

2021

Driver Education Program

Parent / Guardian
Module Outline &
Resource



REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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PARENT/GUARDIAN SESSION

Introduction

The objectives of this class is to educate parents/guardians about the content of the driver education curriculum, the junior operator's law and the driving skills and behaviors that their children will be learning. It is important for parents/guardians to know the skills and behaviors that they should be modeling while driving so that they can coach and mentor their children to be safe and skilled drivers.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the training session, the parent/guardian should be able to:

1. Summarize the JOL restrictions/penalties, as well as where to locate JOL information.
2. Articulate a clear explanation of the parent/guardian's role in the driver training process, including five of the most important **things that they can do** to help their child be a safe driver, and five behaviors that they need to change in order to be a role model for safe driving.
3. List five of the most important **skills/behaviors that the teen must master** to be a safe driver.
4. Develop a parent/teen practice schedule, using the skills list provided, focusing on one or two items per practice session.
5. Create a parent/teen contract of rules for driving, listing each rule's consequences.
6. Successfully activate their RMV online profile, access pertinent information and perform basic tasks.
 - *View balance*
 - *View permit/license status*
 - *View test results*
 - *Identify where/how to get a driver's manual*
 - *Schedule, or explain to their teen driver, how to schedule a permit test and a road test.*

Topic Outline

I. Driver's Education Overview

- Purpose and class structure
- Expectations
- Curriculum module

II. Parent's Role

- Parent/Teen Contract

RESOURCE: [MA Contract Example](#)

[Young Driver's: The High-Risk Years](#) (video)

- Driver Development/Practice Plan - *How will you spend the MINIMUM 40+ driving hours*

*Note: 40 hours is the minimum, however it is strongly recommended parents/guardians allocate **more than 40 hours** to the Driver Development/Practice plan.*

Suggested Topics:

- *Destination vs. Practice driving*
- *RTE Score Sheet – understand the rubric*
- *Specific Skills to practice*
- *Focus on decision making and judgement*

- Selecting the vehicle for a teen driver

RESOURCE: *Selecting the Vehicle for a Teen Driver*

III. Junior Operator's Law

- Permit/License Requirements

RESOURCE: *MA Requirements for Road Test Candidates Under 18*

- Permit/License Restrictions and Penalties

RESOURCE: *JOL Permit Violations and Penalties Chart*

IV. The Safe Driver Law (aka Hands Free Law)

- JOL Requirements
- JOL Penalties

RESOURCE: [Hands Free Law](#) (mass.gov and handout)

[Hands Free Law Pamphlet](#) (mass.gov)

V. Necessary Driving Skills and Behaviors (What to practice and observe)

- Time of Day Driving

Suggested Topics:

Morning/Evening – especially with sun glare

Night Driving – especially with headlight glare

- Location Driving
 - Suggested Topics:
 - City Driving
 - Pedestrians
 - Kids/pets in the street or running out
 - Bicyclists
 - Motorcyclists
 - Highway Driving
 - Merging onto highway
 - Changing lanes
 - Passing
 - Following distance
 - Rural Driving
- Weather/Hazard Driving
 - Suggested Topics:
 - Rain
 - Snow
 - Ice
 - Wind
 - Fog/smoke
 - Flooded streets
- Parking and Special Turns
 - Suggested Topics:
 - Parallel Parking
 - Parking on a hill
 - 3-Point Turn
- Safe/Unsafe Driving Behaviors
 - Suggested Topics:
 - Drowsy Driving
 - Distracted Driving
 - Music
 - Friends
 - Devices
 - Aggressive Driving
 - Running red lights or stop signs
 - Tailgating
 - Weaving through traffic
 - Passing illegally on the right
 - Making improper or unsafe lane changes
 - Screaming, making hand gestures, honking horns, or flashing high beams
 - What should you do when confronted by an aggressive driver?
 - Right of way
 - Four-way stops
 - Blinking traffic lights
 - Turning across traffic

Other

- *Stop signs/white line – rolling stops*
- *Staying in lane on turns*
- *School buses and emergency vehicles*
- *Seat belts*
- *Turn signals*
- *Crosswalks*
- *Hand position while driving and turning*
- *Use of mirrors*

VI. Sign on to *myRMV* Portal

Suggested Topics:

- *Setting up profile and logging on*
- *Viewing balance, license status, exam information*
- *Scheduling permit and road tests*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Note: The RMV highly recommends inviting guest speakers from MADD, local police, and or state police to address parents during your session.

Videos:

MA Safe Driver Videos

A driver's license is a privilege, and with that comes the responsibilities of understanding and following the laws and keeping you and other drivers safe on the road. Watch these videos with your child to prepare for a lifetime of safe driving, bicycling, and walking.

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/first-time-driver-start-here#-safe-driving-tips->

Young Drivers: The High-Risk Years (20 min)

Getting a driver's license is a rite of passage for teenagers, but it also marks the start of their most dangerous years on the road. Teen drivers have much higher crash rates than adults. Fortunately, there are ways parents can help to reduce the risks. This video highlights the stories of three teens whose lives ended too soon and examines common factors such as inexperience, immaturity, and speeding that lead to many crashes involving young, novice drivers. Teens interviewed speak frankly about their driving habits. They recount crashes and near misses. They describe minding their manners when grown-ups are along for the ride but relaxing the rules when they're with friends. Institute experts provide insight into the crucial role parents play by enforcing their state's graduated licensing laws, establishing their own rules, and providing plenty of supervised time behind the wheel.

<https://youtu.be/DmlhjMwZs5A> (multiple recommendations for this video)

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

<https://www.madd.org/about-us/#psa>

Documents:

- [MA Parent's Supervised Driving Program \(PDF\)](#)

Note: Encourage the use of the Road Ready App for logging practice sessions and hours. Ctrl + click the image below, or visit <https://www.roadreadyapp.com/>, to access the download site.



Websites:

- MA Parent's Supervised Driving Program
 - <http://www.eregulations.com/driving/massachusetts/>
- MA First Time Driver Portal
 - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/first-time-driver-start-here>
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving
 - <https://www.madd.org/>
- Share the Keys
 - SharetheKeys.com
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Center for Injury Research Prevention
 - teendriversource.org
Tools and guides for parents, teens, policy makers, and researchers
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
 - nhtsa.gov
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - cdc.gov/parentsarethekey
- Impact Teen Drivers
 - impactteendrivers.org
Teen driver information, resources, and tools
- Just Drive
 - JustDrive.com
Public education forum for dangers of driving while distracted
- National Safety Council
 - driveithome.org
Free resources parents can use to help teens become safer drivers
- Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey
 - bianj.org
Teen driver safety programs, awareness, educational resources, and more

MASSACHUSETTS REQUIREMENTS FOR ROAD TEST CANDIDATES UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

1. Must hold a Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) issued learners permit for 6 months, with a clean record during that time.
2. Attend **30** hours of basic driver's education classroom – If the student misses any amount of classroom time, they cannot attend the last day of class and take the classroom test. They **must** make up the missed hours first and then they can make up the last day of class.
3. Complete **12** hours behind the wheel with an RMV certified instructor.
4. Complete **6** hours of observation of another student's driving with RMV certified instructor.
 - The Executive Order (Covid-19) temporarily allowed for an additional 6 hours of supervised driving with a parent or guardian to replace the observation hours. Junior operators who obtained a permit prior to May 29th will still be allowed to replace the observation hours with the 6 hours of supervised driving with a parent or guardian.
 - Effective May 29, 2021 the requirement for junior operators to complete 6 hours observing another student driver will revert back to driving schools and must be completed as part of the driver's education curriculum. This will apply to junior operators who obtain a permit on or after May 29, 2021.
 - Login to the student portal and you will see a box titled "Parent Conducted Observations" You will also see a green icon titled "add hours". Add observation hours as drive times with you and the student. You should have these 6 hours logged in the portal **before** the student completes their 12 hours of behind the wheel lessons.
5. **30** hours of classroom, **12** hours behind the wheel, and **6** hours of observations (see #4), must be completed within two years in order to receive the Driver's Education Certificate. Your insurance company determines discounts based on the certification.
6. Parent/Guardian must attend a **2**-hour parent class.
7. Parent/Guardian class certificates are valid for 5 years.
8. Parent/Guardian class certificate must be provided to the current driving school if the class was taken at another auto school within the past 5 years.

9. Complete **40** hours of behind the wheel practice at home, with a person who fits all of the following criteria:
- At least 21 years old
 - Has had a license for at least 1 year
 - No suspensions
 - Is occupying a seat beside the teen driver at all times
 - Driver with permit cannot be the designated driver

JOL PERMIT VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

PERMIT Violations			
Violation	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
Unaccompanied by Licensed Driver	60 day suspension \$100 reinstatement Reapply for Permit	180 day suspension Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course \$100 reinstatement fee Reapply for Permit	1 year suspension \$100 reinstatement fee Reapply for Permit
Drag-Racing	1 year suspension Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course & <u>SCARR*</u> Reapply for Permit \$500 reinstatement fee	3 year suspension Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course & <u>SCARR*</u> Reapply for Permit \$1000 reinstatement fee	3 year suspension Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course & <u>SCARR*</u> Reapply for Permit \$1000 reinstatement fee
Time Restriction Violation 12am-5am	60 day suspension \$100 reinstatement fee Reapply for Permit	180 day suspension Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course \$100 reinstatement fee Reapply for Permit	1 year suspension \$100 reinstatement fee Reapply Permit
Speeding	90 day suspension \$100 reinstatement fee Reapply for Permit	1 year suspension \$100 reinstatement fee Reapply for Permit	1 year suspension \$100 reinstatement fee Reapply for Permit
Conviction for the use of a mobile electronic device (text or phone)	60 day suspension \$100 reinstatement fee Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course Reapply for Permit	1 year suspension \$100 reinstatement fee	1 year suspension \$100 reinstatement fee
Negligent operation and injury from mobile phone use	180 day suspension \$500 reinstatement fee	1 year suspension \$500 reinstatement fee Reapply for Permit	1 year suspension \$500 reinstatement fee Reapply for Permit

JOL LICENSE VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

Conviction for:	1st Offense	2nd Offense	Subsequent Offense
Violating Passenger or Night Restriction	Suspension Period: 60 days	Suspension Period: 180 days Reinstatement Requirement(s): Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course	Suspension Period: One year Reinstatement Requirement(s): Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course, and Full Exam (<u>Learner's Permit Exam</u> and <u>Road Test</u>)
Speeding	Suspension Period: 90 days Reinstatement Requirement(s): Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course, State Courts Against Road Rage course, and Full Exam (<u>Learner's Permit Exam</u> and <u>Road Test</u>)	Suspension Period: One year Reinstatement Requirement(s): Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course, State Courts Against Road Rage course, and Full Exam (<u>Learner's Permit Exam</u> and <u>Road Test</u>)	Suspension Period: One year Reinstatement Requirement(s): Driver Attitudinal Retraining, State Courts Against Road Rage course, and Full Exam (<u>Learner's Permit Exam</u> and <u>Road Test</u>)
Drag-Racing	Suspension Period: One year Reinstatement Requirement(s): Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course, State Courts Against Road Rage course, and Full Exam	Suspension Period: Three years Reinstatement Requirement(s): Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course, State Courts Against Road Rage course, and Full Exam	Suspension Period: Three years Reinstatement Requirement(s): Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course, State Courts Against Road Rage course, and Full Exam

Conviction for:	1st Offense	2nd Offense	Subsequent Offense
	(Learner's Permit Exam and Road Test)	(Learner's Permit Exam and Road Test)	(Learner's Permit Exam and Road Test)
Driving Negligently or Recklessly/ Operating to Endanger	Suspension Period: 180 days	Suspension Period: One year Reinstatement Requirement(s): Full Exam (Learner's Permit Exam and Road Test)	*If subsequent offense falls within a three-year period: Suspension Period: One year Reinstatement Requirement(s): Full Exam (Learner's Permit and Road Test)
Using a Mobile Electronic Device (text or phone)	Suspension Period: 60 days Reinstatement Requirement(s): Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course, and Full Exam (Learner's Permit Exam and Road Test)	Suspension Period: 180 days	Suspension Period: One year
Negligent Operation and Injury from Mobile Phone Use	Suspension Period: 180 days	Suspension Period: One year Reinstatement Requirement(s): Full Exam (Learner's Permit Exam and Road Test)	Suspension Period: One year Reinstatement Requirement(s): Full Exam (Learner's Permit Exam and Road Test)

MASSACHUSETTS HANDS-FREE LAW

Hands-Free While Driving - It's the Law

Fines Up To \$500



Massachusetts law prohibits operators of motor vehicles from using any electronic device, including mobile telephones, unless the device is used in hands-free mode.

The “hands-free” law is effective as of February 23, 2020.

Penalty for violating the hands-free law:

- 1st offense – \$100 fine.
- 2nd offense – \$250 fine, plus mandatory completion of a distracted driving educational program.
- 3rd and subsequent offenses – \$500 fine, plus insurance surcharge and mandatory completion of distracted driving educational program.

What does this mean for me?

Drivers who are 18 and over:

- Can only use electronic devices and mobile phones in hands-free mode and are **only permitted** to touch devices to activate hands-free mode.
- **Not permitted** to hold or support any electronic device/phone.
- **Cannot** touch phone except to activate the hands-free mode and can only enable when the device is installed or properly mounted to the windshield, dashboard, or center console in a manner that does not impede the operation of the motor vehicle.
- **Not allowed** to touch device for texting, emailing, apps, video, or internet use.
- Activation of GPS navigation **is permitted** when the device is installed or properly mounted.
- Handheld use **is allowed only** if the vehicle is both stationary **and** not located in a public travel lane or a bicycle lane but is **not allowed** at red lights or stop signs.
- Voice to text and communication to electronic devices **is legal only** when device is properly mounted; use of headphone (one ear) is permitted.

Drivers who are under 18:

- Are not allowed to use any electronic devices.** All phone use while driving is illegal, including use in hands-free mode.

Operators may use a cell phone to call 911 to report an emergency. If possible, safely pull over and stop before calling 911.

SAMPLE DRIVING CONTRACT FOR PARENTS/TEENS


This contract empowers teens to make decisions based on their personal safety, eliminating peer pressure, and judgment. The agreement between parent and teen provides young drivers with a safe way out of dangerous—and potentially life-threatening—situations.

This contract is a template and can be found at the link below. Use this as basis to create a contract specific to your family.

https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/02/04/Driver%20Parent%20Contract_0.pdf

Junior Operator License

DRIVER-PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT



REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

We, _____ and _____
(Names of Parents or Guardian) (Name of JOL Driver)
 agree to the following conditions:

1. JOL Driver's Responsibilities (Initial each commitment):

I will not let anyone else drive or use the vehicle entrusted to me.

I will not drive with friends or others in the car until _____ (date six months after obtaining license), except for adults and my siblings with my parent/guardians' permission.

I will not drive after midnight.

I will not break driving laws. Any violation may result in the loss of vehicle privileges.

I will report any mechanical problems, noises or concerns with the car's operation to my parent or guardian immediately so that no one drives an unsafe vehicle.

I will not consume alcohol or drugs in the vehicle or operate any vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Any violation may result in the loss of vehicle privileges.

I will not drive if I am drowsy or over-tired.

Everyone in the vehicle must wear a seatbelt and keep it fastened at all times.

I will state my destination and time of return prior to using any vehicle. I will notify my parents/guardian if I think I will be more than 30 minutes late.

I will not drive to endanger my life, the lives of my passengers, or anyone else on the road.

I understand that speeding is against the law and can lead to crashes, tickets, injuries and death.

I understand that crashes are the leading cause of death for teens.

I understand that the legal standard for drunk driving for teens is .02 Blood Alcohol Content and that can be as little as one beer. MA is a zero-tolerance state and a drunk driving conviction can follow me for my entire life.

I understand the Safe Driver Law and will not talk/text on my cell phone while driving.

2. Costs and Maintenance of the Vehicle:

_____ will be responsible for the following:
(Name of JOL Driver)

Indicate dollar amount or percentage of cost:

<input type="checkbox"/> Cost of vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle registration
<input type="checkbox"/> Cost of fuel	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Damage to the vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Fines and other penalties
<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance costs	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Other

Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> Check the fluids regularly	<input type="checkbox"/> Do normal maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Inspect tires and air pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear or clean windows
<input type="checkbox"/> Report unusual vehicle performance	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuel when tank is less than ¼ full
<input type="checkbox"/> Keep interior and exterior clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

3. Driving Privileges

This portion of the contract may be used to outline any additional conditions or limits on the use of the vehicle as agreed to by JOL drivers and parents/guardian:

4. Parental Responsibilities

Initial all that apply:

- I will listen in a respectful manner to explanations or concerns expressed by my JOL driver regarding the operation of the vehicle or terms of this contract.
- I will provide respectful feedback when accompanying my JOL driver in a motor vehicle.
- I will explain the basics of good vehicle maintenance and respond to reports that the vehicle may need repairs.
- I will serve as a good role model when operating a vehicle and teach good driving skills and habits to my JOL driver.
- I will abide by the Safe Driver Law and not use my cell phone while driving.

5. Operator Impairment as a Result of Alcohol or Drugs

JOL Driver's Responsibility.

I will not get into a vehicle of a driver who has been drinking or using drugs. I will seek alternate transportation or I will call you for advice and/or transportation at any hour from any place.

_____ (Initial)

Parent or Guardian's Responsibility.

I (we) agree to come and get you at any hour, from any place, with no questions asked and no argument at that time, or I (we) will pay for a taxi to bring you home safely. I (we) expect that a discussion of such an incident would follow at a later time.

Likewise, I (we) as your parent or guardian, agree to seek safe, sober transportation. I (we) will not drive if I (we) have been drinking, nor will I (we) ride with a driver who has been drinking or using drugs.

_____ (Initial) _____ (Initial)

6. Liabilities

All drivers are legally responsible for their own actions as a driver and vehicle owners may be legally liable for damages caused by any person operating the owner's vehicle.

Parents/guardians and JOL drivers should understand that insurance coverage and rates might be affected by any damages that result from inappropriate use of the owner's vehicle.

We agree to the terms of this contract, which may be revisited or revised at a later time.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Signature of JOL Driver: _____ Date: _____

LIST OF SKILLS AND BEHAVIORS FOR PARENT/TEEN SESSIONS

As a parent, what do I need to focus on to help my teen become a safer driver? In developing a Development/Practice Plan, focus on the following skills and make sure to practice/observe each of them at some point, preferably multiple times, during the learning process:

Location Driving

City - *Expect the Unexpected*

- Pedestrians
- Kids/pets in the street or running out
- Bicyclists
- Motorcyclists
- Crosswalk
- Stop Signs and White Line
- Turning in the lane/not changing lanes
- Identify hazards/obstacles/distractions

Highway

- Merging onto highway
- Changing Lanes
- Passing
- Following Distance
- Exiting from highway

Rural

- Gravel roads
- Paved roads

Multi-Lane Travel

- Lane changing
- Stopping distance
- Following distance

- Right/Left turns

Parking

- Parallel Parking
- Uphill/Downhill Parking
- Angle/perpendicular parking
- Exiting parking

Backing up/Reversing

- Straight
- Contour of the Road
- Rear window View information

Proper Braking

- Heel on floor (side to side foot movement)

3 Point Turn

- Timing to complete
- Maximize your road space

Roundabouts

- Traffic movement

Hand position

- 10-2
- Hand over hand turning

Inclement Weather Driving

- Rain
- Snow and Ice
- Wind
- Fog
- Hydroplaning

Time of Day Driving Issues

- Night Driving (especially dealing with headlight glare)
- Morning and Early Evening (especially dealing with sun glare)

Other Safety Practices

- Following Distance
- School Buses and Emergency Vehicles
- Turn Signals
- Speed Limits and Maintaining Consistent Speed
- Right of Way
 - Four way stops and Blinking traffic lights*
 - MA Left Turn (DON'T)*
- Mirrors
 - Rearview and side*
 - Blind spots*
 - Looking behind and over shoulder (physically – when changing lanes or reversing)*
- Seat belts

SELECTING THE VEHICLE FOR TEEN DRIVERS

Avoid High-Performance Vehicles

Not only do teen drivers lack experience, but the area of their brain that is used for risk assessment and risk-taking has not been fully developed. As a result, speeding and reckless driving are common among young drivers. High performance features are likely to increase these behaviors.

Avoid Driving Unstable Vehicles

Sport utility vehicles and minivans, especially smaller ones, are inherently less stable than cars because of their higher centers of gravity. Abrupt steering maneuvers commonly occur with inexperienced drivers and can cause rollovers.

Pick a Vehicle with Modern Crash Protection Features

Teenagers should drive vehicles that offer the best protection in the event of a crash. The best models have side and curtain airbags, as well as the standard driver and passenger airbags. Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and an Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) are also great features for helping your teen avoid a crash, but new drivers need to be thoroughly trained in their use. Unfamiliarity with ABS can affect emergency braking. To obtain safety ratings for a vehicle, visit safercar.gov and iihs.org for yearly top safety vehicle picks for new drivers.

Look for the Right Size Vehicle

Small vehicles offer much less protection in crashes than larger ones. However, this doesn't mean you should put your teen in the largest vehicle you can find. Many mid-and full-size cars offer more than adequate crash protection. Pick a vehicle, preferably a passenger sedan, between 3,500 and 4,500 pounds curb weight.

Practice "SAFE" Driving

Crash risk decreases dramatically with driving experience. It is crucial that teens get at least one hour per week of deliberate practice driving. Finding the time for practice can be difficult but is achievable. Plan your teen's practice driving around your normal day-to-day activities.

Vehicle Maintenance

Regardless of the type of vehicle your teen will be using, it is highly recommended that you teach your teen how to approach regular/simple maintenance on the vehicle.

- Changing windshield wipers and adding wiper fluid
- Checking the oil and adding oil if necessary
- Changing tire
- Pumping gas
- Recognizing warning lights on dash
- Adding other fluids

- Vehicle Registration
- Vehicle Inspection

LAWS YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF

1. Texting when driving is illegal for everyone even when you are stopped at red lights.
2. Cell phone use is illegal for drivers under the age of 18 even if it is hands free.
3. Headlights and taillights must be on when wipers are on.
4. Left lane on multi lane roads for passing only unless traffic is heavy.
5. Move Over Law states: Move Over Law requires drivers to move “into a lane not adjacent to that of the emergency response vehicle, highway maintenance vehicle or recovery vehicle” whenever possible.
6. Drivers must have the physically issued permit or license (not a re-produced paper copy or electronic copy) with them at all times while driving.

Note: Current MA law states that an electronic copy (i.e., image on phone) is NOT sufficient.

7. If there is alcohol in the car, even in the trunk, the driver must be at least 21 years old.
8. When driving on a learner’s permit, the driver is covered by the car’s insurance. Once the driver is licensed, they must be added to the car owner’s policy or get their own policy.
9. A blinking yellow arrow means yield to oncoming traffic.

JOL Enforcement Statistics

Citations issued in MA to **Junior Operators** between 6/1/21 – 6/20/21: **179**

Consequences:

- Cost of citation
- Permit/License suspended
- Permit/License reinstatement fees
- Fees to reapply for Permit/License
- Increases to cost of Insurance
- Attend retraining courses