, does not encroach over lane markings, or drag wheels over curbs.
- **Signals:** Activates signal the proper distance in advance of turning or making a lane change, cancels signal, if necessary, after completion of maneuver.

- **Speed control:** Smooth deceleration, does not impede traffic, adjusts speed to react to traffic or conditions, maintains steady speed during lane change, approaches intersection at a speed which allows the turn to be made without stopping or braking during the turn.
- **Stopping:** Does not encroach over stop line or crosswalk, keeps vehicle wheels pointed straight ahead while stopped, does not turn wheels until actually beginning to make the turn, maintains an adequate gap between vehicles (rear wheels of vehicle ahead are visible and/or uses three-second rule following distance to stop).
- **Acceleration:** Accelerates smoothly without jerking, doesn't lug engine, coast, impede traffic, clash gears, or stall vehicle.
- **Searching:** Observes the traffic environment, looks over shoulder before changing lanes, uses mirrors, looks left, right, left prior to entering intersections.
- **General driving behavior:** Steering, braking, acceleration, observation, lane usage and obeying all traffic laws, signs and signals.

If you fail the drive test, you must wait until the next day before another exam will be given, unless the examiner feels more time is necessary to allow for improvement.

## SECTION EIGHT: EMERGENCIES

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

### 14: Avoiding collisions

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

- Stop or slow down quickly.
- Turn quickly.
- Speed up.

**Stopping quickly:** Most vehicles have Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) that will help you stop without skidding. Be sure to read the vehicle owners manual on how to use the ABS.

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:** Step on the brake pedal, but then let up and turn the steering wheel. Braking will slow the vehicle some, and it puts more weight on the front tires and this allows for a quicker turn. Do not lock up the front wheels while braking or turn so sharply that the vehicle can only plow ahead. Another consideration is 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.

## 14.1: 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. The following section notes some possible vehicle failures and what you can do if they happen.

### 14.1a: Brake failure

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 car is off the roadway. Do not drive any vehicle without brakes.

### 14.1b: Tire blowout

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 at a safe place.

### 14.1c: Power failure

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.

### 14.1d: Headlight failure

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.

### 14.1e: Jammed gas pedal

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

### 14.1f: Driving off the pavement

If your right wheels run off the pavement edge, do not use your brakes. Do not try to pull sharply back onto the pavement.

Take your foot off the accelerator, steer straight ahead, straddling the pavement edge, until the car has almost stopped. Then turn and guide your car back onto the road.

## 14.2: Animals

There may be occasions when an animal suddenly runs in front of your vehicle. Small animals such as rabbits, dogs, or cats seldom cause severe property damage to vehicles, but present a hazard if a motorist takes evasive action that results in losing control of the vehicle.

Big game animals, such as elk or deer, are large enough to cause damage to a motor vehicle. However, the size of these animals may cause the motorist to take drastic evasive action to prevent a collision. This may result in a more serious crash than if the vehicle collided with the animal. Regretfully, the safest alternative may be hitting the animal. Concentrate on retaining control of the vehicle before, during and after the collision with the animal.

About 90 percent of deer-vehicle crashes occur between dusk and dawn, at all times of the year. Big game animals can appear in metropolitan areas as well as mountainous regions. If there are animals near the roadway, slow down and proceed with extreme caution.

## 15: Accidents

In the event of an accident you should:

- Stop immediately.
- Check for injuries and where practical render reasonable assistance.
- Call the police and emergency personnel.
- Exchange name, address, phone, registration and insurance information.

**If under accident alert status:** If alcohol and drugs are not involved, there are no injuries, and all vehicles are still drivable, exchange name, address, phone, registration and insurance information. You must file an accident report with the police within 24 hours.

If an accident involves a parked car and you cannot find the owner, call the police and leave a note in a place that the owner of the car can find it.

**Move It Law:** State law requires motorists involved in a minor accident on a divided highway to move their vehicles off the highway when:

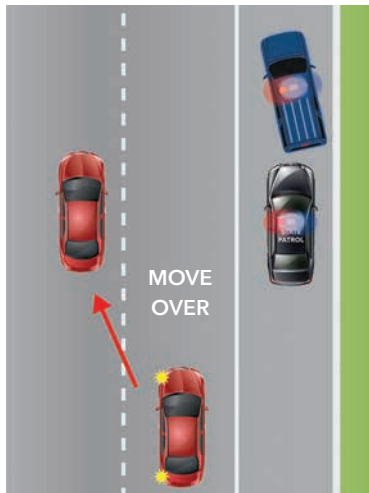
- The vehicle is drivable;
- No drugs or alcohol are involved; and
- There are no injuries.

Once at a safe location, drivers can notify law enforcement and exchange information. Police and insurance companies will not penalize you for moving your car off the road.

**Move Over Law:**

When you see stopped emergency vehicles on highways with activated red, white or blue lights in an adjacent lane, you must move over one lane, if you can do so safely. If it is not safe or you are traveling on a road that is one lane in each direction, you must slow down.

Colorado's Move Over Law protects law enforcement, fire, maintenance, other emergency personnel and you.



### 15.1: First aid

Good Samaritan laws were developed to encourage people to help others in emergency situations. They require that the “Good Samaritan use common sense and a reasonable level of skill, not to exceed the scope of the individual’s training in emergency situations.” They assume each person would do his or her best to save a life or prevent further injury.

When citizens respond to an emergency and act as a reasonable and prudent person would under the same conditions, Good Samaritan immunity generally prevails. This legal immunity protects you, as a rescuer, from being sued and found financially responsible for the victims injury.

For example, a reasonable and prudent person would:

- Move a victim only if the victim’s life was endangered.
- Ask a conscious victim for permission before giving care.
- Check the victim for life-threatening emergencies before providing further care.
- Summon professional help to the scene by calling the local emergency number or the operator.
- Continue to provide care until more highly trained personnel arrive.

## SECTION NINE: ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

### 16: Donate Life Colorado Organ and Tissue Donor Registry

People who choose to become organ and tissue donors see it as a way to make a difference in the world. They say it feels good to know they can help others.

Currently, in Colorado, there are over 2,500 people waiting for life-saving organ transplants. You can make a difference by saying “yes” and joining the Donate Life Colorado Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.

When applying for or renewing a Colorado driver license, Instruction Permit or ID card, you will be asked two important questions regarding organ and tissue donation.

- Would you like to register as an organ and tissue donor?

If you say “yes”, a greyscale heart with a “Y” will appear on the front of your license, permit or ID card.

Your name will automatically be added to the Donate Life Colorado Registry. Being in the Donor Registry means you have elected to have all of your organs and tissues made available for transplant at the time of your death. Joining the Registry not only documents your decision to save lives by becoming an organ and tissue donor, it relieves your family of having to make the donation decision on your behalf.

The registry is managed by Donor Alliance, a non-profit, federally-designated organ and tissue recovery agency, and is accessible only to authorized donation personnel.

Consider these facts about donation:

- One donor can save the lives of up to eight people, and heal the lives of up to 50 others.
- People of all ages and medical histories can be donors - even those with diabetes or hepatitis C.
- There is no cost to the donor or donor family related to donation.
- All major religions support organ and tissue donation.

You can sign up, or remove your name from the Donor Registry, by visiting [www.DonateLifeColorado.org](http://www.DonateLifeColorado.org) or by calling 303-329-4747 or 888-868-4747.

Another way for you to support organ and tissue donation is to make a voluntary contribution to the Emily Maureen Ellen Keyes Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Fund. The Fund was created in 1996 by the Colorado State Legislature to increase organ and tissue donation in Colorado.

Your contributions to the fund go directly to public outreach and education surrounding organ, eye and tissue donation. Information brochures are available at all Colorado driver license offices. For more information, call 888-868-4747 or visit [www.donoralliance.org](http://www.donoralliance.org).

# Drive Time Log Sheet

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your instruction permit:

If you are under 18, you must comply with the following requirements:

You must be 16 years of age to be issued an instruction permit unless you have completed and passed the classroom portion of an approved driver education course then you may be issued an instruction permit at the age of 15 years. You must submit proof of completion, along with your identification, at the time you apply for the permit.

Or, if you have completed a State-approved 4-hour driver awareness course, then you may be issued a permit at 15 years/6 months. You must submit proof of completion, along with your identification, at the time you apply for the permit.

You are required to hold your first instruction permit for at least twelve months and be at least 16 years of age before you can get a driver license in Colorado. This means that if you get your permit on your 15th birthday, you will have to hold the permit until your 16th birthday before you can apply for the license.

You are required, by law, to complete behind-the-wheel training before you can be issued your driver license if you are under the age of 16 years, 6 months at the time you apply for your driver license. The BTW training can be administered two ways: you can take 6 hours with a driving instructor from a department-approved school or, if there isn't a driving school that offers BTW training at least 20 hours per week with an address that is within 30 miles of the permit holder's residence, you may complete 12 hours with a parent, guardian or alternate permit supervisor.

At the time you apply for your driver license, you are also required, by law, to submit a log of your driving experience. The log sheet must show a minimum total of 50 hours, with 10 hours of those 50 hours having been driven at night. The Drive Time Log Sheet is used any time you drive. The appropriate box is filled in by the parent/guardian driving with you or by the driver authorized by your parent/guardian to accompany you while you are driving.

They will fill in the date, the total drive time, the amount of night driving (if any) and their initials. The comments section is optional for licensing purposes, but is useful for you to track your progress.

The Drive Time Log Sheet is the only log sheet acceptable as proof of the required 50 hours of driving time unless the log sheet you are presenting is from a state-approved Commercial Driving School, Driver Education or 3rd-party testing organization. The 50 hour total may include your 6-hour BTW training, if your BTW training was with your Driver education teacher. If you complete 12 hours of BTW training with your parent/guardian/alternate permit supervisor, the 12 hours is IN ADDITION to the 50 hour requirement of the log sheet, for a total of 62 hours. You may make photocopies of the log sheet if you need more than one to complete your 50 hours.

When you have reached your required totals, your parent, stepparent, guardian or grandparent with Power of Attorney (the same person that signed the DR 2460, Affidavit of Liability and Guardianship, for you to get your permit) or your driver education instructor must then verify total driving time and total night driving time on your log sheet(s).

These totals are entered on the appropriate lines on the back of the last log sheet. The parent/guardian or driver education instructor will then sign and date only the back of the log sheet that has the final completed totals.

Once you have held your instruction permit for at least 12 full months, and you are at least 16 years of age, you are eligible to apply for your license. You will need to bring the completed original Drive Time Log Sheet(s) with you when you come in.

You must submit the completed Drive Time Log Sheet at the time you apply for your license. If your parent/guardian/alternate permit supervisor administered the required behind-the-wheel training, they will complete the back of a DR 2460, the Affidavit of Completion of a Driver Education Classroom Course or BTW. Reminder, drive tests at driver license offices are by appointment, only.

**Your driver license:** When you are issued your driver license, if you are under the age of 18, there are still a few things you need to be aware of. The law does not allow you to carry a passenger under the age of 21 until you have held your license for at least 6 months. And, you can't carry more than one passenger under 21 until you've held your license for at least one year. The exceptions to this are if your parent/guardian is with you, or there is an adult passenger 21 or older who has a valid license and has held that license for at least one year, or the passenger under 21 needs emergency medical assistance or is a member of your immediate family.

While you are under 18, you cannot drive between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m. unless you have held your license for at least one year. The exceptions to this are if your parent/guardian is with you, or there is an adult passenger 21 or older who has a valid license and has held that license for at least one year, or it is an emergency, or you are an emancipated minor with a valid license. You may drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m. if it's to a school or school-authorized activity where the school doesn't provide transportation. You will need a signed statement from the school official showing the date of the activity. And, you may drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m., if it's to and from work. You must carry a signed statement from your employer verifying your employment.

While you are under the age of 18, when you carry any allowed passengers, everyone riding with you must wear their seat belt. Only one passenger can ride in the front seat with you. You can only carry as many passengers in the back seat as there are seat belts.

Colorado law prohibits drivers under 18 years age from using a cell or mobile phone while driving unless it is to contact the police or fire department or it is an emergency. Drivers 18 and older may not use a cell or mobile telephone for text messaging while driving unless it is to contact the police or fire department or it is an emergency. Your license expires 20 days after your 21st birthday.

Have a safe journey and we will see you when you turn 21.

Date:	Verifier's Initials:	Driving Time:	Night Driving:
Comments:			
Date:	Verifier's Initials:	Driving Time:	Night Driving:
Comments:			
Date:	Verifier's Initials:	Driving Time:	Night Driving:
Comments:			
Date:	Verifier's Initials:	Driving Time:	Night Driving:
Comments:			
Date:	Verifier's Initials:	Driving Time:	Night Driving:
Comments:			
Date:	Verifier's Initials:	Driving Time:	Night Driving:
Comments:			
Date:	Verifier's Initials:	Driving Time:	Night Driving:
Comments:			
Date:	Verifier's Initials:	Driving Time:	Night Driving:
Comments:			
Date:	Verifier's Initials:	Driving Time:	Night Driving:
Comments:			
Date:	Verifier's Initials:	Driving Time:	Night Driving:
Comments:			
Date:	Verifier's Initials:	Driving Time:	Night Driving:
Comments:			
Totals: _____		Driving Time:	Night Driving:
		Minimum of 50 hours	Minimum of 10 hours

The verifying signature must be from one of the signers of the Affidavit of Liability and Guardianship, form DR 2460, or from the Driver Education Instructor. Please check all totals prior to signing. By signing below, I certify that the above total hours of driving experience is true and accurate.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian or Driver Education Instructor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Affidavit of Liability and Guardianship (C.R.S. 42-2-108 and 42-2-109)

(Must be signed in the presence of a Motor Vehicle Employee or Notary Public)



















Minor's First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)
<p>I understand by signing this form I assume liabilities of the above minor driving a motor vehicle, and I understand my signature may be withdrawn upon written request and the minor's license / permit will be canceled. By signing this form I attest that I hold a valid Colorado Driver License and I am 21 years of age or older. In the event that I do not hold a valid Colorado Driver License, I appoint the Alternative Permit Supervisor designated below who holds a valid Colorado Driver License and is 21 years of age or older to supervise the minor while learning to drive. Additionally, I am aware that I am the only person who is responsible to sign the drive time log sheets for this minor.</p>			
Printed Name and Signature of Person Assuming Liability		ID Type and No.	
By signing this form, I give my consent as Parent / Guardian for the above named Minor to be designated as an Organ/Tissue Donor.			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Motor Vehicle Employee			Date (MM/DD/YY)
<b>Notary Public</b>		<b>Notary Seal</b>	
Subscribed and sworn before me this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.			
In the State of Colorado, County of _____. My commission expires _____.			
Court or Power of Attorney documents presented: _____.			
Signature of Notary Public _____			
<b>Alternative Permit Supervisor</b>			
I appoint the Alternative Permit Supervisor designated below, with a valid Colorado Driver License and is 21 years of age or older to supervise the minor while they are learning to drive.			
First Name	Last Name	CO Customer Identification Number (DL#)	
By signing, I attest that I have a valid Colorado Driver's License.			
Signature of Alternative Permit Supervisor			Date (MM/DD/YY)





# Headed to the DMV? **SKIP THE TRIP!**

## THE DMV'S IMPROVED RANGE OF ONLINE SERVICES MAKE IT EASY TO:

-  REQUEST A DRIVER RECORD
-  PAY CITATION (TRAFFIC TICKET)
-  VIEW/SUBMIT A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE (DOT)
-  BEGIN APPLICATION FOR A NEW DRIVER LICENSE OR ID
-  RENEW A DRIVER LICENSE OR ID (IF ELIGIBLE)
-  RENEW VEHICLE REGISTRATION
-  PAY A REINSTATEMENT FEE
-  UPLOAD REINSTATEMENT DOCUMENTS
-  SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
-  MANAGE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION PLAN
-  CHANGE DRIVER LICENSE OR ID ADDRESS
-  ADD/CHANGE RENEWAL REMINDERS
-  UPDATE EMERGENCY CONTACTS
-  CHECK ELIGIBILITY TO RENEW BY MAIL
-  EXCHANGE DRIVER LICENSE OR PERMIT FOR AN ID
-  EXTEND AN EXPIRATION DATE, IF ELIGIBLE
-  SUBMIT A SUBPOENA
-  RESCHEDULE A HEARING



[mydmv.colorado.gov](https://mydmv.colorado.gov)