



***DDS***  
*GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF DRIVER SERVICES*

## **2011 Driver's Manual**






## IMPORTANT MESSAGE

The Department of Driver Services (DDS) Board of Directors would like to remind our customers that driving in Georgia is a privilege that carries many responsibilities. Please strive to become a safe and dependable driver to ensure that this privilege will not be lost.

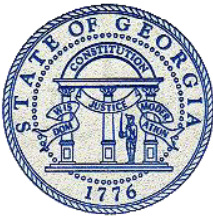
This manual has two main purposes: (1) To help you qualify for a Georgia driver's license and (2) to help you become a safer driver. The majority of customers we service will be applicants for regular passenger vehicles, pickup trucks or vans (Class C). This guide is designed to provide you with the information to obtain and keep this type of license. Other manuals are available for commercial drivers and motorcycle operators.

The information contained in this handbook is not intended to be an official legal reference to the Georgia traffic laws. It is intended only to explain, in everyday language, those laws, driving practices, and procedures that you will use most often. It should be noted that the material in this manual is subject to change to comply with amended State and Federal legislation. The department's primary statutory responsibilities are set forth in Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.).

For current information concerning licensing requirements or locations, visit the DDS website at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov), call our customer service numbers, (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500, (678) 413-8600, or toll-free 866-754-3687 if calling from outside the metro Atlanta area, or follow DDS on Facebook .

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**STATE OF GEORGIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ATLANTA, GA 30334**



My Fellow Georgians,

As Governor, I would like to challenge Georgia motorists to understand the rules of the road and practice safe driving habits. If all drivers and their passengers would fasten seat belts, refrain from driving under the influence, texting while driving and obey the speed limit, fatalities on Georgia's roads would be greatly reduced.

I encourage parents to assist teens in becoming safe drivers by helping them study the traffic laws and safety rules included in this manual. This time spent with your child will help them develop a solid foundation of good driving habits.

As you work with the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS), you should know that I have challenged the department to issue driver's licenses and identification cards in an efficient and friendly manner. Because your time is valuable, DDS has adopted process improvements for more efficient customer service delivery. Employees will strive to meet your needs in a more efficient way.

Thank you for helping to make Georgia's roads and highways a safer place to travel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Deal".

Gov. Nathan Deal

# MISSION STATEMENT

To continuously be the most customer-focused, results-driven, best managed organization by instilling values that demonstrate **“We C.A.R.E.”** while ensuring public trust and safeguarding the integrity of our services.

## Values – “We C.A.R.E.”

### Communication

Provide information in a consistent, courteous manner.

### Accountability

Empower team members and measure our performance.

### Respect

Listen attentively and assist customers in a timely and professional manner.

### Ethics

Demonstrate integrity and honesty in our actions and decisions.



Dear Georgia Drivers:

This manual has been prepared by the Department of Driver Services (DDS) to help you become a safe and responsible driver. Whether you are preparing for your first license or have been driving many years, I encourage you to learn the information provided in this manual and practice your responsibilities as a driver.

For all those young adults about to get their first license, please study carefully. Not only does this manual provide the information to pass the driver examination, but it will also broaden your knowledge of safe driving practices.

To the more experienced driver, please remember you are a role model. New drivers learn by example, so practice safe driving. You may also use his manual to review the rules that may be new or have changed since you received your license.

DDS is committed to constantly improving the level of customer service we provide for you. Georgia's new licensing process incorporates modern levels of fraud prevention with new methods to protect your personal identity. It also creates the foundation for customer accounts.

In the near future, DDS will offer more online options to more customers. Please visit [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov) the next time you need service.

As we continue to create ways to better serve you, we ask that you make safe driving an important priority. If we all pledge to drive in a fashion that will not put others in jeopardy, countless injuries will be prevented and lives saved.

Sincerely,

Gregory C. Dozier  
Commissioner  
Department of Driver Services

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See inside back cover for list of DDS Customer Service Centers in Georgia.

# CHAPTER 1

## General Licensing Information

### ***Requirement to obtain a Georgia Driver's License***

Georgia law requires that any person wanting to operate a motor vehicle on the roadways of this state obtain a Georgia driver's license or permit within 30 days of becoming a resident. A person meeting at least one of the following criteria is considered a Georgia resident according to Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §40-5-1):

- ◆ A person who has a permanent home or abode in Georgia and, when absent, has the intent of returning.
- ◆ A person who accepts employment or engages in any trade or occupation in Georgia or who enters his/her children in school.
- ◆ Any person that has been in the state for 30 days or more.

### ***Not required to obtain a Georgia Driver's License/Permit***

- ◆ Any employee of the United States government who is operating a motor vehicle owned by or leased to the United States government or that is being operated on official business. This exemption does not apply if the employee is required by the United States government or any agency of the United States Government to have a state driver's license.
- ◆ A nonresident who is at least 16 years of age and who has in his or her immediate possession a valid license issued to him or her in his or her home state or country. However, any restrictions that would apply to a Georgia driver's license as a matter of law would apply to any person who has an out-of-state license. If the license is in a language other than English, a valid international driving permit must also be carried at all times.
- ◆ A nonresident who is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States if he or she has a valid license issued by his or her home state. This includes any such nonresident's spouse or dependent son or daughter who has a valid license issued by such person's home state.
- ◆ Any person who is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and who has in his or her immediate possession a valid license issued in a foreign country by the armed forces of the United States. However, this license will only be accepted for a period of not more than 45 days from the date of his or her return to the United States.
- ◆ Any person driving or operating a farm tractor or farm equipment temporarily operated on a highway for the purpose of conducting farm business.
- ◆ Any member of the reserve components of the armed forces of the United States who is operating a motor vehicle owned by or leased to the United States government. However, the motor vehicle must be operated in accordance with the duties of such person as a member of the reserve components of the armed forces.

- ◆ Any person seeking to obtain a driver's license while he or she is taking the driving examination to obtain a license. This person must be accompanied by a driver examiner of the department or a certified examining agent of the department.
- ◆ Any migrant farm worker who works in this state less than 90 days in any calendar year and who possesses a valid driver's license issued by another state.
- ◆ Any resident who is 15 years of age or over while taking actual in-car training in a non-commercial training vehicle and while under the direct personal supervision of a DDS-licensed driving instructor. However, all vehicles utilized for the in-car training authorized under this paragraph must be equipped with dual controlled brakes and must be marked with signs in accordance with the rules of the department clearly identifying such vehicles as training cars belonging to a licensed driving school. A driving instructor must test the eyesight of any unlicensed person who will be receiving actual in-car training prior to such training, and such person must meet the visual requirements listed in Georgia Law 40-5-27(c).
- ◆ Any person who is operating a motorized cart on any roadway publicly maintained for the use of motorized carts only or when crossing a street or highway used by other types of motor vehicles at a location designated for such crossing by a motorized cart.
- ◆ A nonresident of Georgia who is attending a school in this state, as long as:
  - a. He or she is at least 16 years of age and has in his or her immediate possession a valid license issued to him or her in his or her home state or country and a valid international driving permit if the license is in a language other than English; provided, however, that any restrictions which would apply to a Georgia driver's license apply to the privileges given to this person; and
  - b. He or she is currently enrolled or was enrolled during the immediately preceding period of enrollment in a school in this state, has paid the tuition charged by the school to nonresidents of Georgia for the current or immediately preceding period of enrollment, and has in his or her possession proof of payment of such tuition paid for the current or immediately preceding period of enrollment.

### ***Applicants under age 18 - automobile or motorcycle***

In addition to the requirements listed above, applicants under 18 years of age must present proof of the following:

- ◆ Completion of Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP)
- ◆ Satisfaction of school attendance and conduct requirements
- ◆ For a Class D license or for a Class MP instructional permit at age 16, proof of completion of a DDS-approved driver education program
- ◆ For a Class D license and a Class MP instructional permit, at age 16, evidence of at least forty (40) hours of supervised driving, six of which must be at night.

Additional details concerning these requirements can be found on pages 58-60 of this manual or on our website at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

# CHAPTER 1

## General Licensing Information

### ***Previous Licenses, Instructional Permits or Identification Cards***

In most cases, when applying for renewal, replacement or transfer of any previously-issued license, instructional permit, or identification card (ID Card) in Georgia or any other state or foreign jurisdiction, customers must surrender, the previously-issued license/permit/ID to DDS. In some cases, surrender of all valid licenses/permits/ID cards will be required.

Effective January 1, 2009, most non-citizen customers with a valid out of country driver's license, permit, or ID, may retain their out of country document upon issuance of a Georgia-equivalent document. Commercial driver's licenses/permits and licenses/permits/identification cards issued by foreign countries to citizens of the United States or United States territories, will not be returned to the applicant.

### ***Social Security Number Requirements***

Customers must provide a Social Security Number at the time of application. It is not necessary to have your original Social Security card. However, penalties will be imposed if an incorrect Social Security Number is provided.

Customers in this country legally who do not have a Social Security Number must obtain a Form SSAL676 from a local Social Security Administration office before visiting a DDS Customer Service Center for any transaction. After obtaining the form, the customer may bring it to any Customer Service Center to begin the driver's license application process. The customer must have proof of identity, proof of lawful presence in the United States, and proof of Georgia residency for all transactions.

### ***Health Requirements***

In the interest of highway safety, DDS must ensure that all persons seeking to obtain a Georgia driver's license are physically and mentally capable of safely operating a motor vehicle. Therefore, you must answer questions truthfully concerning your health. You will be asked if you now have, or have ever had, any physical or mental disability or disease which could interfere with your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. If the answer is yes, you will be required to show a statement of health from your physician indicating that you are physically and mentally capable of safely operating a motor vehicle.

### ***Vision Requirements***

Customers for initial issuance of a driver's license must demonstrate the ability to meet minimum vision requirements. The minimum acceptable vision for a non-commercial license is 20/60 in one eye, with or without corrective lenses, and a field of vision of at least 140 degrees. If you are unable to pass the vision screening administered at the Customer Service Center, you will be given a Vision Report (form DS-274) which must be completed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist and submitted to DDS. The completed form will be evaluated to

determine if you are eligible to obtain a driver's license. This form may also be used to document the need for bioptic lenses for driving, and is available on our website, [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

If you must wear glasses or contacts to pass your initial vision screening, a corrective lenses restriction will be placed on your license when it is issued. Each time you complete a transaction, you will be required to indicate whether you require glasses or contacts for driving. If your answer differs from the response in our records, you may be required to complete another vision screening or submit a current DS-274 for verification.

Customers age 64 and over must successfully complete a vision screening every five years. Customers who have obtained a license with a bioptic lenses restriction must provide updated medical information to the Department every two years.

Special assistance is available for drivers with reading disabilities or hearing impairments. Please see page 28 for further details.

## ***Documentation Requirements***

All documents presented to DDS must either be in English or translated into English by a translator approved by DDS. You may visit a Customer Service Center in your area for a list of approved translators, or visit our website at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

### **DDS Approved Documentation List**

A first time applicant for a Georgia license, permit, or ID Card must show acceptable documentation to satisfy the following three eligibility criteria:

- 1) Proof of Identity
- 2) Proof of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence in the United States
- 3) Proof of Residency in Georgia

**1) Proof of Identity (only originals or certified copies of documents are accepted) . If the name on the identity document is different than your current legal name, you must present certified documents reflecting all name changes. One of the following must be presented to document the current legal name:**

- ◆ Original or certified copy of state-issued Birth Certificate (hospital birth certificates are not acceptable)
  - ◆ Original or certified copy of Certificate of Birth Registration
  - ◆ Certified court records containing full, legal name and date of birth for adoptions, name changes, or gender changes
  - ◆ Original or certified copy of naturalization documentation
  - ◆ Original immigration ID card
  - ◆ Valid (unexpired) passport
  - ◆ Military identification card issued by the United States Armed Forces
- NOTE: Military identification card may serve as proof of identity; however, it cannot be accepted for proof of citizenship

# CHAPTER 1

## General Licensing Information

### **2) Proof of U.S. Citizenship (only originals or certified copies accepted)**

- ◆ Original or certified copy of Birth Certificate issued by a United States jurisdiction
- ◆ Valid (unexpired) United States passport
- ◆ Original or certified copy of Certificate of Citizenship (Form N560)
- ◆ Original or certified copy of Certificate of Naturalization (Form N550)

**OR**

### **2) Proof of Lawful Presence in the United States from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for Non-Citizens (only originals accepted)**

- ◆ Unexpired non US passport with appropriate immigration documents; valid passport containing visa and valid I-94, I-551 stamp, or I-94 and applicable supporting documents
- ◆ Resident Alien Card (Form I-551 or Form I-668)
- ◆ Employment Authorization Card (Form I-766 or Form I-668A)
- ◆ Refugee Travel Document (Form I-571)
- ◆ LPR Reentry Permit (Form I-327)

NOTE: License/Permit/ID term will be determined based on the authorized period of stay indicated on the documentation provided, up to five years. If no date is indicated on the documentation, the license, permit or ID will be issued for a period of one year.

Effective January 1, 2008, Georgia law requires that all immigration documents presented by non US citizens be verified with USCIS through a program known as SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement.) In most cases, the verification is completed while the license/permit/ID is being issued. In some cases, verification may take several days or longer. The license/permit/ID cannot be issued until DDS successfully confirms lawful presence in the United States with USCIS. Customers whose lawful presence is not confirmed on the first attempt will be given an instruction form with dates to return to DDS or contact USCIS.

### **3) Proof of Georgia Residency\* - must contain physical address. P. O. Box will not be accepted as proof of residency. (original documents required unless otherwise noted)**

- ◆ Utility bill issued within the last 60 days with valid Georgia residence address;
- ◆ Bank statement issued within the last 60 days with valid Georgia residence address (a bank statement printed online is acceptable as long as it indicates the residence address of the applicant);
- ◆ Current valid rental contracts and/or receipts for payments made within the last 60 days for rent payments with valid Georgia residence address;
- ◆ Employer verification of physical address of residence, including, but not limited to, one of the following:
  - ... Paycheck or paycheck stub;
  - ... Letter from employer on company letterhead; or
  - ... W-2 for current or preceding calendar year;



- ◆ Non-expired Georgia driver's license, permit or ID card issued to parent, guardian, spouse, or child when the holder of the license/permit/ID is present for verification;
  - ◆ Health insurance statement;
  - ◆ State of Georgia or Federal income tax return for current or preceding calendar year;
  - ◆ Annual Social Security statement for current or preceding calendar year;
  - ◆ Medicare or Medicaid statement;
  - ◆ School record or transcript for current or preceding calendar year;
  - ◆ Homeowners insurance policy or bill for current or preceding calendar year;
  - ◆ Mortgage payment coupon, deed, or property tax bill for current or preceding calendar year;
  - ◆ DOC/Pardons and Paroles Residence Verification form (DDS-752).
- \*Mail forwarded by the U.S. Postal Service is not acceptable proof of residency.

### **Refugee Status**

Customers for initial issuance of a Georgia driver's license, permit or ID card who have been designated as refugees by the USCIS may satisfy the requirements for proof of identity, lawful presence in the United States, and residency by providing the following:

#### **If the customer is a refugee initially placed in the State of Georgia upon arrival in the United States**

- ◆ Original I-94 indicating refugee status;
- ◆ Reception and placement form identifying the agency responsible for settling the applicant in the State of Georgia; and,
- ◆ Refugee Affidavit form bearing the notarized signature of the representative of the placement agency identified in the reception and placement form, and containing the customer's residence address. The DDS will notarize the forms at the Customer Service Center at which the applicant applies for the initial issuance if the placement agency does not have a notary on staff.

#### **If the customer is a refugee age eighteen (18) or over who was initially placed in a state other than Georgia upon arrival in the United States, but who has since moved to the State of Georgia**

- ◆ Original I-94 or I-571 indicating refugee status;
- ◆ Driver's license, permit or ID card issued by the previous state of residence; and
- ◆ Proof of residency (see Proof of Residency requirements in previous section)

#### **If the customer is a refugee under age eighteen (18) who was initially placed in a state other than Georgia upon arrival in the United States, but who has since moved to the State of Georgia**

- ◆ Original I-94 or I-571 indicating refugee status; and
- ◆ Proof of residency (see Proof of Residency requirements in previous section)

### **Asylee Status**

Customers for initial issuance of a Georgia driver's license, permit or ID card who have been designated as asylees by the USCIS may satisfy the requirements for proof of identity and lawful presence in the United States by providing a valid I-94 indicating asylee status. Proof of residency in Georgia must be provided as well (see see Proof of Residency requirements in previous section).

# CHAPTER 1

## General Licensing Information

### **Classes of Licenses**

The issuance of licenses and permits in Georgia is based on their categorization by Class. The various classes are associated with the types of vehicles that may be driven and the restrictions that apply to operation of those vehicles. Listed below are the non-commercial classes used in Georgia, along with a description of their purpose.

#### **Non-Commercial Classes**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
C	Non-commercial license for drivers age 18 and older. (Also for drivers new to Georgia who are age 17 and who hold a valid Class C equivalent from another state.)
D	Provisional license issued to drivers ages 16 and 17.
M	License for motorcycle operators.
E, F	Non-commercial license for drivers who operate commercial motor vehicles and who are exempt from commercial licensing requirements.
CP, MP, AP, BP	All instructional permits are issued with the class designation followed by the letter "P".

Georgia also issues Class A, B, and C commercial licenses. Information concerning these licenses is included in the Georgia Commercial Driver's Manual, available at all Customer Service Centers and on our website at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

### **Fees/Forms of Payment**

The fees for obtaining non-commercial driver's licenses, permits, and ID cards in person are listed on page 19. This fee schedule is not adjusted to reflect the \$5.00 discount for those who choose to renew by mail or internet. All DDS Customer Service Centers accept cash, checks, money orders, Visa and Mastercard credit and debit cards, and Discover and American Express credit cards

License, permit and ID card holders are allowed one free name or address change per issuance term. Other changes can also be made at the time of the free name or address change at no charge. Any subsequent modifications require a full renewal at regular cost. Name changes must be in accordance with the requirements listed on page 34.

A replacement driver's license, permit or ID card is a duplicate of the replaced document (no modifications or changes) and may be provided at a cost of \$5.00 per occurrence. The replacement license/permit/ID card will expire on the original expiration date. However, if a replacement is requested within 150 days of the original expiration date, the license/permit/ID must be renewed for a new term at full cost.

## License, Permit, and Identification Card Fees

Type	Term	Fee
Driver's License (Class A, B, C and M)	5 yr	\$20
	8 yr	\$32
Provisional License (Class D)	5 yr	\$10
Instructional Permit (Class A, B, C and M)	6 mth – 2 yr	\$10
Replacement Duplicate License/Permit/ID Card*	Original Expiration Date	\$5
National Guard License	5 yr	No Fee
	8yr	No Fee
Veteran License	5 yr	No Fee
	8 yr	
Honorary License	5 yr	No Fee
	8 yr	
Controlled Substance Permit	Up to 3 yr	\$25
Habitual Violator Probationary License	Up to 3 yr	\$210
Limited Permit	Up to 1 yr	\$25
Georgia ID Card	5 yr	\$20
	8 yr	\$32
Replacement ID Card	5 yr	\$20
	8 yr	\$32
Georgia ID Card for Voting Purposes Only (must provide proof of valid voter registration)	8 yr	No Fee
HVPL/Limited Permit Replacement	Original Term	\$20
Limited Permit Renewal	Equal to Original Term of Permit	\$5
Veteran ID Card	8 yr	No Fee
Handicap ID Card	5 yr	\$5
Address or Name Change	Original Expiration Date	Free Once per Term

\*If a replacement license/permit/ID card is requested within 150 days of the original date, the license/permit/ID card must be renewed for a new term at full cost.

### ***Expired License***

To renew a driver's license that has been expired more than two years, you must pass a knowledge exam consisting of a road signs test and a road rules test, an actual driving test and a vision test, if applicable. Additional testing will be required to obtain a Class M, B, or A license.

### ***Carrying and Displaying Your License***

You must have an appropriate driver's license or permit in your possession while operating a motor vehicle in the State of Georgia. If stopped while driving, you must display your driver's license/permit to any law enforcement officer upon his or her request.

# CHAPTER 2

## Obtaining a License/Permit/Identification Card

### Current Georgia Residents

#### ***Class CP Instructional Permit***

##### **Obtaining a Class CP Instructional Permit**

Upon reaching age 15, or anytime thereafter, you may apply for a Class CP Instructional Permit. The following information will help you prepare for your visit to a DDS Customer Service Center:

- ◆ If you are under age 18, you will be required to present proof of satisfaction of school attendance and conduct requirements as explained on pages 58-63.
- ◆ You will be required to present documents verifying your identity, U.S. citizenship or lawful presence, and Georgia residency as explained on pages 15-16.
- ◆ If you are under age 18, a parent or legal guardian will have to sign the application, thereby giving their consent for you to obtain a permit. The individual who signs your application may, for any reason, revoke your permit until you reach the age of 18.
- ◆ You must know your Social Security Number; the number is required to issue a permit.
- ◆ You will be required to pass a vision test. Your eyes will be tested by means of a mechanical device.
- ◆ You will be required to pass a knowledge exam related to Road Signs and Road Rules. Please refer to page 28 for more information related to the knowledge exam.
- ◆ The test fee is \$10.00 and must be paid prior to testing. If any part of the test is failed, no refund will be issued. The permit fee must be paid prior to every testing attempt.

##### **Conditions of a Class CP Instructional Permit**

- ◆ Once issued a Class CP Instructional Permit, you may operate any Class C vehicle when accompanied by a person at least 21 years of age who is licensed to drive a Class C vehicle, who is fit and capable of exercising control over the vehicle, and who is occupying a seat beside the driver.
- ◆ CP permits are valid for 2 years.

#### ***Class D Provisional License***

##### **Obtaining a Class D Provisional License**

Upon reaching the age of 16, and after having held a valid instructional permit for one year and one day, you may apply for a Class D provisional license. The following information will help you prepare for your visit to a DDS Customer Service Center:

- ◆ You must surrender your Class CP Instructional Permit or complete a Lost License Affidavit affirming that you are unable to surrender the permit. See page 34 for details concerning lost licenses and permits.

- ◆ You will be required to present proof of satisfaction of school attendance and conduct requirements as explained on pages 58-63.
- ◆ You must present a Georgia Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP) card indicating you have completed the program. This program is taught in most schools. For information about ADAP, you may visit [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov), or call (678) 413-8731 or (800) 245-4410.
- ◆ A parent or legal guardian will have to sign the application, thereby giving their consent for you to obtain a license. The individual who signs your application may, for any reason, revoke your license until you reach the age of 18.
- ◆ You must satisfy the Driver Education Requirements listed below.
- ◆ You must pass a road test designed to evaluate your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. See pages 28-30 for more information related to the Road Test.

### **Driver Education Requirements**

- ◆ To obtain a Class D license at the age of 16 you must complete a driver education course approved by DDS. An approved driver education course consists of:
  - either 30 hours of classroom instruction OR completion of an equivalent online virtual course
  - AND
  - 6 hours of on-the-road experience with a certified instructor OR completion of the DDS approved Parent-Teen Driving Guide
- ◆ You must also have completed a cumulative total of at least forty hours of other driving experience, including at least six hours at night
  - completion of the DDS approved Parent-Teen Driving Guide will serve as an affidavit certifying that this requirement has been met
  - OR
  - if the teen obtains the on-the-road component of driver's education from a certified instructor, a separate document affirming that this requirement has been met must be completed at the time of the road test.
- ◆ If you have not completed an approved driver education course, you cannot obtain a Class D license until you reach the age of 17. For information on approved driver education courses, see the DDS website, [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

### **Conditions of a Class D Provisional License**

- ◆ A Class D license Holder may not drive between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. - NO EXCEPTIONS.
- ◆ During the first six months following issuance, only immediate family members may ride in the vehicle. 'Immediate family member' includes the driver's parents and step-parents, grandparents, siblings and step-siblings, children, and any other person who resides at the driver's residence.
- ◆ During the second six months following issuance, only one passenger under 21 years of age who is not a member of the driver's immediate family may ride in the vehicle.
- ◆ After the first and second six-month periods, only three passengers under 21 years of age who are not members of the driver's immediate family may ride in the vehicle.
- ◆ A Class D license Holder must, for the 12 months preceding application for their class C license, be free from any convictions for major traffic violations that result in the mandatory suspension of a driver's license.

## CHAPTER 2

### Obtaining a License/Permit/Identification Card

#### ***Class C License***

##### **Obtaining a Class C License – Exchanging a Class D license**

A Class D license holder may apply for a Class C license upon reaching the age of 18. The applicant must have held a valid Class D license for one year and one day without having been convicted of any major traffic violations in the 12 months preceding his/her application. Upon surrender of the Class D license or completion of a Lost License Affidavit if unable to surrender the license, the applicant will be issued a Class C license at the cost of \$20 for a 5 year license or \$32 for a 8 year license. No other documentation or testing is required for U.S. citizens. See page 34 for details concerning lost licenses and permits.

##### **Obtaining a Class C License – Exchanging a Class CP Instructional Permit**

A Class CP Instructional permit holder may apply for a Class C license only if he or she has reached the age of 18.

To obtain a Class C license, you must surrender your previously issued Class CP Instructional Permit or complete a Lost License Affidavit if you are unable to surrender the permit. You must also pass a road test designed to evaluate your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. See pages 28-30 for more information related to the road test. Upon surrender of the Class CP Instructional Permit or completion of a Lost License Affidavit if unable to surrender the permit, the applicant will be issued a Class C license at the cost of \$20 for a 5 year license or \$32 for a 8 year license. You must verify that you have completed 40 hours of supervised road driving which includes six hours of night driving. See page 34 for details concerning lost licenses and permits.

##### **Obtaining a Class C License – Applicant Is Not Currently Licensed**

If you are at least 18 years of age and would like to apply for a driver's license for the first time, you have two options:

- ◆ Immediately apply for a Class C driver's license. If you meet the eligibility requirements on pages 15-16, and successfully complete the knowledge and road test examinations (see pages 28-30), one will be issued to you.
- ◆ Apply for a Class CP instructional permit, which allows you to obtain practical driving experience under the supervision of a licensed driver. If you would like more information related to a Class CP instructional permit, please see page 20.

Additionally, you will be required to sign an affidavit that you have completed 40 hours of supervised road driving which includes six hours of night driving.

#### ***State ID Card***

A State of Georgia ID Card may be obtained at any Customer Service Center. The cost of this card varies depending on the type of card obtained. A basic 5-year card is \$20.00, and a basic 8-year card is \$32. All previous ID cards must be surrendered. If you no longer have possession of your previous driver's license/ID

card/permit to surrender, you must provide a certified copy of your Motor Vehicle Report (MVR), status letter or clearance letter from previous state.

Upon submission of a referral from a DDS-approved non-profit agency, the applicant will be permitted to obtain a five-year ID card at a cost of \$5.00. For further information concerning this option, contact us by calling (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500, (678) 413-8600, or toll free at (866) 754-3687 if calling from outside the metro Atlanta area.

A special ID card for persons with permanent disabilities is available for a term of four years at a cost of \$5.00. A card for persons with temporary disabilities is also available for a term of six (6) months at a cost of \$5.00. This card serves as proof of the need for special transportation services, seating accommodations, and other facilities for the handicapped. Verification from a licensed physician may be required to obtain a permanent Handicap ID, and is always required to obtain or extend a temporary Handicap ID. The fee for this card is waived for those who meet the qualifications for a veteran's driver's license (see pages 24-25).

A voter registration ID is also available at no cost for any individual who swears under oath that the ID is needed in order to vote in an election in Georgia.

All applicants for ID cards must provide proof of identity, proof of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence, and proof of Georgia residency. See pages 15-16 for further information concerning these requirements.

## ***Other License Types***

### **Commercial Driver's License**

Detailed information concerning licensing requirements for Commercial Driver's Licenses can be found on the DDS website at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

### **Motorcycle Operator's License**

Detailed information concerning licensing requirements for Motorcycle Operator's Licenses can be found on the DDS website at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

## CHAPTER 2

### Obtaining a License/Permit/Identification Card

#### ***Licenses for Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their Spouses***

##### **Veteran's License – NO FEE**

**Important: Please read carefully. The veteran must obtain the certificate of eligibility (DS-516) from the State Department of Veterans Services to obtain the free Veterans license.**

Applicants must meet the following requirements for eligibility of a free veteran's license:

- ◆ Present evidence of honorable, active duty service in the Armed Forces of the United States or evidence of a minimum of twenty years of service in the National Guard to any office of the **State Department of Veterans Services**, at least one of which is located in every county. All this information is contained on your copy of the Armed Forces separation papers (Form DD214). Activation for training purposes does not qualify you for the Georgia Veteran's License. The qualified veteran will be issued a certificate of eligibility (DS-516), signed by the veteran and the certifying official from the **State Department of Veterans Services**.
- ◆ The original certificate (DS-516) may then be presented by the veteran to any DDS Customer Service Center along with any other documentation needed to prove identity, lawful presence, and residency for issuance of the license at no cost. To qualify for initial issuance of a Veteran's license, you must present evidence of Georgia residency at the time of enlistment or induction (and that your home was in Georgia at that time) or that you were enlisted or commissioned elsewhere and have been a resident of Georgia for at least 2 consecutive years preceding the date of application.
- ◆ Successfully pass a vision test for the initial issuance of a Class C veteran's license. To obtain any other class of license, you must successfully complete examinations for the class of license desired.

##### **Honorary License – NO FEE**

The spouse of a disabled, honorably separated veteran who does not have a driver's license, or the unmarried surviving spouse of a deceased honorably separated veteran, is entitled to the same license available to the veteran. An applicant for this type of license must meet the same requirements as those required for a veteran's license. For the unmarried surviving spouse, the death certificate along with the DD214 must be submitted to the State Department of Veteran Services to obtain a certificate of eligibility.

Veterans must have served on active duty during one of the periods of conflict below or must have served at least 20 years in the National Guard to qualify for a Veteran's License or for a spouse to qualify for an Honorary License:



<b>Wartime/Conflict Periods</b>	
World War I	April 6, 1917 through November 11, 1918. The period for a veteran who served with the U.S. Military forces in Russia would include April 6, 1917, through April 1, 1920.
World War II	December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946.
Korea	June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955.
Lebanon Conflict	July 1, 1958 through November 1, 1958.
Berlin Conflict	August 14, 1961 through June 1, 1963.
Vietnam	July 1, 1958 through May 7, 1975.
Dominican Republic Conflict	April 28, 1965 through September 21, 1966.
Grenada Conflict	October 23, 1983 through November 21, 1983.
Panama Liberation	December 30, 1989 through February 15, 1990.
Saudi Arabia/ Iraq/Kuwait/ Persian Gulf	August 2, 1990 - ending date unknown at this time.

### **National Guard License**

A distinctive license may be issued to any member of the Georgia National Guard in good standing who has completed at least one year of satisfactory service. A certificate of eligibility (DS-318) form must be obtained from the local National Guard Commanding Officer and presented to any DDS Customer Service Center. This license is renewable during the time of service in the National Guard or until 20 years of service has been obtained, at which time the person will be entitled to a Veteran's License. The form DS-318 must be presented to the DDS upon every renewal of a National Guard license.

## CHAPTER 2

### Obtaining a License/Permit/Identification Card

#### **New Georgia Residents**

##### **General Information**

You must apply for a Georgia driver's license or permit within 30 days of becoming a Georgia resident if you wish to drive upon the highways of this state. Please see pages 12-13 for more information about requirements to obtain a license or permit and exemptions for certain individuals.

#### **New Georgia Resident Without a valid license or permit issued by another state**

Please see the appropriate chapter of this manual for obtaining a license or permit for the first time in Georgia.

- ◆ Under 18 – see Teen licensing requirements on pages 58-61
- ◆ Over Age 18 – see Obtaining a Class C license – Applicant Not Currently Licensed on page 22

#### **Transferring from Another State or District of Columbia**

##### **Under Age 18 with valid out of state license or permit**

If you hold a valid driver's license or instructional permit issued by any other state of the United States or by the District of Columbia, you will normally be eligible to obtain a comparable license or permit issued by Georgia. However, the state of issuance may have requirements for teenage drivers that differ from Georgia. For more information, please call the Customer Contact Center at (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500, (678) 413-8600, or outside metro Atlanta, call toll free (866) 754-3687.

##### **Over Age 18 with a valid out of state license or permit**

- ◆ Surrender a valid license issued by any other state of the United States or by the District of Columbia (current or expired less than 2 years). If you are unable to surrender a valid driver's license, you must present a certified motor vehicle report from the state of issuance, dated within 30 days, showing your status as valid. Non-citizens are not required to surrender their license.
- ◆ Be at least 18 years of age, or 17 years of age if surrendering a valid license equivalent to a Georgia Class C license with no time, route, purpose or passenger restrictions.
- ◆ Your Social Security Number will be verified with the Social Security Administration. You do not have to have the actual card with you, but information must be consistent with both agencies to be issued a license or permit.
- ◆ Provide proof of identity. For a complete list of acceptable documents, see page 16.
- ◆ Provide proof of citizenship or lawful presence in the United States (see pages

15-16). All documents must be originals or certified copies. Faxed copies will not be accepted.

- ◆ Provide proof of Georgia residency. For a complete list of acceptable documents, see page 16.
- ◆ Pass a vision test.

### **Transferring a License/Permit/ID From Another Country**

- ◆ The out of country license/permit/ID must be presented, but will be returned to the driver.
- ◆ If you do not have the out of country license/permit/ID in your possession, you must provide a Motor Vehicle Report/Driving History (translated into English by an approved DDS translator) dated within the last 30 days, from the country of license issuance. Effective January 1, 2009, most non-citizen customers with a valid out of country driver's license, permit, or ID may retain their out of country document upon issuance of a Georgia-equivalent document. Commercial driver's licenses/permits, and licenses/permits/identification cards issued by foreign countries to citizens of the United States or United States territories, will not be returned to the applicant.
- ◆ Successfully complete the knowledge, sign, road, and vision exams.
- ◆ Present mandatory documents to prove identity, residency and citizenship. See pages 15-16 for the complete list.
- ◆ If under the age of 18, additional requirements will apply. Please see pages 58-60 for more details on teen licensing requirements.
- ◆ Out of Country Commercial licenses are not transferable. A driver must complete the entire CDL application and testing process in Georgia.

# CHAPTER 3

## Testing Information

### **Knowledge Exam**

Knowledge exams are given on a walk-in basis Tuesday through Saturday at every customer service center statewide. To ensure that an applicant has adequate time to complete the knowledge exam, customers must begin taking the written test a one-half hour prior to closing. Please check the hours of operations of the center which you will be visiting prior to your visit.

We offer special assistance for customers with reading disabilities and hearing impairment. Please visit your local CSC to schedule an appointment for an oral exam or to schedule an interpreter for the hearing impaired.

The road rules tests are available in some non-English languages, but all drivers must show ability to read and understand simple English such as is used in highway traffic and directional signs. Road signs and the actual driving test are conducted in English only.

These basic rules must be followed while a knowledge exam is being given:

- ◆ You may not bring pens, pencils, paper, or any other items into the testing area.
- ◆ All cell phones, text messaging devices, and other types of wireless devices are prohibited in the testing area.
- ◆ You may not speak to anyone during the test other than the examiner administering the test.

**Any violation of these rules is considered misconduct.** If misconduct occurs during the administration of the knowledge exam, the exam session will be counted as a failure.

The questions on the knowledge exam pertain to topics discussed in this manual, and consist of the following components:

### **Road Signs**

A set of questions on the meaning of standard highway signs will be given. You will be asked to identify certain signs, signals and markers. You must correctly answer 15 out of 20 questions to pass. You may take a practice test at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

### **Road Rules**

The road rules test consists of a set of questions about driver responsibility, knowledge of laws, and safe driving practices applicable to the class of license for which you are applying. You must correctly answer 15 out of 20 questions to pass. You may take a practice test at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

## **Road Test**

### **Making Road Test Reservations**

You may schedule a driving test appointment by calling (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500, (678) 413-8600, or toll free at (866) 754-3687 if calling from outside the metro Atlanta area. Road tests may be scheduled up to 90 days in advance, for customers with an eligible permit.

### **Road Test For Class C or D**

- ◆ You must provide the vehicle for the road test.
- ◆ All road test vehicles must have a valid registration/license plate or if equipped with a temporary dealership tag, the applicant must provide the bill of sale for proof of purchase within the last 30 days.
- ◆ All road test vehicles must be covered by liability insurance (you must show a valid insurance card or MV registration card) and pass a safety inspection.
- ◆ If the vehicle is not equipped with illuminated turn signals, you must be able to pass the road test using hand signals.
- ◆ All road test vehicles must be equipped with a working horn.
- ◆ You may take the test in a rental vehicle, provided that the following conditions are met:
  - You must provide a copy of the rental contract
  - The person taking the test must be listed as a driver on the rental contract
  - You must provide proof of valid insurance for the vehicle
- ◆ The driving test will not be given when the weather conditions make it unsafe for the driver or examiner.

On the driving test you will be expected to demonstrate your ability to do all of the following:

- ◆ Parallel Parking: Park midway between two standards so that your car is not more than 18 inches from the curb. The standard parallel parking dimensions utilized in the driver's license test are 22 feet in length by 10 feet in depth.
- ◆ Quick Stops: Drive at a speed of 20 miles per hour and make a quick, safe stop when the examiner instructs you to do so.
- ◆ Backing: Back your car for a distance of approximately 50 feet at a slow rate of speed as straight and as smoothly as possible. You must turn your head and look behind the vehicle at all times while backing.
- ◆ Stop for Signs or Traffic Signals: Give the proper hand or brake signal; approach in the proper lane; stop before reaching a pedestrian crosswalk and remain stopped until all pedestrians have cleared the crosswalk on the side of the roadway upon which you are traveling; move through the intersection only when you may do so safely.
- ◆ Turn About: Turn your car in a narrow space using two-, three-, or four-point turns.
- ◆ Use of Clutch: If your car has a manual transmission, you must shift smoothly and correctly.
- ◆ Approaching Corners: You must be in the proper lane and look in both directions.

# CHAPTER 3

## Testing Information

- ◆ Yielding Right-of-Way: Always yield right-of-way to pedestrians, vehicle operators, and bicyclists who move into the intersection before you by stopping and remaining stopped until they have cleared the intersection.
- ◆ Turning: Move into the proper lane and signal an adequate distance before the turn.
- ◆ Passing: Always check in front of and behind your vehicle to make sure you can safely pass without interfering with other traffic.
- ◆ Following: Do not follow other cars too closely. Watch the car ahead of you; when it passes some reference point, such as a telephone pole, count “one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two.” If you pass the same spot before you are finished counting, you are following too closely.
- ◆ Maintaining Good Posture: Keep both hands on the steering wheel. Do not rest your elbow on the window and do not attempt to carry on a conversation with the Examiner because he/she will be busy giving instructions and recording your score.

At the end of the Class C/D road test, the license examiner will gladly show you your score sheet and will provide you an opportunity to discuss the results if you wish to do so. You must achieve a minimum score of 75% to pass.

### **Road Test For Class M**

You must furnish a motorcycle for the test and pass a safety inspection of the motorcycle by the license examiner before the driving test is given. All road test vehicles must have a valid registration/license plate or if equipped with a temporary dealership tag, the applicant must provide the bill of sale for proof of purchase within the last 30 days.

Motorcycle operator testing information is covered in the Motorcycle Operator’s Manual, which is available at all Customer Service Centers and online at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov). For more information, you may contact the Motorcycle Safety Program at (770) 918-6200 in the metro Atlanta area, or toll free at (800) 245-4410 if calling from outside the metro Atlanta area.

If you hold a motorcycle permit, you may schedule a motorcycle skills test appointment by calling (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500, (678) 413-8600, or toll free at (866) 754-3687 if calling from outside the metro Atlanta area.

Motorcycle road tests cannot be conducted when the weather conditions make it unsafe for the driver or examiner, including when it is raining or when the pavement is damp.

### **Road Test For Class E and F Non-Commercial**

There is no driving test for Classes E & F Non-Commercial; however, you must present an affidavit of skill (DS-36), establishing your ability to operate the vehicles within the particular class, and pass a knowledge test for that particular class. You must also possess or be eligible to obtain a Class C License.

**Road Test For Class A, B, and C Commercial**

You must furnish a representative vehicle for the test and pass a safety inspection of the vehicle by the license examiner before the driving test is given. All commercial vehicles used for testing must have a data plate attached with the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR). For the most current commercial driving test locations, please visit our website at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

You must achieve a minimum score of 80% to pass each applicable knowledge test and portion of the driving test. Applicants for a Class A or B Commercial Driver’s License must pass the vehicle inspection, basic control skills, and road test portions of the driving test. Applicants for a Class C Commercial Driver’s License must pass the road test portion of the driving test.

Commercial vehicle operator’s testing information is covered in the Georgia Commercial Driver’s Manual, which is available at all Customer Service Centers and online at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov). You may schedule a Commercial skills test appointment by calling (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500, (678) 413-8600, or toll free at (866) 754-3687 if calling from outside the metro Atlanta area.

Customers, who wish to take the non commercial class A/B exam, should study the Commercial Driver’s Manual. The Commercial Driver’s Manual can be located online at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov) under “Forms and Manuals,” or customers can obtain a hard copy at any DDS office.

**Results of Pass/Fail**

If you pass all the tests, you will be issued a temporary license for 45 days or until the Department of Drivers Services mails your permanent license. If for any reason you do not receive your driver’s license in 45 days, contact DDS at (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500, (678) 413-8600 or toll free at (866) 754-3687 if calling outside the metro Atlanta area, or visit your local DDS Customer Service Center.

Applicants who failed: If you fail any part of the knowledge or road test, and it is your:

1st Failure	You must wait until the next day before retaking the portion you have failed.
2nd or Subsequent Failure	You must wait 7 days before retaking the portion you have failed.

## Save Time, Go Online - Try DDS Internet Services!

### License, Permit, and ID Card Services\*:

- ▶ Renew your driver's license, permit or ID card
- ▶ Replace a lost driver's license, permit, or ID card
- ▶ Upgrade from D to C
- ▶ Change your address
- ▶ Get an ID card (must have valid license or permit on file)
- ▶ Check license status and moving violation points

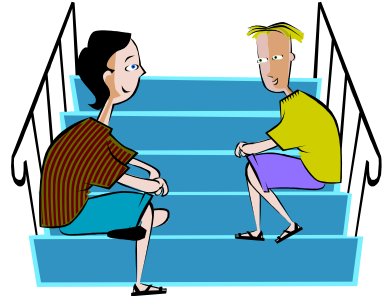


"I will be 18 next week and need to get my license changed. Can I do that online?"

"You sure can. You can also replace the one you have if it's lost, or change your address."

"Did you know you can look at your driving record and points online?"

"Yes, and I heard you can also take a practice test or download the driver's manual."



### Other Services Available\*:

- ▶ Create a user account and track transactions
- ▶ Request multiple services at one time
- ▶ View and/or download a copy of your driving history
- ▶ Request a certified driving history
- ▶ Reinstate a 'Failure to Appear' suspension
- ▶ Pay 'Super Speeder' fees or reinstate a 'Super Speeder' suspension
- ▶ Take a practice written test for a regular driver's license
- ▶ Print the most recent version of the **Georgia Driver's Manual**

*\*Online services are available if requirements are met*



## ***Renewal for Individuals Temporarily Located Out of the State of Georgia***

Renewal by mail is offered for certain groups of individuals who must be away from the State of Georgia at the time renewal of their license is required. Supporting documentation must be submitted to verify that the applicant is eligible to renew in this manner. This service is available to the following groups:

- ◆ Military personnel on active duty outside of Georgia, and the spouse and any licensed dependents living with the person while on active duty outside of Georgia.
- ◆ Full-time students attending school outside Georgia
- ◆ Missionaries
- ◆ Contractors working for the United States government

### ***This service is subject to the following restrictions:***

- ◆ The renewal will be granted for no longer than one renewal period, at the end of which the license holder must appear in person for renewal.
- ◆ A driver's license that has been expired for two (2) or more years cannot be renewed by mail.
- ◆ Changes (name, address, etc.) must be made in person at a driver's license Customer Service Center. Changes cannot be made using the mail method of renewal.

For further details, please contact our Customer Service Center at (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500, (678) 413-8600, or toll free at (866) 754-3687 if calling from outside the metro Atlanta area within the State of Georgia.

## ***License, Permit, or Identification Card Number Changes***

No licenses or identification cards may be issued in Georgia with a Social Security Number as the document number. If your license, permit or identification card number is identical to your Social Security Number, a randomly generated document number will be assigned to your document during the issuance/renewal process. Once your number has changed, you will need to ensure that any companies or entities using your driver's license, permit, or identification card number for tracking or verification purposes, such as insurance companies, are aware of this change.

# CHAPTER 4

## Other Services and Information

### **Lost or Stolen License Replacement**

Customers may apply for a replacement driver's license and/or ID card at a local Customer Service Center or online. If you choose to apply online, you will go through an authentication process in order to verify identity. If you wish to apply at a Customer Service Center, you will be required to show proof of identity. The fee online and at a Customer Service Center is \$5.00. The following documents will be acceptable proof of identity for a replacement Georgia driver's license, permit or identification card:

One of These Documents:	OR	Two of These Documents:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original Birth Certificate</li> <li>• Certificate of Birth Registration</li> <li>• Certified copy of Birth Certificate</li> <li>• Certified copy of court order for adoption, name, or gender change</li> <li>• Certified naturalization documentation</li> <li>• Resident or Employment Authorization Card</li> <li>• Valid passport (not expired)</li> <li>• Military identification card issued by the U.S. Armed Forces</li> </ul>	OR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified copy of marriage license</li> <li>• Original Social Security Card</li> <li>• Previous Year's Income Tax Return</li> <li>• Current auto, home, life, or health insurance Policy</li> <li>• Current automobile registration receipt</li> <li>• Voter Registration Card</li> </ul>

NOTE: You are entitled to one free name or address change per license term.

If your license was stolen and you wish to change the number on your replacement Georgia driver's license, permit or identification card, you will be required to present a police report indicating that the license was stolen unless your license number and your Social Security Number are the same. If the two numbers are the same, no police report is required.

### **Address Change**

- ◆ You must alert DDS anytime your address changes. DDS correspondence will not be forwarded to new addresses by the U.S. Postal Service.
- ◆ If you have moved, you must visit a Customer Service Center within 60 days to update your mailing address, or you may visit our website at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov) to change your address. If you change your license in person, you must provide proof of the change in address. See the Proof of Residency section on pages 16-17 for a list of acceptable documents.

## **Name Change**

- ◆ Name changes must be completed in person at a DDS Customer Service Center.
- ◆ If you change your name by marriage or other legal action, you must obtain a new license showing the correct name within 60 days.
- ◆ A replacement license valid for the current renewal period, will be issued once in any five or eight year period, free of charge.
- ◆ In order to change your name on your license or identification card, you must present a certified copy of a marriage license application, marriage license, state-issued marriage certificate, or court-ordered name change.
- ◆ You may change to a hyphenated surname on your license or identification card if the marriage occurred in the State of Georgia on or after November 1, 1982. A certified copy of the marriage license application reflecting the selection of the hyphenated surname must be presented at the time of the request.

## **Motor Vehicle Reports (MVR)**

MVRs are available in 3 or 7 year formats. A 3 year report is \$6.00; a 7 year report is \$8.00. Individuals may obtain a copy of their MVR in any of the following ways:

### **1. Via Internet**

A non-certified copy of your Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) can be downloaded by using our internet service. Please visit [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov) for further details.

You will need:

- ◆ your driver's license number
- ◆ your date of birth, and
- ◆ your password (If you do not have a password you may request one by visiting our website).

### **2. In person**

A certified copy of your Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) can be purchased in person at any Customer Service Center. Proper identification will be required.

If obtaining a motor vehicle report other than your own, the following is required:

- ◆ A letter from the licensee naming the person authorized to receive the record.
- ◆ The full name, date of birth and Georgia driver's license number of the licensee.
- ◆ The person receiving the report for another individual must also show proper identification.

### **3. Via Mail**

You can obtain a certified copy of your MVR by submitting a letter requesting either a 3-year or 7-year MVR, and include the following:

- ◆ your full name as it appears on your driver's license
- ◆ driver's license number
- ◆ date of birth, and
- ◆ complete mailing address

Requests may be mailed to: Georgia Department of Driver Services, MVR Request, Post Office Box 80447, Conyers, Georgia 30013. When requesting a 3-year MVR, please include a \$6.00 money order, cashier's check, or personal check made payable to the Department of Driver Services, or \$8.00 for a 7-year MVR.

# CHAPTER 4

## Other Services and Information

### ***License Restrictions***

When issuing a driver's license, DDS is authorized to impose restrictions on your driver's license, whenever there is good cause, to assure the safe operation of a motor vehicle. Any restrictions imposed will appear on your driver's license. If no restrictions are imposed, the letter "A" will appear in the License Restrictions area on your license. The chart below lists the restriction codes used by DDS. Licenses may be issued with multiple restriction codes.

<b>DDS License Restriction Codes</b>	
<b>A</b>	no restrictions
<b>B</b>	corrective lenses
<b>C</b>	mechanical aids
<b>D</b>	business only
<b>E</b>	automatic transmission
<b>F</b>	right outside mirror
<b>G</b>	daylight only
<b>H</b>	employer's vehicle only
<b>I</b>	left outside mirror
<b>J</b>	prosthetic aid
<b>K</b>	Georgia only
<b>L</b>	without air brakes
<b>M</b>	no expressways
<b>N</b>	power brakes
<b>O</b>	power steering
<b>P</b>	Interlock
<b>Q</b>	no passengers
<b>S</b>	to/from school
<b>T</b>	to/from medical
<b>V</b>	class B or C passenger vehicles
<b>W</b>	class C passenger vehicles
<b>Y</b>	farm waiver required
<b>Z</b>	visually impaired parent
<b>1</b>	bioptic lenses
<b>2</b>	personal vehicles only
<b>3</b>	Ignition Interlock Device restrictions apply
<b>4</b>	no tractor trailers
<b>5</b>	disabled parent
<b>9</b>	CDL automatic transmission only

### ***Blindness Donation***

When you obtain your driver's license or permit, you will have the opportunity to make a voluntary donation of \$1 to Georgia's Blindness Education, Screening, and Treatment Program, which is administered by the Georgia Department of Human Resources. Donations currently fund vision programs which provide screenings to save children's vision, eye exams for needy adults, training for people who have lost vision, and public education about eye donation. Your voluntary donation will be added to the total cost of your service.

## ***Organ and Tissue Donation***

Thank you for your interest in saving lives as an organ, tissue and eye donor. The Donate Life Georgia Organ, Tissue and Eye Donor Registry was created in 2008 to allow Georgians an easy and user-friendly means of joining the state's donor registry. Georgians can join the registry through the web site ([www.donatelifegeorgia.org](http://www.donatelifegeorgia.org)), when renewing their driver license online, or when obtaining/renewing their license at a local driver license office. You can also join the Donor Registry by calling Donate Life Georgia directly at 1-866-57-SHARE (1-866-577-4273) and request a donor registry form.

Other things to remember:

- ◆ Organ donation can occur only after every measure has been taken to save your life, and only after death has been legally and medically declared.
- ◆ Georgia law prohibits the physician who declares a patient dead from participating in the removal or transplantation of that patient's donated organs or tissues.
- ◆ There is no cost to the donor's family for any expenses related to organ tissue/eye donation. Also, there is no delay in funeral arrangements.
- ◆ Georgia law requires hospitals to notify an organ/tissue/eye recovery center when a donation is possible.
- ◆ Recipients are selected by urgency of need, compatibility of blood type, body size, and tissue type, regardless of sex, race or creed.

More information concerning organ and tissue donation can be found at [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov).

## ***Voter Registration***

Customers who are U.S. citizens at least 17 1/2 years old will have an opportunity to apply for voter registration during any license or identification card transaction at any DDS Customer Service Center. When this option is selected, the application is submitted to the voter registration office in the customer's county of residence.

Important points regarding voter registration through DDS:

- ◆ If you do not receive your voter registration card within 30 days, contact your county voter registration office to determine the status of your application.
- ◆ If you are already registered to vote under the correct address and your voter registration status is active, it is not necessary to register again.
- ◆ Choosing this option does not guarantee that your voter registration information will be processed in time to meet specific election deadlines.
- ◆ If you want to register to vote for a particular election, please contact your county voter registration office to ensure that your most current registration information is recorded prior to the applicable voter registration deadline.

## ***Selective Service Registration***

At the time of any license or identification card transaction, DDS is required to ask all males under the age of 26 who are U.S. citizens whether they have registered with the U.S. Selective Service System, and to report the responses to the U.S. Selective Service System.

# CHAPTER 5

## Traffic Laws

Traffic laws are necessary to prevent crashes by defining the orderly movement of vehicles, pedestrians, and other users of public highways. Remember, traffic laws exist for your safety; failure to obey them can result in crashes that may seriously injure or kill you or others. To obey the laws, you must first know and understand them.

### **The three most basic traffic laws require drivers to:**

1. Obey traffic control devices (lights and signs);
2. Obey the traffic directions of a law enforcement officer or firefighter, even if it goes against what the traffic control devices tell you to do;
3. Never drive on a roadway that has been closed for construction, for the purpose of a special event, or for any other official reason.

### ***Laws Governing Right-of-Way***

Right-of-way is a phrase used to describe who has the lawful authority to enter a roadway, change lanes within a roadway, make a turn from a roadway, travel through an intersection, or make any other traffic related movement. Georgia law establishes right-of-way in all situations. Vehicle drivers (including bicyclists) and pedestrians should always understand the rules related to right-of-way, and remember that right-of-way is something to be given, not taken. There may be instances in which you as a driver or pedestrian have the legal right-of-way over someone else, even though the other person does not realize it and is not obeying the rules of the road. In those instances, the right-of-way should be yielded in order to prevent a crash.

The following is a list of the most common situations in which right-of-way questions are faced in real life:

- ◆ When traveling on a roadway that intersects with another roadway, if you are faced with a stop sign, but other traffic is not, you may proceed only after stopping and yielding the right-of-way to any other vehicle or pedestrian either in the intersection, or so close to the intersection as to make it dangerous to travel through the intersection.
- ◆ At intersections where there are no stop signs, yield signs or other traffic signals, if two vehicles come to the intersection at the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield to the driver of the vehicle on the right.
- ◆ At a four-way intersection where all drivers are faced with stop signs, all drivers must yield to pedestrians; otherwise the vehicles should proceed through the intersection in a “first to arrive, first to proceed order.” If two vehicles reach the intersection at approximately the same time, yield to any vehicles on your right.

### Important Points to Remember:

- o Take your turn when it comes if it is safe to do so; do not unnecessarily delay traffic.
  - o If another driver tries to take your turn, even if you have the right-of-way, let the other driver proceed. It might prevent a traffic crash.
  - o Care, courtesy and common sense should govern your actions.
- 
- ◆ When making a left turn at an intersection, or into an alley or driveway, yield the right-of-way to all traffic coming from the opposite direction.
  - ◆ When approaching a yield sign, slow down to a safe speed and be prepared to stop. If necessary, stop and only proceed when it is safe to do so.
  - ◆ When the roadway you are traveling on is merging into other traffic without stopping, adjust your speed and vehicle position to allow you to merge into the new lane safely. If traffic from another roadway is merging into the roadway you are traveling on, safely change lanes away from the merging traffic if possible. If it is not possible to change lanes away from the merging traffic, adjust your speed and vehicle position to safely allow the traffic to merge.
  - ◆ At intersections with traffic control lights, wait until the intersection is clear of traffic or approaching traffic before entering. Do not proceed “just because” you have the green light.
  - ◆ If you are about to enter or cross a highway from an alley, private road or highway you must stop and yield the right-of-way to all other pedestrians and vehicles already traveling on the roadway or sidewalk you are entering or crossing.
  - ◆ If police, fire, or ambulance service vehicles are using their emergency lights (blue or red) and sirens, safely maneuver your vehicle out of their way. You should slow your vehicle and move over to the shoulder of the road, or if that is not possible, as far to the right of the roadway or lane as you can, and stop. You should always use caution to ensure that you do not endanger other motorists, bicyclists, or pedestrians while doing so. Do not position your vehicle so that it blocks an intersection or otherwise prevents the emergency vehicle from making a necessary turn.
  - ◆ Yield to all highway maintenance vehicles and workers in a construction zone.
  - ◆ Unless a sign posted at that intersection prohibits doing so, it is permissible to make a “right turn on red” at an intersection controlled by a traffic control light. You may proceed only after making a complete stop, yielding to all traffic and pedestrians, and making the determination that you can safely complete the turn.
  - ◆ Unless a sign posted at that intersection prohibits doing so, it is permissible to make a “left turn on red” from the left lane of a one-way street onto a one-way street on which the traffic moves toward the driver’s left. You may proceed

## CHAPTER 5

### Traffic Laws

only after making a complete stop, yielding to all traffic and stopping for pedestrians, and making the determination that you can safely complete the turn.

- ◆ When a school bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children, the driver of the bus will activate flashing yellow lights. When seeing these flashing yellow lights, all vehicles approaching the school bus should slow down and be prepared to stop. All drivers should pay special attention to children who may be walking along or crossing the roadway. Once the flashing lights have turned red and the stop signs have extended from the side of the bus, it is unlawful for any vehicle to pass the stopped school bus while it is loading or unloading passengers. On a highway divided by a median, cars traveling on the opposite side from the stopped school bus are not required to stop, however drivers should remain attentive for children walking along or crossing the roadway.

### ***Georgia's Move-Over Law***

The Georgia Move-Over Law requires drivers to move over one lane when possible if an emergency vehicle with flashing lights is parked on the shoulder of the highway. If traffic is too heavy to move over safely, the law requires drivers to slow down below the posted speed limit AND to be prepared to stop.

A violation of the Move-Over Law in Georgia is considered a moving violation, which means a conviction results in the accrual of points on a driver's record. Drivers convicted of a violation of the Move-Over Law in Georgia will be assessed three points on their driving record and may face a fine up to \$500.



# ***Passing***

## **How To Pass On A Two-Lane Road**

- ◆ Wait for a passing zone to begin. A passing zone is indicated by striped lines to the right of the center line of the roadway. If the line nearest to your vehicle is solid, you are not in a passing zone. Look ahead along the roadway to determine the length of the passing zone and if there is traffic approaching from the opposite direction. You must have sufficient time and space to execute your passing maneuver and return your vehicle completely to the right lane before the passing zone ends, before entering an intersection, and before oncoming traffic is within 200 feet of your vehicle.
- ◆ Before leaving your lane to begin passing, check your rear view and side mirrors, and turn your head and look back to check your “blind spot.” Be certain that no one is passing you.
- ◆ Activate your left turn signal as you begin passing.
- ◆ Pass on the left and do not return to the right lane until your vehicle is safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. Wait until you can see the car you have just passed in your rear view mirror.
- ◆ Activate your right turn signal before returning to the right lane. Be sure to turn your signal off once you have returned to the right lane.

## **Passing is prohibited on two-lane roads:**

- ◆ In areas marked by a solid yellow line on the right of the center line, or a “Do Not Pass” sign, or double yellow lines.
- ◆ Within 100 feet of a railroad crossing.
- ◆ Within 100 feet of a bridge, viaduct or tunnel.
- ◆ When a car approaching from the opposite direction makes passing unsafe or will be within 200 feet of your vehicle prior to the completion of a passing maneuver.
- ◆ On a hill or curve where it is not possible to see oncoming vehicles which might be close enough to be a hazard.
- ◆ Within 100 feet of an intersection.
- ◆ On the shoulder of the road.
- ◆ When a school bus is stopped to load or unload passengers.

# CHAPTER 5

## Traffic Laws

### **Passing is Permitted When:**

- ◆ Lawfully overtaking and passing another vehicle going in the same direction.
- ◆ An obstruction makes it necessary to drive to the left of the center line, but only after yielding to oncoming traffic.
- ◆ A roadway includes two or more marked lanes in the same direction.
- ◆ A roadway with more than one lane is restricted to one-way traffic. Upon a multi-lane, two way highway, you must never drive to the left of the center line except when authorized to do so by traffic control signals or signs or when making a left turn into an alley, private road or driveway.

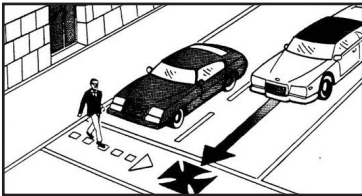
### **Passing On The Right**

You may pass on the right of another vehicle which is making or about to make a left turn if there is sufficient pavement width for both your vehicle and the vehicle making the left turn. You may also pass on the right when traveling on a multi-lane highway carrying two or more lanes of traffic in the same direction.

### **When Someone Passes You**

When a driver behind you is overtaking your vehicle, be alert for any unsafe actions by the other driver. It is considered courteous to reduce your speed slightly, making it easier for the other vehicle to pass you. It is unlawful to increase your speed until you have been passed completely by the overtaking vehicle.

### **Passing Stopped Cars**



Whenever any vehicle is stopped to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle. When stopping to allow a pedestrian to cross in front of you, leave sufficient room

between your vehicle and the crosswalk so that approaching traffic can see the entirety of the crosswalk.

Slow down and prepare to stop if you are approaching an intersection where other vehicles are stopped, even though the traffic control devices indicate they are authorized to proceed. If they are stopped because they are allowing a pedestrian to cross the roadway, their vehicle may block your view of the pedestrian.

### **Passing Bicyclists**

Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities on the road as motorists. Bicyclists are permitted to travel in the center of the traffic lane if there are safety

hazards on the right side of the road (such as parked cars or debris) or if the lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to share. Pass bicyclists with caution, treating them as you would any other vehicle and according to Georgia law. The law requires a driver to allow at least three feet between the driver and bicyclist when passing, if feasible. If it is not safe to leave three feet of space, the driver should wait until it is safe to pass the bicyclist.

### **Passing Motorcyclists**

A motorcyclist legally occupies the full width of a single lane when traveling. When passing a motorcyclist, a driver must pass in an adjacent lane. Drivers are not permitted to occupy the same lane as a motorcyclist while passing them.

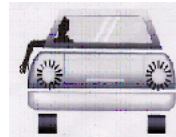
### **Weaving**

It is unlawful to weave from one lane of traffic to another in order to move faster than the flow of traffic. A motorist may change lanes on a multi-lane highway and pass slower moving vehicles only when it is safe to do so. A driver's signaling to change lanes should be clearly indicated so as to warn vehicles of the movement.

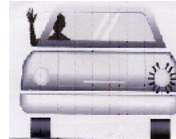
### ***Turn Signals and Making Turns Safely***

Turn movements by motor vehicles are regulated by law, and failure to observe or comply is a violation. Drivers must know and understand the law in order to turn safely and avoid accidents.

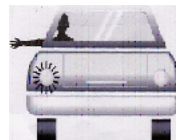
**STOP**



**RIGHT TURN**



**LEFT TURN**



A turn signal must be given whenever a turn is made to the right or the left. You must give a continuous turn signal for an adequate distance to alert other drivers before turning. Never decide to make a turn at the "last minute." Turning quickly or erratically can be dangerous to you and other drivers.

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## Traffic Laws

### **Illegal Signals**

It is against the law to flash turn signals as a courtesy or “do pass” signal to other drivers in the rear.

### **How To Make A Right Turn**

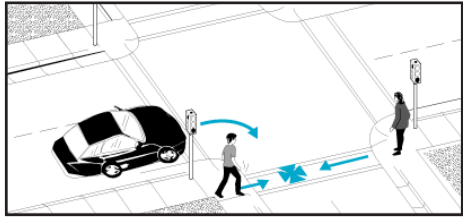
- ◆ Using appropriate signals, and giving drivers ahead of and behind you adequate notice, indicate a right turn.
- ◆ Approach the intersection in the right lane, staying as close as practicable to the curb or edge of the roadway.
- ◆ If there is a bicycle lane on the road on which you are traveling, you must yield to bicyclists traveling straight through the intersection before making a right turn.
- ◆ Make the turn in such a way as to end up in the right lane of the street into which you have turned and avoid entering any other lane of traffic. If there are multiple turning lanes on the street you are turning from, complete the turn so that your vehicle ends up in the corresponding lane on the street you are turning onto.

### **How To Make A Left Turn**

- ◆ Using appropriate signals, and giving drivers ahead of and behind you adequate notice, activate your left turn signal.
- ◆ Move into the far left lane of the direction in which you are traveling, or into the turning lane if one is provided.
- ◆ Keep your wheels straight until you begin making the turn.
- ◆ Yield the right-of-way to all vehicles, including bicycles, which are approaching from the opposite direction or pedestrians crossing either roadway.
- ◆ When safe to do so, and when traffic signals/signs permit, make your turn so that your vehicle ends up in the lane closest to the center lanes(s) in your direction of traffic on the street you turned onto.
- ◆ If there are multiple turning lanes on the street you are turning from, complete the turn so that your vehicle ends up in the corresponding lane on the street you are turning onto.
- ◆ Once you have entered an intersection to make a left turn, you cannot change lanes in the intersection.
- ◆ You must stop and remain stopped for any pedestrians in the crosswalk of the road you are turning onto until they have cleared the lanes of traffic that you are traveling on.

## **Watching for Pedestrians** **When Making Turns**

At most intersections where there is a pedestrian signal, the “Walk” signal of the crossing street corresponds to the green light of the roadway you are traveling on. This means that when you are authorized to turn,



pedestrians are authorized to cross the street onto which you are turning at the same time. Therefore, before making your turn, you must stop and remain stopped for any pedestrians in the crosswalk of the road onto which you wish to turn until they have cleared the lanes of traffic upon which you are traveling.

## **U-Turns**

Do not make a “U” turn on a curve or near the top of a hill if you cannot be seen by other drivers approaching from either direction. Do not make a U-turn where signs prohibit doing so.

## **Making Turns on Multi-Lane Highways**

On a multi-lane, two-way highway, you must never drive to the left of the center line except when making a left turn. If traffic control signals or signs are present, you may only complete the turn when authorized to do so by the traffic control signals or signs. When making left turns, you must always yield to oncoming traffic, and wait for pedestrians to clear the lanes of traffic, driveway, sidewalk, or alley you are turning into.

# CHAPTER 5

## Traffic Laws

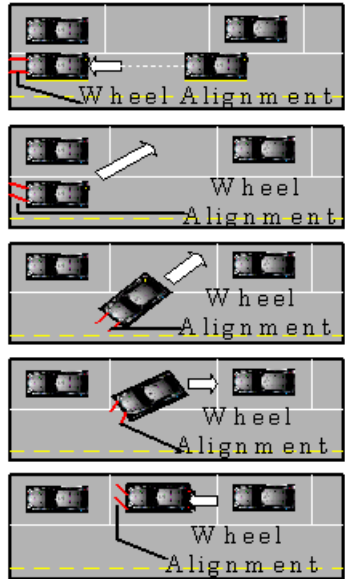
### ***Stopping, Standing, and Parking***

It is against the law to park on a highway. If the vehicle is disabled, you should make every practical effort to park off the highway, leaving free passage and a clear view of your vehicle for 200 feet in each direction.

Stopping, Standing or Parking is not permitted under the following conditions at any time:	Stopping, Standing or Parking is permitted momentarily to pick up or drop off passengers under the following conditions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ On the street side of any parked vehicle</li> <li>◆ On a sidewalk</li> <li>◆ Within an intersection</li> <li>◆ On a crosswalk</li> <li>◆ Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb</li> <li>◆ Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic</li> <li>◆ Upon a bridge or overpass, or within a tunnel, underpass or subway</li> <li>◆ On any railroad tracks</li> <li>◆ On a controlled access highway</li> <li>◆ At any place marked by a no-parking sign</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ In front of a public or private driveway</li> <li>◆ Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant</li> <li>◆ Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection</li> <li>◆ Within 30 feet of a stop sign, yield sign, or traffic control signal</li> <li>◆ Within 20 feet of a fire station driveway</li> <li>◆ Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing</li> <li>◆ At any place where official signs prohibit standing</li> </ul>

## **Steps to Parallel Parking**

- ◆ When attempting to parallel park, drive past the parking space you wish to use and stop when you are approximately even with the car ahead of the space (you should be approximately 2 feet from the other car – door to door).
- ◆ Turn your wheels sharply to the right and back slowly toward the car behind the space you wish to use.
- ◆ As your front door passes the back bumper of the car ahead of the space you wish to use, quickly straighten your wheels and continue to back diagonally into the space in a straight line.
- ◆ When your front bumper is completely clear of the car ahead of you, turn your wheels sharply to the left and back slowly toward the car behind you.
- ◆ Stop before making contact with the car behind you. Place the car in drive, turn your wheels sharply to the right and pull toward the center of the parking space.
- ◆ Always give the appropriate turn signal prior to beginning your parking maneuver and when you exit from a parallel parking space.



## ***Backing Up***

- ◆ Before backing, check all sides of your vehicle to make sure it is safe to do so. You should turn your head and look over your right shoulder while backing; do not depend on your mirrors.
- ◆ For buses and large vehicles, the driver should use all mirrors and utilize a reliable person to observe and direct while backing the vehicle.

# CHAPTER 5

## Traffic Laws

### ***Traveling Speed***

#### **Super Speeder**

Any driver convicted of speeding 75 mph on any two-lane road, or 85 mph and over anywhere in Georgia, will be fined a \$200 state fee. The state fees will be in addition to any local fines imposed in the jurisdiction where the speeding offense occurs. Failure to pay the state fee on time will result in a license suspension and additional \$50 reinstatement fee.

#### **Speed Limits**

Maximum traveling speeds are determined based on the following general rules in Georgia unless otherwise posted:

- ◆ 30 miles per hour in any urban or residential district
- ◆ 35 miles per hour on an unpaved county road
- ◆ 70 miles per hour on a rural interstate
- ◆ 65 miles per hour on an urban interstate or on a multi-lane divided highway
- ◆ 55 miles per hour in all other areas

These are only general rules. Local jurisdictions, the Georgia Department of Transportation, or the Georgia Department of Public Safety may deem it necessary to adjust speed limits based on local conditions, whether temporary or permanent.

**Always watch for speed limit signs while driving.** Some areas, such as school zones or construction zones, may be posted for lower maximum speed limits at certain times of the day or for a short period of time. It is important to pay close attention to road signs while driving to ensure that when you approach a speed zone, whether temporary or permanent, you will have sufficient time to adjust your speed accordingly.

#### **Driving Too Slowly**

When there are two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction, slower vehicles should use the right lane except when passing or making a left turn. Driving too slowly on certain highways can be dangerous because it impedes the regular flow of traffic. On certain highways, minimum speed limits are posted. If you are unable to drive at the minimum speed, you should seek an alternate route.

### ***Railroad Crossings***

You must always stop within 50 feet, but not less than 15 feet, from the nearest rail of a railroad crossing when any of the following apply:

- ◆ The signal is flashing.
- ◆ The crossing gates are lowered.
- ◆ A flagman is giving a signal.



- ◆ A train is approaching so closely as to create an immediate hazard.
- ◆ A train gives a warning signal and is an immediate hazard due to its speed or nearness to the crossing.
- ◆ A stop sign is posted.

Under no circumstances should a motorist drive through, around or under any crossing gate while the gate is lowered. After stopping, remain stopped until all tracks have been cleared and it is safe to proceed.



### **Highway Work Zones**

In an effort to minimize inconvenience, the Georgia Department of Transportation conducts most road construction and maintenance without closing roads to traffic. This poses a traffic hazard to drivers and their passengers, as well as the crew members working on the road. Over half of all fatal injuries to road workers are caused by being struck by a motor vehicle, and a third of these by vehicles intruding into the work space. The Georgia Department of Transportation has experienced 57 workers' deaths in work zones.

Highway work zones are defined as portions of a highway or street where construction, reconstruction, or maintenance work is being done to the road, its shoulders, or any other areas near the roadway. This definition also includes mobile work such as underground and overhead utility maintenance, snow removal, and land surveying activities. Highway work zones are set up according to the type of road and the work to be done on the road. Signing, roadway markings, and flaggers are used to direct drivers safely through work zones or carefully marked detours. Motorists are responsible for knowing how to read and react to these directions. Paying attention and driving cautiously and courteously are the most important steps to preventing accidents while driving through a work zone. Watch for the color orange. It means road work.

### **Obey the Signs**

Warning signs in work zones usually have an orange background and black letters or symbols. They are used with other traffic control devices or flaggers to help direct traffic safely through work areas and to protect drivers, their passengers, and highway workers.



# CHAPTER 5

## Traffic Laws

### **Reduce Your Speed**

For safety reasons, the speed limit in most work zones is reduced. If the speed limit is not reduced in a work zone, drivers should obey the normal posted speed limit for the road on which they are traveling, but be more cautious of road conditions, lane position, and the presence of workers.

Advisory speed limits are used to identify safe speeds for specific conditions within a work zone. These black and orange signs are always used with warning signs. Official speed limit reductions will be indicated with the standard black and white speed limit signs. Motorists who disobey regulatory speed limits in a work zone may be found guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and will be punished by a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$2,000.00, or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed 12 months, or both.



### **Obey Flaggers**

Flaggers are used to direct traffic through and around work zones. In a work zone, a flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign. Do not disobey a flagger's traffic control directions.

### **Yield to Amber Lights in Work Zones**

Work vehicles and heavy equipment will typically have flashing or revolving amber lights. You must yield the right-of-way to these vehicles. Reduce your speed as you approach any work zone where vehicles have amber lights displayed.

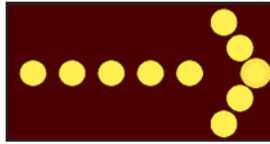
### **Adjust Your Lane Position**

Travel lanes are likely to be closed in work zones and lane patterns may change as the work progresses. Sometimes, workers must operate within inches or feet of an open lane of traffic. When lanes are closed or narrowed, or workers are operating on the roadway near traffic, change lanes away from them if possible or shift slightly within the boundaries of your lane to give added distance between your vehicle and the workers. This will provide extra protection for you, your passengers and the workers along the roadway.



## **Yield to Mobile Work Vehicles**

Some road work can be performed without actually closing lanes of travel. Pavement maintenance, debris removal, paint striping, utility work, and snow removal are examples of work accomplished while moving in traffic. Vehicles used in performing this type of work will have flashing amber lights and may have flashing arrows directing traffic to merge left or right. The vehicles may also display signs for the purpose of directing traffic or indicating hazardous conditions. These vehicles usually work at very slow speeds, such as 5 miles per hour, and may occasionally be stationary in the roadway. For your safety, and the safety of others, slow down, yield the right-of-way to these work vehicles, and follow any directions displayed by the work vehicles.



## **Driving Tips**

When you travel through a work zone, remember these four tips:

1. Reduce your speed.
2. Adjust your lane position away from workers.
3. Prepare for the unexpected!
4. Watch for speed limit signs. Fines are increased in most work zones.

**DO YOUR PART TO HELP PROTECT THE MEN AND  
WOMEN WHO WORK HARD TO MAKE GEORGIA ROADS  
AMONG THE BEST IN THE NATION.**

## ***Other Laws***

### **Controlled-Access Roadways**

- ◆ You are prohibited from entering or leaving any controlled-access (interstate) roadway at unauthorized entrances or exits.
- ◆ Certain types of vehicles may be prohibited on controlled-access roadways if signs are posted to this effect.
- ◆ Backing up is prohibited on controlled-access roadways.

### **Coasting**

The driver of any motor vehicle, when traveling down a hill, must not coast with the gears or transmission of the vehicle in neutral.

# CHAPTER 5

## Traffic Laws

### **Driving Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol**

- ◆ It is unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug, or any other substance which impairs his/her ability to safely do so.
- ◆ A person 21 or more years of age is considered “Under the Influence of Alcohol” when 0.08 gm or more by alcohol weight is present in the blood.
- ◆ A person under 21 years of age is irrefutably considered “Under the Influence of Alcohol” when 0.02 gm or more by alcohol weight is present in the blood.

Certain drugs or other substances can also make a person irrefutably “under the influence.” Having a prescription for certain medication is not a defense if the medication impairs your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Penalties for driving under the influence of intoxicants are severe, with fines up to \$1000, jail sentences up to 12 months, and mandatory suspension of your driving privileges.

### **Reckless Driving**

Reckless driving is defined as driving any vehicle in reckless disregard for the safety of persons or property. Penalties for reckless driving can include a fine of up to \$1000, imprisonment for up to 12 months, and, if the driver is under 21 years of age, conviction will result in a suspension of all driving privileges.

### **Racing**

The following behaviors are considered racing on highways and streets:

- ◆ When two or more people compete or race on any street or highway;
- ◆ When one motor vehicle is beside or to the rear of another driver, and one driver tries to prevent the passing or overtaking of the competing driver by acceleration or maneuver; or
- ◆ When one or more persons compete in a race against time.

In Georgia it is unlawful to drag race. The penalties for committing this violation may include imprisonment and fines, and all driving privileges will be suspended if you are convicted.

### **Aggressive Driving**

- ◆ A person commits the offense of aggressive driving when he or she operates any motor vehicle with the intent to annoy, harass, molest, intimidate, injure, or obstruct another person.
- ◆ A conviction for aggressive driving is considered a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.
- ◆ The penalty for committing this violation may include imprisonment, fines, and, if the driver is under 21 years of age, conviction will result in a suspension of all driving privileges.

### **Texting and Cell Phone Use While Driving**

Any driver **under age 18** who holds a Class D license or a learner's permit is prohibited from using any wireless device while driving. This includes cell phones, computers, and all texting devices. Exceptions are provided for emergencies and for drivers who are full parked. The fine for a conviction is \$150, or \$300 if involved in an accident while using a wireless device.

Any driver **age 18 or over** is prohibited from reading, writing, or sending a text message while driving. This ban applies to any texting device including cell phones, and applies to text messages, instant messages, email and Internet data. Exceptions are provided for emergency personnel, drivers responding to emergencies, and drivers who are fully parked. The fine for a conviction is \$150.

A conviction for either violation will result in the accumulation of 1 point on the driving record.

### **Following Emergency Vehicles**

The driver of any vehicle, other than one on official business, must not follow any fire fighting apparatus traveling in response to a fire alarm, or other emergency vehicles, closer than 200 feet, or drive into or park any vehicle within 500 feet of any fire apparatus stopped in answer to a fire alarm.

### **Trucks and Vehicles Pulling Trailers**

When traveling upon a roadway outside of a business or residential district, drivers of trucks and vehicles pulling trailers must leave sufficient space between themselves and other vehicles of the same kind, so that the driver of an overtaking vehicle can enter and occupy the space without danger. This law prohibits the act commonly known as "caravanning."

Trailers wider than 8 feet, 6 inches are not permitted on Georgia's highways.

### **Riding in Trailers**

Riding in a house trailer, or any other vehicular drawn trailer, is not allowed while it is being moved upon a street or highway. There is a high likelihood of injury or death if passengers are unrestrained in the trailer and the vehicle is involved in a crash or the trailer becomes disconnected from the vehicle.

### **Median Strip**

It is unlawful to drive across a dividing section, barrier, or unpaved strip which separates two roadways at any point other than at an authorized opening or crossover.

### **Impaired Hearing and Vision**

It is unlawful to operate a motor vehicle while wearing a headphone, headset, or any other device which would impair the driver's ability to hear. Also, the driver must not wear anything which would obstruct his or her vision while driving a motor vehicle.

# CHAPTER 5

## Traffic Laws

### **Obstructing the Driver's View**

If a vehicle is overloaded with passengers or freight so as to obstruct the view of the driver or interfere with the mechanical operation, it cannot be legally driven. Passengers must not ride in a position that interferes with the driver's view or his or her control of the vehicle.

### **Opening Vehicle Doors**

Opening the doors of a vehicle on the side on which traffic is moving is prohibited unless it is safe to do so and unless it can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic, including bicyclists that may be operating close to the lane of parked cars.

### **One Way Streets**

Unless directed to by a traffic control device, authorized emergency personnel or construction workers, it is unlawful for a vehicle to be driven contrary to the direction posted on a one-way street or highway, except in situations where police vehicles or authorized emergency vehicles find it necessary to do so.

### **Stopping**

When stopping or slowing down suddenly, the proper hand, arm, or brake operated stop signal must be given.

### **Use Headlights Properly**

Use high-beam headlights only when driving in rural areas and when other cars are not nearby. You must use your headlights between one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise; at any time when it is raining; or when visibility is limited.

You should dim (lower) your headlights when:

- ◆ Within 500 feet of an approaching vehicle so as not to blind the driver.
- ◆ Following closely (within 200 feet) behind another vehicle.
- ◆ Driving on lighted roads.
- ◆ Driving in rain, fog, snow, or smoke.
- ◆ Vision is reduced to less than 200 feet.

### **Night Driving**

Because of decreased vision at night and the glare of oncoming headlights, night driving is more demanding and requires greater concentration than daytime driving. Unfamiliar roads and unexpected situations are more likely to cause hazardous driving conditions. You can help ensure safe driving in several ways.

- ◆ Make sure your headlights are working properly and the lenses are kept clean. Periodically have them checked for correct aim/alignment.
- ◆ Don't "overdrive" your headlights. When traveling at night or in other situations that make the use of headlights necessary for safe travel, do not drive at a speed that requires a stopping time greater than the distance illuminated by your headlights.
- ◆ Slow down when oncoming traffic is approaching or when you are nearing a curve.
- ◆ If visibility is greatly reduced, use the edge line as a guide to maintaining your lane of travel. If there is no edge line, use the center line to guide yourself.
- ◆ Keep your windshield clean.
- ◆ Do not drive if you are tired. More frequent stops, more fresh air, lively radio programs and other measures can help you to avoid drowsiness and inattention.
- ◆ Watch carefully for highway signs; they are harder to see at night.
- ◆ Watch carefully for pedestrians and for vehicles stopped along the edge of the road.
- ◆ Do not stop on the roadway for any reason.

### **Georgia's Litter Control Law**

Each year, municipal, county and state government agencies spend thousands of dollars to clean up litter from the streets and highways of Georgia. Individuals who litter cause harm to the beauty of the state and impact the health, welfare and safety of others.

It is unlawful to dump, deposit, throw or leave litter on any public or private property in the State of Georgia, or any waters in the State of Georgia.

- ◆ "Litter" means all sand, gravel, slag, brick bats, rubbish, waste material, tin cans, refuse, garbage, trash, dead animals or discarded materials of every kind and description.
- ◆ "Public or private property" means the right-of-way of any road or highway, any body of water or watercourse of the shores or beaches thereof, any park, playground, building refuge or conservation or recreation area and residential or farm properties, timberlands or forest.

Whenever litter is thrown, deposited, or dropped from any motor vehicle, the operator of the vehicle shall have violated the Litter Control Law. All Georgia law enforcement agencies are authorized to enforce compliance of the Litter Control Law.

## CHAPTER 5

### Traffic Laws

Georgia's Litter Control Law classifies littering as damage to property. A conviction under this law is considered a misdemeanor in Georgia. Persons convicted of a misdemeanor may be assessed a fine not to exceed \$1000 and a 12 month jail term. In addition, if convicted of littering, a judge could order the convicted person to pick up and remove litter from any designated area.



### **Protecting The Air**

The operation of motor vehicles has a significant impact on Georgia's air quality. Emissions from cars and light duty trucks contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, a component of urban smog. Vehicle emissions can react with sunlight at high temperatures to produce unhealthy levels of this form of air pollution. This is especially true during warm weather. Vehicle emissions and ground-level ozone can be reduced by proper vehicle maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and by fewer trips and vehicle miles traveled.

In the thirteen county metro Atlanta area, gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks with model years of 1982 or later must pass an emissions inspection every year prior to registering their vehicle with the county of residence (the most recent three model years are exempt from this requirement). The thirteen metro counties covered by the state's inspection and maintenance program are: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dekalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale. For more detailed information about the emissions inspection program, call the Georgia Clean Air Force at 1-800-449-2471. Remember - removing or disabling a vehicle's emissions control components is a violation of federal and state law.

In addition to proper vehicle maintenance, you can help reduce air pollution and traffic congestion by limiting driving to necessary travel, by planning ahead to consolidate trips, and by using carpools, transit and ridesharing. All drivers should do their part to reduce the impact of automobiles and trucks on air quality and the environment.





# CHAPTER 6

## Teen Driving Laws

The State of Georgia has what is known as a graduated licensing program for teens. This means that teens progress through a licensing process in three phases. As teens reach a certain age, complete certain requirements, and have demonstrated their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle, they are allowed to progress to the next phase. Successful progression to the next phase also requires a demonstration of responsibility on the part of the teen by avoiding any violations during the term of the license held.

### ***School Attendance and Conduct Requirements***

#### ***Obtaining a Driver's License or Instructional Permit***

Anyone younger than 18 years of age must present one of the following in order to obtain a driver's license or instructional permit:

1. Certificate of Attendance (DS-1 – obtained from school personnel)
2. High School Diploma
3. General Education Development (GED)
4. Special Diploma
5. Certificate of High School Completion
6. College or vocational school transcript dated within the last thirty days (official transcript with seal required)
7. Certificate of Adult Literacy proving pursuit of a GED (available from Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education for those currently enrolled in a GED program)

### ***Joshua's Law***

Effective January 1, 2007, the State of Georgia implemented new legislation to promote increased teen driving safety. The highlights of Joshua's Law include:

- ◆ Approved driver education training required to obtain a Class D automobile license at age 16.
- ◆ Approved driver education training required to obtain a Motorcycle Permit (MP) at age 16.
- ◆ You must be 17 years of age to obtain a Class M motorcycle License.

The first stage of the graduated licensing program is a Class C Instructional Permit (CP). Listed below are the requirements for obtaining a CP and conditions of a CP.

### ***Class CP Instructional Permit***

#### ***Obtaining a Class CP Instructional Permit***

Upon reaching age fifteen, you may apply for a Class CP Instructional Permit. The following information will help you prepare for your visit to a DDS Customer Service Center:

- ◆ You must present proof of satisfaction of school attendance and conduct requirements.
- ◆ You will be required to present documents verifying your identity, U.S. citizenship or lawful presence, and Georgia residency as explained on pages 15-16.
- ◆ A parent or legal guardian will have to sign the application, thereby giving their consent for you to obtain a license. The individual who signs your application may, for any reason, revoke your license until you reach the age of 18.
- ◆ You must know your Social Security Number; the number is required to issue a license.
- ◆ You will be required to pass a vision test. Your eyes will be tested by means of a mechanical device. The minimum acceptable vision is 20/60 in one eye, with or without corrective lenses, and a field of vision of at least 140 degrees.
- ◆ You will be required to pass a knowledge exam related to Road Signs and Road Rules. Please refer to page 28 for more information related to the knowledge exam.
- ◆ The test fee is \$10.00 and must be paid prior to testing. If any part of the test is failed, no refund will be issued. The permit fee must be paid prior to every testing attempt.

### **Conditions of a Class CP Instructional Permit**

- ◆ Once issued a Class CP Instructional Permit, you may operate any Class C vehicle when accompanied by a person at least 21 years of age who is licensed to drive a Class C vehicle, who is fit and capable of exercising control over the vehicle, and who is occupying a seat beside the driver.
- ◆ CP licenses are valid for 2 years.

### **Revocation of minor's license**

The parent, guardian, responsible adult or authorized driving instructor who signed a minor's application for an instructional permit or driver's license may request revocation thereof at any time prior to the minor's eighteenth birthday. The person requesting revocation of a minor's instructional permit or driver's license shall submit his or her request for said revocation on the form designated by the Department. Said form shall require the person's notarized signature. The person requesting revocation of a minor's instructional permit or driver's license shall pay a non-refundable fee of \$10.00.

Once you have held a CP for at least one year and one day, without any violations resulting in convictions, you may apply for a Class D provisional license. Requirements for obtaining a Class D license and conditions of a Class D license are listed on the following page.

## ***Class D Provisional License***

### **Obtaining a Class D Provisional License**

Upon reaching the age of 16, and after having held a valid Class CP license for one year and one day, you may apply for a Class D license. The following information will help you prepare for your visit to a Customer Service Center:

- ◆ You must surrender your Class CP Instructional Permit or complete a Lost License Affidavit affirming that you are unable to surrender the permit. See

# CHAPTER 6

## Teen Driving Laws

page 34 for details concerning lost licenses and permits.

- ◆ You must present proof of satisfaction of school attendance and conduct requirements. See page 58 for details concerning these requirements.
- ◆ You must present a Georgia Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP) certificate indicating you have completed the program. This program is taught in most schools. For information about ADAP, you may visit [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov), or call (678) 413-8731 or (800) 245-4410.
- ◆ A parent or legal guardian will have to sign the application, thereby giving consent for you to obtain a license and you must have the "Driver Training Parental Affidavit" signed by parent. The individual who signs your application may, for any reason, revoke your license until you reach the age of 18.
- ◆ You must satisfy the Driver Education Requirements listed below.
- ◆ You must pass a road test designed to evaluate your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. See pages 28-30 for more information related to the Road Test.

### Driver Education Requirements

To obtain a Class D license at the age of 16, you must complete a driver education course approved by DDS. An approved driver education course consists of:

- o either 30 hours of classroom instruction OR completion of an online virtual course  
AND
- o 6 hours of on-the-road experience with a certified instructor OR completion of the DDS approved Parent-Teen Driving Guide
- ◆ You must also have completed a cumulative total of at least forty hours of other driving experience, including at least six hours at night.
  - o completion of the DDS approved Parent-Teen Driving Guide will serve as an affidavit certifying that this requirement has been met;  
AND
  - o if the teen obtains the on-the-road component of driver's education from a certified instructor, the parent/guardian will sign an affidavit affirming that this requirement has been met at the time of the road test.
- ◆ If you have not completed an approved driver education course, you cannot obtain a Class D license until you reach the age of 17. For information on approved driver education courses, please visit the following, [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov) or [www.gateendrivereducation.dds.ga.gov](http://www.gateendrivereducation.dds.ga.gov).

### Conditions of a Class D Provisional License

- ◆ A Class D License Holder must, for the 12 months preceding application for a class C license, be free from any convictions for major traffic violations that result in the mandatory suspension of a driver's license.
- ◆ A Class D License Holder may not drive between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. - NO EXCEPTIONS.
- ◆ During the first six months following issuance, only immediate family members may ride in the vehicle. 'Immediate family member' includes the driver's parents and step-parents, grandparents, siblings and step-siblings, children, and any other person who resides at the driver's residence.

- ◆ During the second six months following issuance, only one passenger under 21 years of age who is not a member of the driver's immediate family may ride in the vehicle.
- ◆ After the first and second six-month periods, only three passengers under 21 years of age who are not members of the driver's immediate family may ride in the vehicle.

## ***Teens Moving to Georgia***

The following information applies to teens moving to Georgia from another state who wish to obtain a driver's license or permit in Georgia.

### **Under Age 18 without a valid license issued by another state**

If you do not already hold a valid driver's license or instructional permit issued by another state, you will be subject to the licensing requirements of Georgia residents. Please see the preceding sections for more information.

### **Under Age 18 with valid out of state license**

If you hold a valid driver's license or instructional permit issued by another state, you will normally be eligible to obtain a comparable license issued by Georgia. However, the state of issuance may have requirements for teenage drivers that differ from Georgia. For more information, please call the Customer Contact Center at (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500, (678) 413-8600, or outside metro Atlanta, call toll free (866) 754-3687.

## ***Motorcycle Operator's Instructional Permit or License***

Detailed information concerning permit and licensing requirements for Motorcycle Operator's Licenses can be found on the DDS website at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov), or you may contact the Motorcycle Safety Program at (770) 918-6200 in the metro Atlanta area, or toll free at (800) 245-4410 if calling from outside the metro Atlanta area. Teens under age 17 must meet the Driver Education Requirements on page 59.

## ***License/Permit Suspensions***

### **Suspension of Driver's License/Permit or Driving Privileges**

Once a driver's license or permit has been issued, any of the following infractions will result in the suspension of the individual's driver's license or permit for a period of one year or until the individual turns 18, whichever comes first.

- ◆ Has dropped out of school and has remained out of school for ten consecutive school days.
- ◆ Has ten or more school days of unexcused absences in the current academic year or ten or more school days of unexcused absences in the previous academic year.
- ◆ Has been found in violation by a hearing officer, panel, or tribunal of one of the following offenses, or has waived his or her right to a hearing and pleaded guilty to one of the following offenses:

## CHAPTER 6

### Teen Driving Laws

- Threatening, striking, or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel
- Possession or use of a weapon on school property or at a school sponsored event
- Any sexual offense prohibited under Chapter 6 of Title 16
- Causing substantial physical or visible bodily harm to or seriously disfiguring another person, including another student
- Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school property or at a school sponsored event

If notice is received of one of these infractions and the individual has not yet applied for a driver's license or permit, he or she will be prohibited from obtaining a driver's license or permit until the period of suspension has ended or the individual turns 18, whichever comes first.

Unless reinstated, the suspension will automatically expire after one year or when the individual turns 18, whichever comes first. Under certain conditions, a limited permit or hardship exemption may be available prior to the expiration of the suspension. For further information, contact DDS at (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500, (678) 413-8600, or toll free at (866) 754-3687 if calling from outside the metro Atlanta area.

#### **Convictions Other Than DUI**

The State of Georgia applies strict penalties to teens who fail to obey the laws regarding operation of a motor vehicle. The driver's license of any person under 21 years of age convicted of any of the following offenses shall be **SUSPENDED** for a period of six months for a first conviction, or for a period of twelve months for a second or subsequent suspension. No limited driving permit is available for this type of suspension.

- ◆ Hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident.
- ◆ Racing on highways or streets.
- ◆ Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer.
- ◆ Reckless driving.
- ◆ Aggressive driving.
- ◆ Purchasing an alcoholic beverage.
- ◆ Attempting to purchase an alcoholic beverage.
- ◆ Underage possession of alcohol while operating a motor vehicle.
- ◆ Misrepresenting age for purpose of illegally obtaining any alcoholic beverage.

- ◆ Misrepresenting identity or using false identification for purpose of purchasing or obtaining an alcoholic beverage.
- ◆ Any other offense for which four or more points are assessed:
  - Unlawful passing of a school bus.
  - Improper passing on a hill or curve.
  - Exceeding the speed limit by 24 miles per hour or more.
- ◆ The accumulation of four or more points in any 12-month period while under 18 years of age.

## **Convictions for Driving Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol (DUI)**

### **First DUI Suspension:**

- ◆ If your blood Alcohol Concentration was .02 or greater, but less than .08; or your implied consent test results were suppressed; or no test was given, your license will be suspended for a minimum period of 6 months. Unless you have a previous conviction for an offense in the above list, in which case your license will be suspended for a minimum period of 12 months.
- ◆ If your Blood Alcohol Concentration was .08 or greater or you refused implied consent testing, your license will be suspended for a minimum period of 12 months.
- ◆ No limited driving permit is available.

### **Second DUI Suspension:**

Your license will be suspended for a minimum period of 18 months. During the final 6 months you will be required to have a certified and functioning ignition interlock device installed and maintained in any vehicle you intend to operate.

## ***Texting and Cell Phone Use While Driving***

Any driver **under age 18** who holds a Class D license or a learner's permit is prohibited from using any wireless device while driving. This includes cell phones, computers, and all texting devices. Exceptions are provided for emergencies and for drivers who are full parked. The penalty for a conviction is a \$150 fine, or \$300 if involved in an accident while using a wireless device. Additionally 1 point will be added to your driving record for each conviction.

# CHAPTER 7

## Signs, Signals, and Markings

Georgia law requires that all drivers, including bicyclists, obey official highway signs and traffic control signals unless directed otherwise by a police officer or emergency worker.

### Road Signs

#### Shapes of Signs

The State of Georgia uses seven basic shapes of signs to convey traffic control instructions. Drivers should know signs by their shapes and colors so that they may recognize them from a distance and begin reacting.



An octagon (eight-sided shape) always means stop. When you come to it, you must make a complete stop at a marked stop line. If there is no stop line, stop before the crosswalk on your side of the intersection. If there is no crosswalk, stop at a point from which you can best see oncoming traffic. You must not start again until all pedestrians have finished crossing on the side of the roadway you are traveling, and you have yielded the right-of-way to closely approaching traffic.



A triangle sign means yield. You must slow down to a speed that is reasonable for existing conditions and stop if necessary. If you must stop, do so at a marked stop line, if it exists. After slowing or stopping, you must yield the right-of-way to other vehicles in the intersection or approaching closely on another roadway or auxiliary road leading into a major highway.



A round sign means you are approaching a railroad crossing. This sign is posted a few hundred feet in front of the tracks and alerts you to slow down, look, listen and prepare to stop. If necessary, roll down a window and listen carefully for an approaching train. If the train is approaching, stop! Do not try to calculate whether you can “make it” across the track. Never try to beat a train through the intersection. Passing is prohibited at all railroad crossings.





A diamond shaped sign warns of existing or possible hazards on roadways or adjacent areas. They are yellow with black words indicating the potential hazard, or black symbols visually describing the potential hazard.



A pentagon shaped sign means you are approaching a school zone and/or school crossing. When used, they will be erected not less than 150 feet nor more than 700 feet in advance of the school grounds or school crossing. (Warning signs can also be fluorescent green in color.)



Horizontal Rectangle signs are generally used as guide signs. They show locations, directions, or other special information.



Vertical Rectangle signs are generally used for regulatory signs, which tell you what you must do. You must obey them in the same manner as traffic laws.

# CHAPTER 7

## Signs, Signals, and Markings

### Regulatory Signs

Regulatory signs tell drivers what they may or may not do. Drivers, including bicyclists, must obey them in the same manner as traffic laws. Remember, a red circle with a red slash from upper left to lower right means “No.” The picture within the circle shows what is prohibited.



This marks a one-way road. If you are facing this sign, do not continue down the road.



Motorist is approaching a one-way highway or ramp.



You may travel only in the direction of the arrow.



Traffic is required to keep to the right of medians or obstructions.



You cannot turn around to go in the opposite direction at this intersection.



You cannot make a right turn at this intersection.



55 miles per hour is the maximum speed limit permitted in this area.



You are approaching an area where a reduced speed limit has been established.



When two or more traveling lanes are available in the direction you are traveling, slower traffic should travel in the right (outside) lane(s).



A right turn on red is prohibited, even after coming to a complete stop.



You are approaching a school zone. A reduced speed limit is in effect when the yellow lights are flashing.



Bicycles are prohibited from entering this roadway.



Trucks are prohibited from entering this roadway.

# CHAPTER 7

## Signs, Signals, and Markings

### **Warning Signs**

Warning signs are usually yellow with black markings. (Warning signs can also be fluorescent green with black markings.) They alert you of conditions that are immediately ahead. There may be road hazards, changes in traffic direction or some other potentially hazardous situation that requires action on your part.



Sharp turn to the right.



Curve to the right.



Sharp turn to the right and then sharp turn to the left.



Winding road ahead.



Side road enters highway ahead.



Side road enters highway ahead at an angle.



Another road crosses the highway ahead.



The road you are traveling on ends straight ahead. Slow down and prepare to yield or stop before turning right or left.



The bridge ahead allows room for only two lanes of traffic. Approach with caution.



There is a dip in the road ahead.  
Slow down!



There is a bump in the road ahead.  
Slow down!



Shoulder of the road is soft. Drive on the shoulder only in emergencies.



DIVIDED  
HIGHWAY

Divided highway begins. Prepare to change lanes or shift lane position.



DIVIDED  
HIGHWAY  
ENDS

Divided highway ends. Prepare to change lanes or shift lane position.



TWO WAY  
TRAFFIC

Warning that you are leaving a separated one-way highway and will soon be driving on a two-way highway.



LOW  
CLEARANCE

Approaching a low underpass. Do not enter if your vehicle or cargo exceeds the maximum height indicated on the sign.



MERGE

Traffic merging from the right. Prepare to allow traffic to safely merge.



HILL

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

# CHAPTER 7

## Signs, Signals, and Markings



Presence of traffic signals at intersection ahead. Slow down!



There is a stop sign ahead. Begin to slow down.



There is a yield sign ahead. Slow down and prepare to stop if necessary.



This sign is on the left side of the highway and marks the beginning of a no passing zone. Any passing maneuver must be completed before reaching this sign.



Number of lanes reduced ahead.



Roadway slippery when wet. Remember, the first half-hour of rain is most hazardous.



These signs alert drivers in advance of areas where animals, people, and vehicles may be crossing.

### Construction and Maintenance Warning Signs

Warning signs for construction and maintenance projects are used to alert you of dangers ahead and give you enough time in which to adjust your speed accordingly. These signs are orange with black markings.



# CHAPTER 7

## Signs, Signals, and Markings

### Service Signs

As you travel along Georgia's highways, the following blue and white signs will give directions to service facilities.



Roadside Park and Rest Area



### Guide Signs

Guide signs may indicate what road you are on, and how to get to your destination. Many guide signs are rectangular, but some have other shapes. There are several different kinds of guide signs — route markers, information, destination, distance, and location signs. These signs may be accompanied by a "To" sign or an arrow, indicating the highway, facility, or location that can be reached by following the signs. Here are some examples:







The numbers on these signs designate specific exits.



Intersection of U.S. Route 47 & Ga. Highway 38. These roads are going to cross or meet the highway you are traveling on.



This sign is used to mark an officially designated bicycle route. Be cautious of bicyclists while traveling on this road.



Milepost markers are placed each mile along the edge of the roadway from one end of the state to the other. Zero always starts at the south or west border where a route begins.



The crossbuck is placed at all railroad crossings. Yield to any approaching trains. Slow down, look and listen before crossing. A sign below the crossbuck indicates the number of tracks. A complete stop is required when a red light is flashing.



Caution - a vehicle displaying this emblem is a slow-moving vehicle. A slow-moving vehicle is defined as any vehicle moving less than 25 miles per hour. They are required by law to display this emblem.











This sign means there is a public parking area in the direction of the arrow.

# CHAPTER 7

## Signs, Signals, and Markings

### **Traffic Signals and Signs**

Traffic signals are placed at intersections to control the orderly movement of traffic and to prevent accidents. All drivers, including bicyclists, and pedestrians must obey these signals except when an officer is directing traffic. If a traffic signal is not functioning at an intersection, all drivers must treat the intersection as if a stop sign is posted for all directions. If a traffic signal is malfunctioning and flashing, drivers must proceed based on the color of the flashing signal they are facing: if the driver is facing a yellow flashing signal, the driver may proceed with caution; if the driver is facing a red flashing signal, the driver must stop and wait until it is safe to proceed.

	A red light means you must make a complete stop before entering the crosswalk or intersection and wait until the light turns to green before proceeding.
	A yellow light warns the light is changing from green to red. Slow down and prepare to stop.
	A green light means you may proceed if it is safe to do so after stopping for pedestrians and yielding to vehicles within the intersection.
	A green arrow means you may proceed carefully only in the direction the arrow is pointing after stopping for pedestrians and yielding to vehicles within the intersection. In this case you may go straight ahead only.
	A green arrow, in this case, means you may turn in the direction of the arrow after stopping for pedestrians and yielding to vehicles within the intersection.
	A yellow arrow may appear after a green arrow and warns you to clear the intersection.
	A red flashing light means you must stop completely, treat as you would a stop sign. Proceed with caution only after yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians and to other vehicles at the intersection.
	A yellow flashing light means you must slow down and exercise caution before proceeding through the intersection.

### Lane Control Signals

Some roadways are designed to accommodate different traffic demands during the day through the use of a reversible lane system. Appropriate travel lanes on a roadway utilizing a reversible lane system are indicated as follows:



No travel allowed in this lane in the direction you are going.



"Steady" - clear the lane  
"Flashing" - left turn permitted



Travel in lane

### Overhead Lane Signs



Left turn only



Straight or left turn only



Right turn only

### Pedestrian Signals



Leave the curb to cross street



Do not leave curb



"Flashing" - do not leave curb but complete crossing

# CHAPTER 7

## Signs, Signals, and Markings

### HAWK Signal

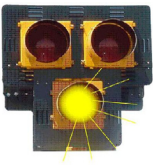
“HAWK” stands for High-Intensity Activated CrossWalk. It is a new kind of signal designed to help pedestrians cross busy streets.

#### DARK



The HAWK remains **DARK** for traffic unless a pedestrian activates the push-button.

#### FLASHING



When a pedestrian presses the button, approaching drivers will see a **FLASHING YELLOW** signal for a few seconds, indicating that the signal has been activated.

#### SOLID YELLOW



The flashing yellow is followed by a **SOLID YELLOW** signal, indicating that motorists should reduce speed and be prepared to stop.

#### SOLID RED



The solid yellow is followed by double **SOLID RED** signals, requiring drivers to stop.

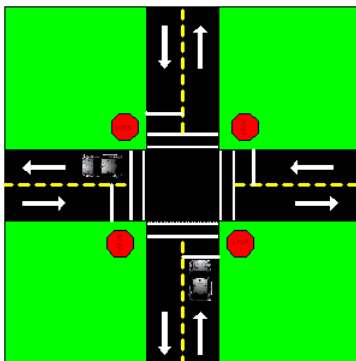
#### FLASHING RED



The double solid red signals are followed by double **FLASHING RED** signals. The signal will then go dark until activated again by a pedestrian. During the double **FLASHING RED** signal

## ***Pavement Markings***

Pavement markings, like highway signs, are used to warn and direct drivers to regulate traffic.

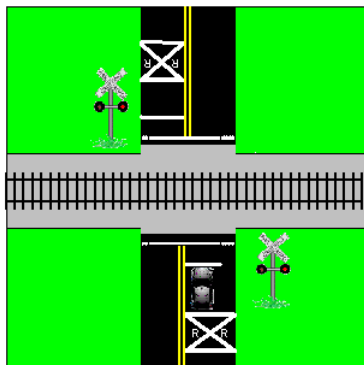


### **Stop Lines**

Stop lines are white lines painted across the pavement at intersections indicating the point beyond which your vehicle should not cross if you are stopping for a traffic control device. In urban areas the line is usually located about four feet before the crosswalk. Drivers must come to a complete stop at the stop line (when present) not at the actual stop sign or traffic signal.

### **Crosswalk Lines**

These white lines are painted across, or partially across the pavement. Sometimes they will be painted in a ladder pattern. When pedestrians are in the crosswalks, they have the right-of-way over motor vehicles. Crosswalks are sometimes in the middle of a block in residential areas, and in some cases, a pedestrian crossing signal is located at the white line.



### **Railroad Crossings**

When a road is crossed by a railroad crossing, the pavement is usually marked with a large X and two R's. At railroad crossings, a yellow line is always placed on the right side of the center line to prevent passing. The crossing is sometimes equipped with control arms and/or emergency lights, to warn drivers of approaching trains. The driver of the vehicle must stop if warning signals indicate a train is approaching.

# CHAPTER 7

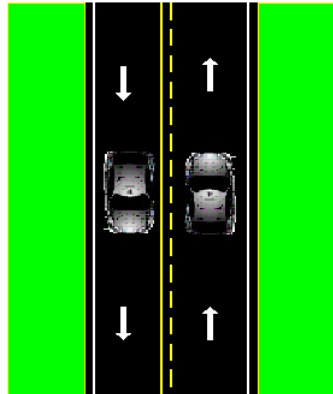
## Signs, Signals, and Markings

### Center Lines

These are used to separate traffic moving in opposite directions on paved roadways. Broken yellow lines are used when there are only two lanes.

### No Passing Lines

These single, solid yellow lines on two-lane roads indicate zones where passing is prohibited. These single, solid yellow lines will be located on the right of the broken yellow line when they apply to the lane in which you are traveling. In some instances, both yellow lines will be solid, indicating it is not safe for passing in either direction.



to

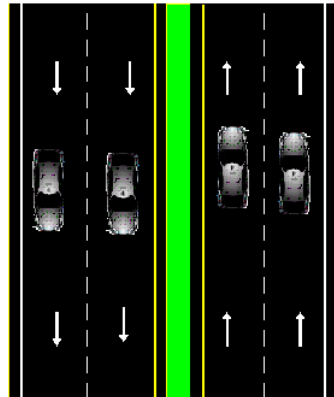
### Edgelines

These are the solid white lines along the side of the pavement. They serve as safety guides, especially at night when it is difficult to see the edge of the road. A yellow edge line may be used on the left side to warn of narrow or raised medians.

### Lane Lines

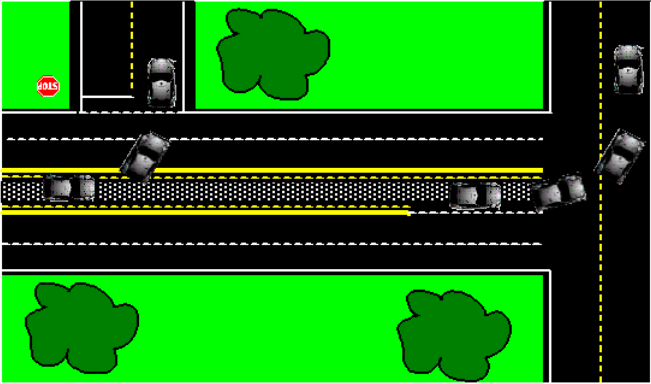
These are the white dashes that mark the individual lanes of travel on streets and highways having more than one lane for traffic moving in the same direction.

When there are four or more lanes with traffic moving in opposite directions, two solid yellow lines mark the center of the roadway. You may cross these lines only to make a left turn into or from an alley, private road, driveway, or another street. When traveling on a multi-lane road, stay in the right lane except to pass other vehicles traveling in the same direction.



## **Turn Lanes**

This lane, bordered by solid yellow and/or broken yellow lines, is in the center of streets and highways to make left turns. A motorist desiring to turn left should proceed to the turn lane just prior to making a left turn. Georgia law prohibits the use of this lane for any purpose other than making a left turn. You may enter this lane no more than 300 feet from the location of the left turn.



When a turning lane is provided for vehicles traveling in both directions, you should use extreme caution before entering the turning lane to make a left turn. There may be a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction also entering the turning lane to make a left turn. This is especially problematic in congested areas.

## **Bicycle Lanes**

These are solid white lines typically located between the farthest right traffic lane and the curb or edge of the roadway. If there is a right-turn-only lane present, the bicycle lane will be located to the left of the right-turn-only lane in order to safely accommodate bicycles traveling straight through the intersection. Bicycle lanes may also be marked with painted symbols of a bicycle. Drivers of motor vehicles are prohibited from driving or parking in the bicycle lane, except to cross over it to make a turn. When crossing over a bicycle lane to make a turn, motorists must yield to bicyclists that are present.

# CHAPTER 7

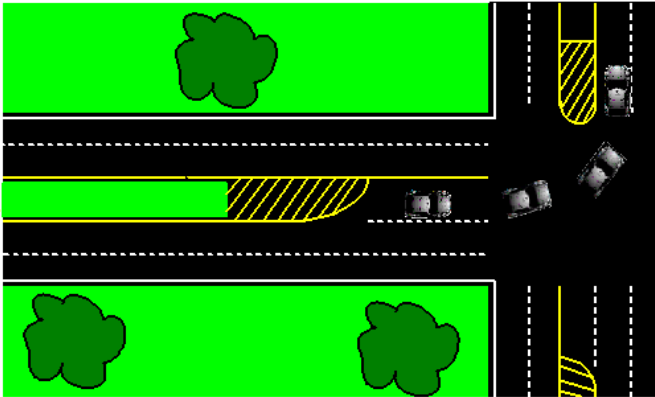
## Signs, Signals, and Markings

### **Roundabouts**

Roundabouts are sometimes used at intersections instead of stops signs. The purpose of a roundabout is to allow the intersection to handle heavier traffic flow without the need for a signal or a four-way stop. When entering a roundabout, traffic laws concerning right-of-way still apply. You must yield to other traffic that is already in the roundabout. You will always enter a roundabout to the right, and continue circling to the right until you have reached the roadway onto which you want to turn. When reaching the desired road, you will always turn right.

### **Traffic Striping**

These markings, created by diagonal yellow lines, are on streets and highways indicating that the road is narrowing or there is an obstruction on the roadway.



The area is similar to a triangle with solid yellow diagonal lines within the outside lines. Always keep to the right of these markings.





## CHAPTER 8

### Safety Guidelines

Traffic laws alone cannot regulate every type of driving situation that may occur. There are some general rules which drivers should understand and follow. Read this chapter with care. Someday these safety tips might help you avoid a crash, serious injury, or even death. These are only general statements and cannot dictate your actions in *all* situations. It is up to you to evaluate the situation and make a determination as to the best course of action.

#### ***Entering the Car***

- ◆ Develop a routine for entering the car safely and preparing for your trip. If you are parked on the street, enter from the curb side of the vehicle. If this is not possible, wait until your entry can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with the flow of traffic.
- ◆ Have your keys ready, and approach the vehicle facing traffic.
- ◆ Adjust your seat and mirrors.
- ◆ Check passengers to be sure they are properly seated and do not interfere with your view.
- ◆ Before starting your ignition, fasten your seat belt and make sure your passengers do the same.
- ◆ After starting your vehicle, check around your vehicle for hazards or approaching traffic, including bicyclists and pedestrians, give the proper signal and move cautiously into the stream of traffic.

#### ***Safety Belts***

Georgia law states that each occupant in the front seat of a passenger vehicle traveling on Georgia roads and highways must be secured by a seat safety belt (lap and shoulder). All occupants of any passenger vehicle must utilize a seat safety belt if they are under the age of 18.

Safety belts are needed because they are the most effective occupant protection in all types of vehicle crashes. Using safety belts correctly are a preventable health care habit that:

- ◆ helps you keep control of the vehicle.
- ◆ helps keep your head from striking the dash or windshield.
- ◆ helps keep people in the vehicle from hitting each other.
- ◆ helps spread the crash force across the stronger parts of the body.
- ◆ helps protect you from injury.
- ◆ helps keep you from being ejected from the vehicle.

When used correctly, safety belts are effective at helping reduce the risk of death or serious injury. Georgia has a “primary” safety belt law, meaning that officers may stop and cite violators without observing another violation.

No new private passenger automobile can be sold in Georgia unless it is equipped with two sets of safety belts for the front seat. The safety belts may be installed by the manufacturer prior to delivery to the dealer, or they may be installed by the dealer. Any person convicted of violating this law will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

## ***Safety Restraints for Children***

Every driver transporting a child who is eight years of age or younger, with the exception of a taxicab or public transit vehicle, must properly restrain the child in a child passenger restraining system appropriate for the child's height and weight. The restraint system must comply with the United States Department of Transportation Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 (effective January 1, 1983). Under limited circumstances, a child under eight may be exempt from this requirement. For further information, contact the Governor's Office of Highway Safety - [www.georgiahighwaysafety.org](http://www.georgiahighwaysafety.org).

## ***Steering***

Good posture while driving is important because it allows a better view of hazards and more control of the vehicle. When gripping the steering wheel, place your left hand at the 9 o'clock position and your right hand at the 3 o'clock position on the wheel. Some manufacturers recommend placing your hands at 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock positions when the vehicle is equipped with air bags. Check your owner's manual or contact your vehicle manufacturer to determine which position is best for your vehicle. Always keep both hands on the wheel unless you are safely performing another driving-related task, such as activating your turn signal.

## ***Fog***

If possible, avoid driving in heavy fog. If you must drive, follow these guidelines:

- ◆ Reduce driving speed.
- ◆ Reduce speed further when you see headlights or red tail lights. These indicate the presence of another vehicle and, due to fog, it may be more difficult to accurately judge the distance between your vehicle and others.
- ◆ Dim your headlights. Bright lights produce a glare in heavy fog, actually making it more difficult to see than when using regular headlights.
- ◆ Do not drive with parking or hazard lights on.

## ***Hydroplaning***

Hydroplaning occurs when there is standing water on a roadway. At speeds up to 35 mph, most tires will channel water away from the tire similar to the way a windshield wiper cleans the windshield. As your speed increases, tires cannot channel the water as well, and your tires may start to lose contact with the road and ride over the water like a set of water skis. In a standard passenger car, partial hydroplaning can begin at speeds as low as 35 mph. At 55 mph, the tires may lose all contact with the road. If this occurs, there is no friction available to brake, accelerate, or steer. It is possible for the vehicle to go into an unpredictable and uncontrollable skid. If this occurs, take your foot off of the accelerator, letting the car slow down. To prevent hydroplaning, maintain good tires with adequate water-channeling tread on your vehicle. Most importantly, slow down when there is water on the roadway.

# CHAPTER 8

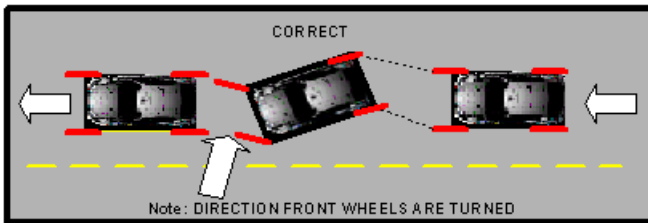
## Safety Guidelines

### **Skidding**

A car skids when its tires lose their grip on the road surface. When a car skids, both the power that the engine sends to the wheels and the braking ability of the wheels are lost. Slick surfaces can exaggerate normal movements. If brakes are applied too hard, or the wheel is turned too sharp, a skid can occur.

If you start to skid:

- ◆ ease your foot off of the accelerator
- ◆ begin turning the steering wheel in the direction of the skid
- ◆ once you have regained control of the vehicle, you can lightly apply brakes and steer in a safe direction



Remember, the first half-hour of rainfall is the most dangerous because roadways become extremely slippery when the water mixes with oil and other chemicals on the road surfaces.

### **Curves**

Curves in a roadway are potential sources of hazard for drivers. Because of the maneuvering involved, it is more likely that a less cautious driver may fail to maintain their lane while driving through the curve. When roadways are slick because of rain or other hazards, curves can be especially dangerous and require much lower speeds than when the road is dry. Sharper curves are usually marked with a safe miles-per-hour sign. Usually less than the posted speed limit, these advisory signs indicate that the reduced speed shown will make driving through the curve safer.

Reduce your speed before entering these curves. If, while driving through the curve, you realize that you are traveling too fast, do not forcefully apply brakes because this may cause your vehicle to skid. Instead, take your foot off the accelerator, carefully apply the brake, and continue steering in the lane of travel.

## ***Leaving the Roadway***

Uneven terrain and obstacles make it difficult to safely maneuver a vehicle once it has left the roadway. Serious injury or death can result from a crash if this happens.

To avoid leaving the roadway while driving, pay attention to road conditions. Drive at or below the speed indicated on a regulatory sign or an advisory sign indicating potential hazards. Drive defensively, being mindful of the actions of drivers around you.

If your vehicle leaves the roadway, try to follow these guidelines:

- ◆ Don't panic.
- ◆ Take your foot off the accelerator.
- ◆ Grip the steering wheel tightly and be prepared to withstand sudden shocks.
- ◆ Don't hit the brake pedal suddenly and hard; use your brakes carefully.
- ◆ Don't try to turn back onto the pavement immediately. Overcompensating ("jerk the wheel") when returning to the roadway can cause you to lose control of your vehicle by skidding or flipping, or may also cause your car to go into other lanes of traffic.
- ◆ Wait until your speed has reduced, check the traffic, and look for a place to safely return to the roadway by merging into traffic. If necessary, come to a complete stop before re-entering the roadway.

## ***Tire Blow-Out***

Unlike a slow leak which may cause a tire to go flat over time, a blow-out occurs when the tire ruptures and goes flat immediately. If this occurs while your vehicle is in motion, it can cause you to lose control.

If you experience a sudden tire blow-out, do not panic. Follow these guidelines to maintain control of the vehicle.

- ◆ Apply brakes lightly if necessary and safe to do so.
- ◆ Grasp the steering wheel firmly and take your foot off the accelerator to allow the vehicle to roll to a stop.
- ◆ Do not move to the shoulder of the road until the car has slowed greatly. If the blow-out causes the car to swerve on to the shoulder, do not try to get back on the pavement. Let the car coast to a stop. See above guidelines for what to do when your vehicle leaves the roadway.

## CHAPTER 8

### Safety Guidelines

#### ***Winter Driving***

Winter weather can create many driving hazards. Because of the usually mild climate, most Georgians are not experienced in driving in winter weather. Here are several suggestions to help you drive safely in winter weather:

- ◆ Use chains or snow tires if road conditions require extra traction. Always check the manufacturer's instruction manual for your vehicle, the tires, and the chains before installing them on your vehicle and operating on a roadway.
- ◆ Keep windows clear. Remove snow and ice from all window surfaces before operating the vehicle on a roadway.
- ◆ When you first enter the roadway, and if it is safe to do so, get a "feel" for the road. Test your brakes gently. Determine how your vehicle will respond to turning the wheel by making slight adjustments. Never apply sudden braking. Instead, slow down gradually before you come to an intersection, make a turn, or stop.
- ◆ Keep a safe distance between you and other vehicles.
- ◆ Reduce speed according to conditions.
- ◆ Watch for hazards or changing road conditions ahead.

#### ***Carbon Monoxide***

Cars produce carbon monoxide, a deadly odorless and colorless gas. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are sudden weariness, yawning, dizziness, and nausea. Simple precautions to avoid carbon monoxide are:

- ◆ Don't leave the car motor running in a garage.
- ◆ Don't leave the car motor running and the windows closed while the car is parked.
- ◆ Don't operate the heater or air conditioner in a parked car with the windows closed.
- ◆ Don't drive with a defective muffler or exhaust system.

Move a victim of carbon monoxide to fresh air, contact emergency medical services, and give artificial respiration if it is necessary and you are trained to do so.

## Steering Locks

Steering locks are anti-theft devices found in most cars manufactured since 1969.

Steering locks can cause dangerous situations for drivers who are not familiar with their operation. If a vehicle's ignition is placed in the lock position while the vehicle is in motion, the steering capability of the vehicle will be disabled, and the driver will be unable to steer the vehicle.

Further information concerning steering locks is available from the Automobile Safety Foundation at [www.carsafe.org](http://www.carsafe.org).

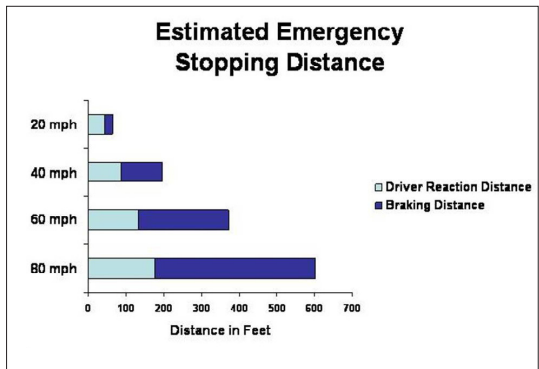
## Following Too Closely

Rear-end collisions are caused by following another vehicle too closely. When following another vehicle on any street or highway, there must be enough distance for you to safely stop if the vehicle in front of you suddenly slows down or stops. One way to determine if there is enough distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you is to measure the amount of time between when the vehicle in front of you passes a reference point and when your vehicle passes the same reference point. Watch the car ahead of you. When it passes a reference point, such as a telephone pole or street sign, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two." If you pass the same spot before you are through counting, you are following too closely. During inclement weather, during construction, during heavy traffic, and always at night, the distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you should be even greater.

## Speed and Stopping Distance

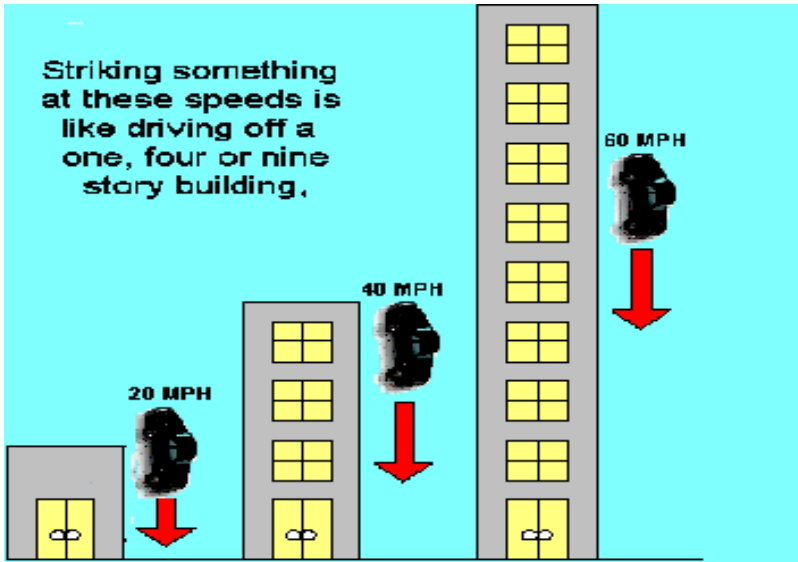
The distance it takes to stop your vehicle is important in determining a safe driving speed. The chart below may be used as a guide, but actual stopping distance can depend on the following factors in addition to vehicle speed:

- ◆ Mental and physical reaction of the driver.
- ◆ Type and condition of the pavement.
- ◆ Kind of tires and tread composition.
- ◆ Chassis (frame) design.
- ◆ Type of brakes, condition, and balance of brakes.
- ◆ Wind direction and velocity.



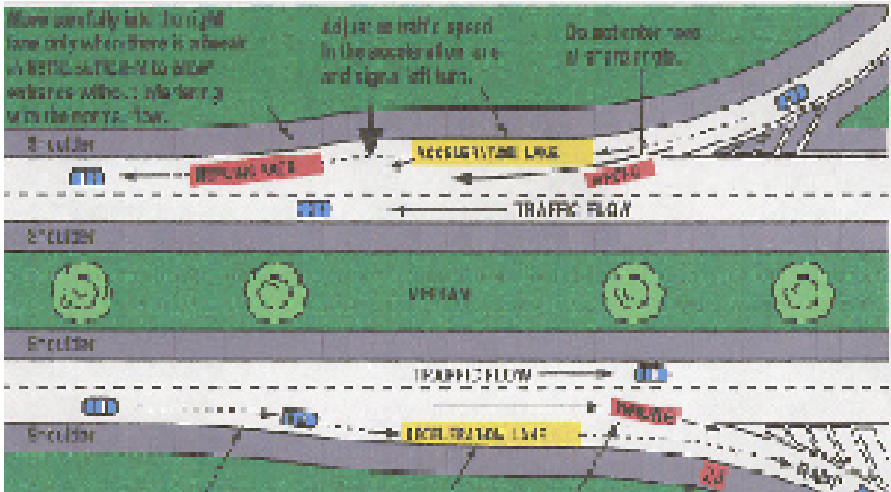
## CHAPTER 8 Safety Guidelines

Speed is a leading factor in serious injury and death as a result of traffic accidents. The greater the speed, the greater the force of impact. The illustration below



conveys the relative force of impact when you strike a fixed object.





## **Expressway Driving**

An expressway differs from normal roads or highways in that access to it is controlled. Vehicles can only enter and exit the expressway at specific places known as interchanges. Most expressways in Georgia are free, but there are a few that require a toll.

With the exception of the controlled enter/exit points and HOV lanes, expressways are similar to traveling on a divided highway. There is a median separating traffic traveling in opposite directions; lanes are marked with dashed lines, and the edge of the roadway is marked with a solid line; slower traffic should keep to the right; and all traffic laws and guidelines associated with safe driving still apply.

## **Entering Expressways**

The entrance ramp is a short one-way road that leads to the expressway. From the entrance ramp, you should move into the acceleration lane. This is the lane that runs alongside the main roadway. In the acceleration lane, you can adjust your speed to the speed of the expressway traffic. When safe to do so, you should merge into traffic. Vehicles on the expressway have the right of way, but courteous drivers will permit you to move into the expressway traffic.

## **Exiting Expressways**

Prepare to exit a controlled access highway by safely moving to the right lane for an exit on the right, or the left lane for an exit on the left. Guide signs will tell you of the approaching exit. At the exit, deceleration lanes are provided for slowing down when leaving the expressway. Posted exit speeds are usually low due to the design of the roadway. Do not slow down on the expressway.

# CHAPTER 8

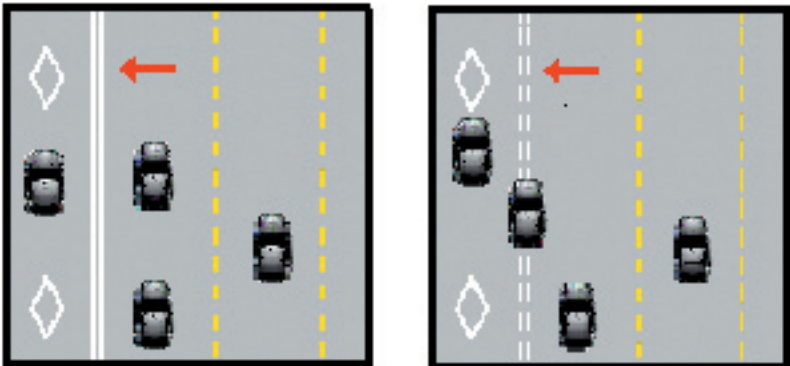
## Safety Guidelines

### Use of Lanes on Expressways

Drivers operating vehicles on divided highways must drive to the right of the median unless directed to do otherwise by a sign, traffic control device, or police officer. Drivers must obey the yellow or white striping on the roadway that indicates lanes, the convergence of lanes, or areas in which vehicles should not operate. Drivers may only access or exit controlled-access roadways at designated entrances and exits.

### Gores

The term “gore” means the area of convergence between two lanes of traffic. The gore is the area, usually similar to a triangle, formed by solid white lines between an existing lane of travel and a merging lane of travel. Gores are most often seen at the convergence of an acceleration lane and the adjacent travel lane on a controlled access highway. The gore is the area bounded by solid



white lines between the acceleration lane and the adjacent travel lane. Drivers entering the controlled access highway are prohibited by law from crossing this solid white line, and are required to continue traveling in the acceleration lane until the solid white line disappears.

### HOV Lanes

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes are travel lanes that are restricted to vehicles with more than one occupant, buses, motorcycles, and vehicles with Alternative

Fuel Vehicle license plates. The lanes are marked with a diamond symbol and the hours of restriction are posted. The penalty for violating HOV lane restrictions is a fine up to \$75 for a first offense; up to \$100 for a second offense; up to \$150 for a third offense; and up to \$150 plus one point added to the violator's driving record for a fourth or subsequent offense.

**HOV LANES**  
**Double White Lines (No Entry)**  
**Dashed White Line (You May Enter)**

**Tips For Expressway Driving**

- ◆ Plan your trip carefully: Mark the map to indicate all entrances, service areas, and exits you plan to use. Doing these things will help you to have a safe, fast, and pleasant journey. You can check the website [www.georgia-navigator.com](http://www.georgia-navigator.com) for road construction, road closures, exit numbers, and other information to help plan your trip.
- ◆ Check your car before you start: Because expressways are designed for faster and smoother flowing traffic, there are fewer places to exit. It is important to check your gasoline gauge and make sure you have enough fuel. Also check the water, oil, and tires of your vehicle.
- ◆ Be alert: Use your rear view mirror and side mirror to constantly check the traffic around you. Always make visual traffic checks before you change lanes.
- ◆ Stay out of another driver's blind spot: Traveling in a position where the driver ahead of you cannot observe your vehicle in the rear view or side mirrors is a dangerous practice; the driver might pull out in front of you to pass a car. Either stay far enough behind so that the other driver can see you, or pass the vehicle. This is especially true for driving near large vehicles. Tractor-trailer combinations, also known as "big trucks" or "eighteen-wheelers", are limited in their visibility because of their size.
- ◆ Use turn signals: Be sure to activate your right or left turn signal to indicate that you are changing lanes BEFORE you begin the maneuver.
- ◆ Allow plenty of room when passing: Returning to your lane of travel before you have passed another vehicle and provided enough safe distance between the two can cause a crash. Carefully check the left lane behind you before pulling out to pass. Don't pull back into the right-hand lane until you can see the car that you just passed clearly in your rear view mirror.
- ◆ Driving speed: Always obey the posted maximum and minimum speed limits. These laws exist to regulate the flow of traffic and to create a safe environment for all drivers.
- ◆ "Rush-hour" driving: In metro areas, expressways will usually have a dramatically increased amount of traffic during the hours that most drivers are traveling to and from their places of employment. The number of cars on the expressway during this time will lead to delays. During this time, drivers should be particularly cautious. Driving defensively, allowing a safe distance between vehicles, and obeying all traffic control signs and devices can help ensure a safe commute.

## CHAPTER 8

### Safety Guidelines

- ◆ Don't back up: Driving in reverse on an expressway is prohibited under any circumstances.
- ◆ Stopping: Stopping on the expressway is prohibited. You will find rest areas and service signs at frequent intervals; use them. Stopping on the roadway shoulder is highly dangerous and permitted only in an emergency. Switching drivers, stretching, or retrieving an item from the back of the vehicle is NOT considered an emergency. If it is necessary to stop, raise the hood and activate your hazard lights to indicate difficulty. Don't walk along the expressway in search of help.
- ◆ Highway hypnosis and fatigue: Drowsiness and fatigue is a danger anytime you drive, but is especially dangerous on long trips along the expressway. Stop driving if you feel drowsy. Don't rely on stimulant drugs (also called Stay Awake Drugs). They are likely to make your driving even more hazardous. Expressway drivers are subject to "highway hypnosis," a condition of drowsiness or unawareness brought on by monotony, the sound of the wind, the tires on the pavement, and the steady hum of the engine. On long trips it is a good idea to "exercise your eyes" to help keep you alert. Keep shifting your eyes from one area of the roadway to another and focus on various objects, both near and far, left and right. Conversation with other passengers and lively radio programs may also help you remain more alert. Of course, always pay attention to the traffic around you and potentially hazardous highway conditions.
- ◆ Drive defensively: The key to defensive driving is awareness. You must keep your eyes moving so that you can keep track of what is happening around you at all times. Avoid staring at the center line on the roadway. Instead, look ahead for trouble spots which may endanger you or your passengers. A defensive driver will also frequently check the rear view and side mirrors to keep abreast of the traffic and road conditions to the rear and sides.
- ◆ Never trust other drivers to do what you think they are going to do or what you think they should do in a particular situation. The fact that a left turn signal is flashing does not necessarily mean that the driver is going to make a left turn. You should constantly be thinking of an "escape route" as you drive. For example, if you are approaching a curve, you should be looking closely at the shoulder and nearby area to determine what you would do if a car approaching from the other direction crosses to your side of the road. After a little practice this will become more instinctive.



# CHAPTER 9

## Sharing the Road

### ***Sharing the Road With Pedestrians***

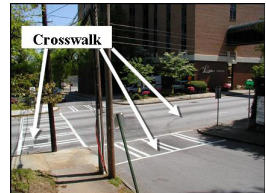
#### **Georgia's Law Concerning Pedestrians**

The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross the roadway within a crosswalk:

- ◆ When the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching and is within one lane of the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or onto which it is turning. "Half of the roadway" means all traffic lanes carrying traffic in one direction of travel.
- ◆ When making a left or right turn at any intersection.
- ◆ At stop signs, after coming to a complete stop and before proceeding.
- ◆ At traffic signals, even when the light is green, if pedestrians are still in crosswalk.
- ◆ When entering a street or highway from an alley, driveway, or private road.
- ◆ When approaching a blind person who is crossing a street or highway if he/she is carrying a white cane or being guided by a dog.

#### **Crosswalks**

Crosswalks exist on all four corners of intersections even when they are not marked by painted lines. A crosswalk is the part of the pavement for pedestrian traffic where the sidewalk would extend across the street. Crosswalks can also exist mid-block if they are marked.



#### **Respect Crosswalks**

When pedestrians are in crosswalks, they have the right of way over motor vehicles. Do not block crosswalks. When stopping at red lights or stop signs, always stop your vehicle before the crosswalk so pedestrians can cross safely.

Even at crosswalks without traffic signals, drivers must stop and remain stopped for pedestrians in the crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling. "Half of the roadway" means all traffic lanes carrying traffic in one direction of travel.

#### **Blind Pedestrians**

Pedestrians using guide dogs or white walking canes must be given the right of way at all times.

#### **Always Remain Alert for Pedestrians When Driving**

Look for pedestrians on both sides of the street when approaching intersections, when turning, or near schools, parks, bus stops and other places people are

likely to walk. Look behind your car for children or other pedestrians before backing up in driveways and parking lots.

### **Turning Right at a Red Traffic Signal**

Before turning right on red, drivers must come to a full and complete stop before the crosswalk. Do not block the crosswalk when waiting to make a right turn at a red light. This puts pedestrians at risk, forcing them to walk around your vehicle. After looking to your left to find a gap in traffic, you must look to your passenger side to ensure a pedestrian is not crossing in front of your vehicle.



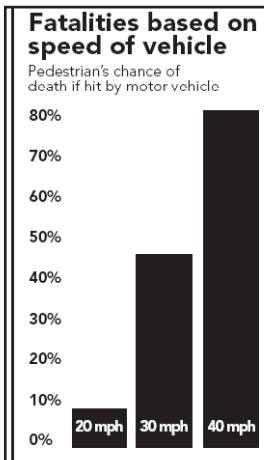
### **Passing Stopped Cars in Lanes of Travel**

Use extreme caution when passing stopped cars on multi-lane roads. A pedestrian you can't see may be crossing in a marked or unmarked crosswalk. This is a frequent cause of pedestrian-related accidents. When you stop at a crosswalk on a multi-lane road, stop at least 10 feet before the crosswalk so a driver in the next lane can see the pedestrian.



### **Exiting and Entering Driveways**

When exiting or entering a driveway, alley, or parking garage, drivers must stop before the sidewalk area and proceed only after pedestrians have safely passed. Drivers waiting to turn left into a driveway must wait not only for a gap in oncoming traffic, but also for pedestrians to finish crossing the sidewalk portion of the driveway.



### **Vehicle Speed**

Pedestrians are less protected from the harmful effects of a crash than occupants of motor vehicles. Consequently, pedestrians are more likely to be seriously injured or killed in the event of a collision at low speed than are occupants of motor vehicles.

This chart illustrates the effect of speed upon a pedestrian who is struck by a motor vehicle. When a collision occurs between a motor vehicle and a pedestrian at 40 miles per hour, there is an 80% chance that the pedestrian's injuries will be fatal.

## CHAPTER 9

### Sharing the Road

#### ***Sharing the Road With Bicycles***

Georgia's roads are growing more crowded. Bicycle riding is an important part of transportation, particularly for traveling to work and to school. Because bicyclists may be on any road at any time, drivers must always be alert for bicycle traffic.

Bike-car accidents often happen because drivers do not see bicyclists soon enough. In Georgia, as in other states, most accidents occur during daylight hours on straight, dry roads, typically near intersections or driveways.

Bicyclists are legally entitled to use every road in Georgia except the interstate highways. Although their slower pace may pose problems for motorists occasionally, it is important for drivers to respect the bicyclist's right to be there. Yield the right of way to the bicyclist in the same way that you would to another motorist. If possible, make eye contact with the bicyclist, especially at intersections. If you use your horn as a signal, a gentle "toot" can alert the bicyclist without startling him/her.

Road defects cause more problems for bicycles than for cars. When passing a bicycle rider, leave the bicyclist plenty of room in case he or she has to swerve to miss a pothole or other danger in the road.

#### **Important Reminders Concerning Bicycle Riders**

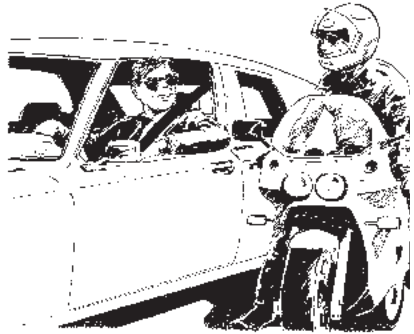
- ◆ At intersections, wait until the bicyclist is out of the intersection before making a turn.
- ◆ When passing a bicyclist, slow down and make sure the rider is aware of your presence. Leave at least three feet between the bicycle and your vehicle when it is safe to do so. If there is not enough room to pass because of other traffic, wait until conditions are safe for passing.
- ◆ Watch for bicyclists who may suddenly swerve or turn in front of you without warning. Bicyclists sometimes forget to move to the middle of the road to make a left turn until they are at the turn.
- ◆ Night time bicyclists will not always have lights, and some may not even have reflectors. If you meet an oncoming bicyclist, please dim your lights to avoid blinding the bicyclist.

#### ***Sharing the Road With Motorcycles***

Today's motorcycle riders are friends, relatives, and neighbors, but many car drivers still have not adjusted to motorcycles appearing in traffic. Traveling by motorcycle is appealing to some people; they are fuel and space efficient and can be fun to ride. But there is a danger: motorcyclists are more vulnerable to injury and death than car drivers if involved in an accident. Motorcycles and cars need to mix in traffic without causing harm to each other. To do so, it is important to understand more about motorcycle operation.



Motorcycles present a narrow silhouette and are usually much shorter in length than automobiles. The small profile of the motorcycle may make it appear farther away and traveling slower than it actually is. Because it is difficult to judge the motorcycle's distance and speed, car drivers need to take a second look, and then a third. Its small size also makes it more difficult to spot in traffic than another car. Some motorcyclists take advantage of their small size and maneuverability. They may cut between cars and put themselves in places where drivers cannot see them. Be alert for a motorcyclist to appear unexpectedly.



Because of a motorcycle's size, its position within a lane of traffic will change as traffic conditions change. The motorcyclist will position himself in the lane to see and be seen. Often, this means riding in the left portion of the traffic lane to allow a better view of some traffic and road situations. It also makes the motorcycle more visible to other traffic. However, as traffic and road conditions change, the rider may move. This move could be to the center of the lane or even to the right side to avoid traffic or to be seen by others on the road.

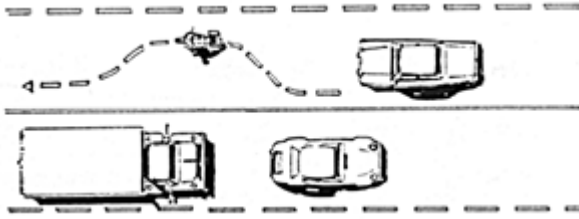
Most drivers take for granted the ability of their automobile to handle minor road hazards such as potholes or railroad tracks. Minor problems for the four-wheeled vehicle can be major problems for motorcycles. The cyclist will change position within the lane to increase the distance from potential hazards.



These lateral movements sometimes occur suddenly. Motorists need to be alert for these sudden changes in position and direction, and drive accordingly. Respect the vehicle space of a motorcycle and its position in traffic. Motorcycles are allowed the full width of a lane in which to maneuver. Refrain from sharing a lane with a motorcyclist. It restricts the rider's ability to avoid hazardous situations. Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position.

## CHAPTER 9

### Sharing the Road



#### **Intersections**

**Intersections are the most likely places for car/motorcycle collisions to occur.** As stated earlier, this usually is the result of a car driver NOT SEEING the motorcycle and turning into the motorcycle's path. Misinterpreting a rider's intentions can also lead to collisions. The rider will move to one side of the lane in preparation for a turn or possibly to move away from a hazard unseen by other motorists. Do not assume the rider's intention until the maneuver is unmistakably started, such as a turn into an intersection or driveway. Also, turn signals do not automatically shut off on a motorcycle and riders occasionally forget to cancel them after a turn is completed. Make sure you know what the rider is going to do BEFORE you move into the motorcycle's path.

***MAKE SURE YOU SEE THE MOTORCYCLE AND KNOW ITS SPEED BEFORE YOU START TO TURN OR ENTER AN INTERSECTION.***

#### **Following Too Close**

When driving behind a motorcycle, allow at least a 2-second following distance. This provides the cyclist enough room to maneuver or stop in an emergency. Due to its vulnerable nature and the difficulty motorists have in judging a motorcycle's speed and distance, space between the two vehicles should be increased to avoid sudden braking. Both riders and drivers are more likely to make incorrect decisions if there is not enough stopping distance or ability to see and react to conditions. This leads to accidents. A rider's chance of injury is greater if forced to avoid obstacles ahead, as well as a driver following too closely.

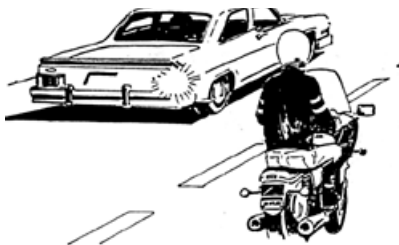
## **Passing and Being Passed**

The rules for passing other vehicles are similar for motorcycles. The motorist being overtaken by a motorcycle should maintain lane position and speed. Allow the motorcyclist to complete the pass and assume proper lane position as quickly as possible. When passing a motorcycle, allow a full lane to the motorcycle. Never crowd into the same lane as the motorcycle. Returning to the original lane too soon can force a rider to swerve to the right into traffic or off the road.



## **Operator's License**

Motorcycles are different to operate than automobiles; they require special knowledge and skills. It only makes sense that a motorcycle operator license should be required. Most states now have a separate knowledge and skills test that must be completed for motorcycle operation. Passing both tests qualifies the rider for an additional endorsement to their license allowing motorcycle operation. Also, motorcycles must be registered and insured to the same standards as an automobile.



What all this means is, motorcycles are full partners in the traffic mix and must be treated with the same courtesies. Watch for the unexpected and give them their share of the road; a rider may be the neighbor next door.

*This section is provided through the courtesy of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.*

*The information generally relates to many differing vehicles, riding styles and environments.*

*The Motorcycle Safety Foundation disclaims any liability for the applicability in specific situations.*

## CHAPTER 9

### Sharing the Road

#### ***Sharing the Road With School Buses***

In most cases, all drivers are required to stop when approaching or meeting a stopped school bus that has its lights flashing and is loading or unloading passengers. The exception to this rule is when highways are separated in the center by median strips. In this situation, only vehicles following or traveling alongside a school bus in the same direction must stop.

A warning will be given in advance by the flashing red or amber lights on the front and rear of the bus. After stopping, you must remain stopped until the bus resumes motion or deactivates its warning signals AND all loading or unloading passengers have cleared the roadway.



# Georgia Fines & Penalties

- Mandatory Court Appearance
- Up to \$1000 Fine
- Up to 6 Points on Driving Record
- A Conviction Under 21 Years of Age Constitutes License Suspension

## OPERATION STOP ARM

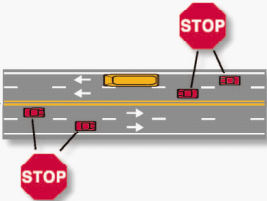
### Two-lane roadway:

When school bus stops for passengers, **ALL** traffic from both directions must stop.



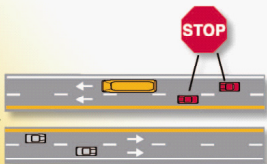
### Four-lane roadway without a median separation:

When school bus stops for passengers, **ALL** traffic from both directions must stop.



### Divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation:

When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.



## KNOW THE LAW OBEY THE LAW

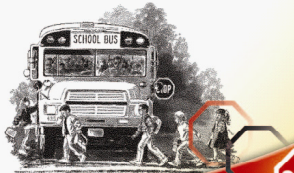
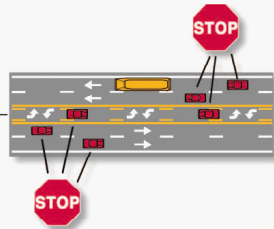
### Two-lane roadway with a center turning lane:

When school bus stops for passengers, **ALL** traffic from both directions must stop.



### Roadway of four lanes or more with a center turning lane:

When school bus stops for passengers, **ALL** traffic from both directions must stop.



**STOP**

IT'S THE LAW

## CHAPTER 9

### Sharing the Road

#### ***Sharing the Road With Commercial Motor Vehicles***

Commercial motor vehicles are vital to the economy of Georgia and the United States. Most of the products used in every day life were delivered to stores by commercial motor vehicles. Drivers of commercial motor vehicles are trained, specially licensed driving professionals.

Sharing the road with commercial motor vehicles is a necessary part of travel. Heavy trucks typically weigh 80,000 pounds or more, and drivers should use caution when driving near them.

Everyone should be aware of the differences between trucks and cars and behave accordingly. These include:

- ◆ A fully loaded tractor-trailer, traveling 55 mph, needs 3 times the distance a car needs to stop.
- ◆ Large trucks are more difficult to maneuver, are longer and heavier, and require much more room to turn.
- ◆ Large trucks have larger blind spots, called “No-Zones.”

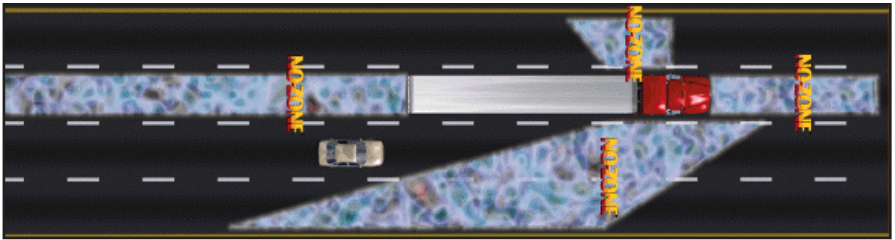


Sharing the road safely includes not remaining in the blind spot of vehicles while passing them. Typically, the larger the vehicle, the larger the blind spots. A commercial motor vehicle's blind spots are dangerous because truck drivers can't see cars in these areas.

It is impossible to completely avoid a truck's blind spots. However, car drivers should not remain in the “No Zone” any longer than needed to safely pass a heavy truck.

The easiest way to avoid lingering in the “No Zone” is to look for the truck driver’s reflection in the side mirror. If you cannot see the driver’s reflection, you are in the truck driver’s blind spot. As depicted in the illustration below, these areas around the truck include: directly in front, directly behind, and along each side of the vehicle - **especially on the right side.**

In the illustration below, the commercial motor vehicle’s blind spots, or “No Zones”, are highlighted in blue. These are areas to avoid whenever possible.



## **THE GEORGIA TACT PROJECT**

### **Targeting Aggressive Cars & Trucks**

Law Enforcement is stopping people who drive unsafe around semi-trucks, whether they person is driving a car or semi-truck.

What to do to avoid getting a ticket:

- ◆ Don't cut off semi-trucks. For safety, one car length for every 10 miles per hour of speed is recommended.
- ◆ Don't tailgate. Unlike cars, semi-trucks have big blind spots behind them. Also, car drivers who tailgate semi-trucks can't see traffic ahead. If the semi-truck brakes suddenly, you have no time to react and no place to go.
- ◆ Don't speed. Speed is a factor in nearly one-third of all fatal crashes.
- ◆ All semi-trucks plenty of room. Be careful when you or the semi-truck are entering a highway or merging with traffic.

**DON'T GET A TICKET**



# CHAPTER 10

## Losing Your Driving Privileges

The State of Georgia considers dangerous and negligent drivers to be a direct and immediate threat to the welfare and safety of the general public, and it is in the best interest of the citizens of Georgia to immediately remove such drivers from the highways of this state. Therefore, the Department of Driver Services is authorized to withdraw the license or driving privileges when evidence is obtained that the licensee is a habitually dangerous or negligent driver of a motor vehicle (from Georgia law §40-5-57)

### ***Types of Withdrawals***

The driver's license of any individual, the eligibility to obtain a driver's license, or the ability to legally operate a motor vehicle in the State of Georgia may be impacted by one or more of the following actions:

**Cancellation:** The Department of Driver Services is authorized to cancel a license if the applicant fails to give the required or correct information needed at the time application is made, or if the individual becomes otherwise ineligible after application has been made. A resident may reapply for a license once the requirements have been satisfied and the resident is otherwise eligible.

**Revocation:** If a license is revoked, all driving privileges are terminated and withdrawn until the end of the period of time prescribed by the formal action of the Department. At the end of the revocation period, a resident may apply for a new license. Non-residents may apply for reinstatement of driving privileges.

**Suspension:** If a license is suspended, all driving privileges are tempo-rarily withdrawn for a specific period of time or until reinstatement requirements have been completed. At the end of the withdrawal period, a resident may apply for reinstatement and return of the license or the eligibility to obtain a license. Non-residents may apply for reinstatement of driving privileges.

**Disqualification of Commercial Driver's License:** If a commercial driver's license is disqualified, all privileges to operate a commercial motor vehicle are withdrawn for a specific period of time. At the end of the disqualification period, if a licensee holds a CDL license that is not expired, the licensee's commercial privileges will be automatically restored without any action required, provided that the licensee is otherwise eligible to still maintain a commercial driver's license. If the licensee does not hold a CDL at the expiration of the disqualification period, the licensee's ability to apply for a CDL will be restored.

A disqualification of commercial driving privileges does not, by itself, result in the suspension or revocation of a licensee's privileges to operate a NON-commercial motor vehicle. However, many offenses that result in a commercial disqualification also result in a non-commercial suspension, though the periods of withdrawal may differ. In Georgia, it is possible to lose commercial driving privileges for LIFE upon the conviction of certain offenses. More information related to the commercial driver's license program is available on our website at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).



## ***Reporting Convictions***

Georgia courts are required by law to report the conviction of any offense that will result in a negative impact on a licensee's driving privilege or that is otherwise required to be posted to the permanent driving history of an individual. This includes most traffic-related offenses as well as certain non-traffic related offenses (including alcohol and controlled substance violations).

When the DDS receives a conviction for a Georgia license holder, the record is updated to reflect the conviction. If a conviction is received for an individual who holds a license from another state or is the resident of another state, the conviction information will be forwarded to the licensing authority of that state. If a non-resident, or a resident of Georgia who does not have a driver's license, is convicted of certain offenses, the eligibility to obtain a Georgia driver's license and/or driving privileges in Georgia will be suspended.

Convictions reported to the Georgia DDS by licensing authorities or courts in other states and nations will be placed on the driving record of a Georgia licensee or resident. The Department will treat the conviction as if it had occurred in this state for the purpose of imposing license withdrawals.

## ***Types of Suspensions***

The Department will suspend the driving privileges of an individual in any of the following non-conviction situations:

- ◆ Refusal to take a chemical test for intoxication.
- ◆ Failure to appear in court or respond to a citation.
- ◆ Non-payment of Child Support.
- ◆ Non-payment of the Super Speeder fee.
- ◆ Safety responsibility.
- ◆ Medical revocation.
- ◆ School attendance (under age 18).
- ◆ Parent requested revocation (under age 18).

The Department is required by law to suspend the privileges of an individual for a conviction of any of the following offenses:

- ◆ Homicide by vehicle.
- ◆ Serious injury by vehicle.
- ◆ Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- ◆ Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used.
- ◆ Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer.
- ◆ Fraudulent or fictitious use of, or application for, a license/ID card.
- ◆ Hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident.
- ◆ Racing.
- ◆ Operating a motor vehicle with a revoked, canceled, or suspended registration
- ◆ Felony forgery related to an identification document.
- ◆ Driving without insurance.
- ◆ Driving while license is suspended, revoked, or canceled.
- ◆ Any violation of the Georgia Controlled Substance Act.
- ◆ Refusal to weigh commercial motor vehicle
- ◆ Violation of license restriction (at the discretion of the trial court)

# CHAPTER 10

## Losing Your Driving Privileges

In addition to the offenses listed on the previous page, the license and/or driving privileges of an individual under the age of 21 on the date of the conviction will be suspended for the following offenses:

- ◆ Reckless driving.
- ◆ Aggressive driving.
- ◆ Purchasing an alcoholic beverage.
- ◆ Attempting to purchase an alcoholic beverage.
- ◆ Underage possession of alcohol while operating a motor vehicle.
- ◆ Misrepresenting age for the purpose of illegally obtaining any alcoholic beverage.
- ◆ Misrepresenting identity or using false identification for the purpose of purchasing or obtaining an alcoholic beverage.
- ◆ Speeding 24 mph or more over the speed limit.
- ◆ Unlawful passing of a school bus.
- ◆ Improper passing on a hill or a curve.
- ◆ Any 4-point offense.
- ◆ Four or more points in 12 months prior to age 18.
- ◆ School attendance or conduct violations (under age 18).

### ***The Points System***

The Department is required by law to suspend the Georgia license of an individual for an accumulation of points resulting from certain convictions. Points are assessed against Georgia residents for out-of-state violations which would be assessed points if committed within Georgia. Georgia licenses will be suspended as follows:

- ◆ For any person who accumulates 15 or more points within 24 months.
- ◆ For any person under the age of 21 with a conviction for any 4-point violation
- ◆ For any person under 18 years of age with an accumulation of 4 points within twelve months.

Points are accumulated on a person's driving record as a result of certain convictions. The chart below lists these convictions and the number of points associated with each. The date the violation occurred is used as the basis for determining the 24-month period (or 12-month period for persons under age 18). When a license is suspended due to an accumulation of points, the point total is restored to zero.

In the case of a person age 18 up to 21, the suspension of the license for a single 4-point offense is determined by the date the conviction occurred. A plea of nolo contendere is considered a conviction for purposes of imposing suspensions that apply to persons under age 21.

<b>Violation Resulting in Conviction</b>	<b>Points</b>
Reckless Driving	4
Unlawful Passing School Bus	6
Improper Passing on Hill or Curve	4
Speeding – 15-18 mph over the posted speed limit	2
Speeding – 19-23 mph over the posted speed limit	3
Speeding – 24-33 mph over the posted speed limit	4
Speeding – 34 mph or more over the posted speed limit	6
Disobedience of Any Traffic-Control Device or Traffic Officer	3
Possessing an Open Container of an Alcoholic Beverage While Driving	2
Failure to Adequately Secure a Load	2
All Other Moving Violations	3
Child Restraint – 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	1
Child Restraint – 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Subsequent Offense	2
Aggressive Driving	6
HOV Lane Violation – 4 <sup>th</sup> and Subsequent Offense	1
Violation of usage of wireless telecommunications device requirements	1
Operating a vehicle while text messaging	1

## **Points Reduction**

Licensed Georgia residents may request that DDS reduce the number of points assessed against their Georgia driver's license up to 7 points once every 5 years.

To qualify for a points reduction, you must successfully complete a certified 6-hour driver improvement (defensive driving) course and present the original certificate of completion to the DDS by mail or in person at one of our Customer Service Centers.

If you request a points reduction by mail, please mail the original driver improvement (defensive driving) certificate of completion to the Georgia Department of Driver Services, P. O. Box 80447, Conyers, Georgia 30013. A list of certified driver improvement (defensive driving) courses can be found at the following link: <http://www.dds.ga.gov/DUI/SchoolMatrix.aspx>

## **Points Avoidance**

A defendant may successfully complete a certified 6-hour driver improvement (defensive driving) course after the issuance of a citation and prior to the court appearance, or as ordered by the court. When the original certificate of completion is presented to the court, the court shall reduce the fine assessed by 20 percent and no points shall be assessed against the driver. This plea may be accepted by the court once every five years.

# CHAPTER 10

## Losing Your Driving Privileges

### ***Implied Consent***

Georgia's Implied Consent law requires you to submit to state administered chemical tests of your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances at the request of a law enforcement officer for the purpose of determining if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you refuse this testing, your Georgia driver's license or privilege to drive on the highways of this state will be suspended for a minimum period of one year. Your refusal to submit to the required testing may be offered into evidence against you in a court of law. There is no limited driving permit available for an Implied Consent suspension.

If you submit to testing and the test results indicate a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at or above the legal limit, your Georgia driver's license or privilege to drive on the highways of this state may be suspended for a minimum period of one year. After first submitting to the required state tests, you are entitled to additional chemical tests of your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances at your own expense and from qualified personnel of your own choosing.

The legal limit for BAC varies depending on the circumstances:

- ◆ Driver operating a non-commercial motor vehicle, age 21 or over - .08 or higher.
- ◆ Driver operating a commercial motor vehicle - .04 or higher.
- ◆ Driver under age 21 - .02 or higher.

### ***Safety Responsibility Law***

The purpose of this law is to remove irresponsible drivers from Georgia highways and to protect insured motorists from uninsured motorists. In the event you should fail to satisfy a claim for damage resulting from a motor vehicle accident, and a claim is filed against you under the Safety Responsibility Law, you will receive an order suspending your license.

To avoid the suspension, you may:

- ◆ Have your insurance carrier file Form SR-21 with the DDS if you were covered by liability insurance at the time of the accident, or
- ◆ File either a general or a conditional release that has been signed by the claimant (injured party in the accident) with the DDS, or
- ◆ Post security to cover the damages with the DDS, which may be a cashier's check, certified check, money order, real property bond or surety bond, in addition to posting of financial responsibility, Form SR-22A.

Any security or bond posted with the Department will be held for one year and thereafter until proof is furnished to the Department that you have not been sued as a result of the accident.

You are entitled to a hearing, if desired, and if requested within ten (10) days of the issue date of the order of suspension.

## ***Mandatory Revocations***

Your driver's license will be revoked in Georgia if any of the following occur:

- ◆ You are declared a Habitual Violator based upon the third conviction of any combination of these offenses within 5 years.
- ◆ Driving under the Influence (DUI),
- ◆ Homicide by vehicle,
- ◆ Feticide by vehicle,
- ◆ Serious injury by vehicle,
- ◆ Hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident,
- ◆ Racing,
- ◆ Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer,
- ◆ Fraudulent or fictitious use of, or application for, a license/ID card,
- ◆ Operating a motor vehicle with a suspended, canceled, or revoked registration,
- ◆ Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used, or
- ◆ Felony forgery related to an identification document.

If you are declared a Habitual Violator, you may be eligible for a Probationary License after serving two years of the revocation period.

•Refusal to submit to a re-examination of driving skills or knowledge of driving rules after receiving notice giving reasonable grounds for such a request.

•If there is sufficient evidence that you are incompetent or unfit to drive, due to incapacities by reason of disease, mental or physical disability, or by alcohol or drug addiction.

## ***Limited Driving Permits***

In some situations, a limited driving permit may be available for a fee of \$25 during the suspension period. A limited driving permit would allow you to only:

- ◆ Drive to your place of employment or to perform the normal duties of your occupation,
- ◆ Receive scheduled medical attention or obtain prescribed drugs,
- ◆ Attend classes at a college or school in which you are enrolled as a student,
- ◆ Attend regularly scheduled sessions or meeting of support organizations for the treatment of alcohol or other drugs,
- ◆ Attend a driver education program or alcohol/drug assessment and treatment program, and
- ◆ Travel to and from Ignition Interlock Centers.

The Department may also specify the places you may travel to, specific routes of travel, times of travel, and indicate vehicles, or other restrictions deemed necessary. Limited driving permits are not valid for driving a commercial vehicle.

A limited driving permit will be revoked by the Department if you are convicted of violating any state law or local ordinance relating to the movement of vehicles or if you are convicted of violating any of the conditions or restrictions of your permit. In addition, a conviction will extend the underlying suspension of your driving privilege for an additional 6 months.

# CHAPTER 10

## Losing Your Driving Privileges

Limited driving permits are not available for convictions of the following offenses or in the following situations:

- ◆ Implied Consent refusal
- ◆ No Insurance convictions,
- ◆ Driving while license suspended convictions,
- ◆ Drug convictions,
- ◆ Failure to pay super speeder fee,
- ◆ Failure to pay child support,
- ◆ Failure to appear in court or respond to a citation,
- ◆ Medical revocation,
- ◆ Safety responsibility,
- ◆ Parent requested revocation,
- ◆ Alcohol-related offenses under 21 years of age,
- ◆ DUI or drug convictions prior to the age of 16, and
- ◆ Refusal to weigh (CMV).

A limited driving permit may be available in the following situations, depending on your age and the number of convictions on your driving record:

- ◆ 1st or 2nd DUI conviction in five years (age 21 or over),
- ◆ DUI ALS (age 21 or over),
- ◆ Under 21 speeding violation but only if age 18 or older, speeding was 24-33 mph over the posted speed limit, and if approved by the trial court judge,
- ◆ 1st or 2nd suspension for accumulation of 15 or more points within a 24 month period,
- ◆ School attendance or conduct violations,
- ◆ 3rd controlled substance violation after a 2 year suspension and age 21 or over,
- ◆ Homicide by vehicle (age 21 or over),
- ◆ Serious injury by vehicle (age 21 or over),
- ◆ Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (age 21 or over),
- ◆ Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used (age 21 or over),
- ◆ Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer (age 21 or over),
- ◆ Fraudulent or fictitious use of, or application for, a license/ID card (age 21 or over),
- ◆ Hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident (age 21 or over),
- ◆ Racing (age 21 or over),
- ◆ Operating a motor vehicle with a revoked, canceled, or suspended registration (age 21 or over), and
- ◆ Felony forgery related to an identification document. (age 21 or over).

**IN ALL CASES, THE DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR A LIMITED DRIVING PERMIT. PLEASE CONTACT DDS AT 678-413-8400 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.**

## **Commercial Driving Disqualifications**

When commercial driving privileges are disqualified, the licensee is prohibited from operating a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV). Commercial driving privileges can be disqualified even if you do not have a commercial driver's license (CDL). If you do not have a CDL, but your commercial driving privileges are disqualified, you will not be eligible to obtain a CDL during the period of the disqualification.

The commercial driving privileges can be withdrawn in five ways:

- ◆ Conviction of a Major traffic violation,
- ◆ Conviction of two or more Serious traffic violations,
- ◆ Use of a CMV in the commission of any felony involving a controlled substance or marijuana (other than mere felony possession),
- ◆ Violation of an out-of-service order, or
- ◆ Conviction of a railroad grade crossing offense in a CMV.

## **Major Traffic Violations**

The commercial driving privileges of any person convicted of one of the following "major traffic violations" in this state, or any other state, in a commercial or, unless otherwise specified, a noncommercial vehicle will be disqualified for one year:

- ◆ Driving a CMV if your BAC is .04 gm. or higher;
- ◆ DUI in a commercial or noncommercial vehicle;
- ◆ Hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident;
- ◆ Failure to report striking an unattended vehicle;
- ◆ Failure to report striking a fixed object;
- ◆ Failure to report an accident;
- ◆ Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used;
- ◆ Driving a CMV while the CDL is revoked, suspended, canceled, or disqualified;
- ◆ Homicide by vehicle;
- ◆ Racing;
- ◆ Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer;
- ◆ Fraudulent or fictitious use of, or application for, a license/ID card;
- ◆ Operating a motor vehicle with a revoked, canceled, or suspended registration;
- ◆ Commercial vehicle cargo theft; or
- ◆ Refusal to submit to state administered chemical testing when requested by a law enforcement officer.

If convicted of any of these offenses while you are operating a CMV that is placarded for hazardous materials, you will be disqualified from driving a CMV for at least three years for a first offense.

A second conviction from a separate incident of any of these major traffic violations will result in a lifetime disqualification of commercial driving privileges.

## **Serious Traffic Violations**

Your commercial driving privileges will be disqualified for a period of 60 days upon a second conviction in three years for a serious traffic violation (provided that the two convictions arose from separate incidents). Your commercial driving privileges will be disqualified for a period of 120 days upon a third or subsequent conviction in three

## CHAPTER 10

### Losing Your Driving Privileges

years for a serious traffic violation (provided that the various convictions arose from separate incidents).

The following violations are defined as “serious traffic violations” when committed in this state, or any other state, when operating either a CMV or, unless otherwise specified, a noncommercial motor vehicle:

- ◆ Speeding 15 or more miles per hour above the posted speed limit;
- ◆ Reckless driving;
- ◆ Following another vehicle too closely;
- ◆ Improper or erratic lane change, including failure to signal a lane change;
- ◆ A violation of state law or a local ordinance relating to motor vehicle traffic control arising in connection with a fatal crash, excluding parking, weight, length, height, and vehicle defect violations, and excluding homicide by vehicle ;
- ◆ A railroad grade crossing violation in a noncommercial motor vehicle;
- ◆ Driving a commercial motor vehicle without obtaining a commercial driver’s license;
- ◆ Driving a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver’s license in your immediate possession, but not if it is because your commercial driving privileges have been suspended, revoked, canceled, or disqualified; or
- ◆ Driving a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver’s license of the proper class and endorsements for the specific vehicle you are operating or for the passengers or type of cargo you are transporting; or
- ◆ Use of a wireless device for text based communications while operating a commercial motor vehicle.

A felony conviction involving the manufacturing, distribution, trafficking or possession of a controlled substance or marijuana using a CMV (other than mere felony possession) will result in a lifetime disqualification of commercial driving privileges.

Violation of an out-of-service order will result in a disqualification of:

- ◆ not less than 180 days and not more than one year for a 1st offense,
- ◆ not less than 2 years and not more than 5 years for a 2nd offense, and
- ◆ not less than 3 years and not more than 5 years for a 3rd or subsequent incidents.

An additional disqualification period will apply when an out-of-service order is violated while transporting hazardous materials or more than 15 passengers.

Conviction of any railroad grade crossing offense while operating a CMV will also result in a disqualification of 60 days for a 1st offense up to 1 year for a third or subsequent violation within a 3 year period.





# CHAPTER 11

## Accidents

### ***If You Are Involved In An Accident***

- ◆ Stop immediately in a safe place.
- ◆ Notify the nearest law enforcement agency immediately if anyone is injured or killed, or if property damage exceeds \$500.00.
- ◆ Provide reasonable assistance to any person injured.
- ◆ Warn approaching motorists if you can do so without jeopardizing your own safety or that of others. Activate your hazard lights, if possible, and use reflective triangles, when available.
- ◆ Give your name, address, license plate number, and driver's license number to anyone else who was involved in the accident. Get the same information from the other driver.
- ◆ If you damage an unattended vehicle, you must either locate the owner or leave your name, address, and the name of the owner of the vehicle you were driving, in a conspicuous place where the owner will find it.

### ***Aiding the Injured***

Do not assume that a person is not injured simply because that person says he/she is not. Send for professional help as soon as possible. Unskilled handling can cause further and more severe injuries. Do not move or lift the victim unless it is absolutely necessary. If the victim is moved, get help and try to maintain the victim in the position in which they were found. Stop serious bleeding with thick cloth pads, as clean as possible, applied with pressure by hand. Keep the victim warm. Cover the victim with blankets or coats, if necessary.

Georgia has a Good Samaritan Law. This law holds any person harmless for civil damages arising as a result of any act or omission in rendering emergency care.

### ***Moving Vehicles Following a Collision***

When a traffic accident occurs on a multilane highway or expressway, and if there is no apparent serious injury or death, it is the duty of the drivers of the vehicles involved to move their vehicles from the roadway to a safe location along the shoulder, emergency lane, median, or any other safe refuge. Drivers should only do this if the vehicles are capable of being driven normally and successfully, and driving the vehicles will not present any further hazard or harm to the vehicles themselves, to the driver, to persons nearby, or to the roadway.

If the persons involved in the accident are incapable of moving the vehicles, they are authorized to request any other driver in the vicinity who has a valid license of the appropriate class to move their vehicles, and the other driver is authorized to comply.

Drivers who take these important steps will not be considered at fault simply because they moved the vehicles, nor does moving the vehicles affect their

ability to file a written report with a local police agency. Moving a vehicle in this situation does not allow for the driver to be accused of failing to stop and provide information.

## ***Deer – Automobile Collisions***

Each year, deer cause thousands of collisions in Georgia. Understanding common habits of deer and knowing what to do when a deer runs out in front of the car can help to avoid serious accidents. Automobile collision statistics from the Georgia Department of Transportation indicate that though deer-automobile collisions are on the rise, they still account for less than three percent of automobile collisions reported each year.

It is important to remember that deer are wild animals and their actions are unpredictable. The deer you see calmly standing on the side of the road may bolt toward the road rather than away from it if startled by a car.

Follow these guidelines to minimize the chances of a collision with a deer:

- ◆ In areas with known deer populations, drivers should constantly scan the road and road shoulders for deer movements and sightings.
- ◆ Always slow down when a deer crosses the road in front of you or another car. Deer usually travel in groups and it is likely that there is another one following closely behind.
- ◆ If a deer is spotted on the road or roadside at night, the driver should slow down immediately, blink his/her headlights and switch to low beam so as not to blind the deer.
- ◆ Also, short horn blasts may help scare the deer from the road.

Should the deer or other animal run out in front of your car, slow down as much as possible to minimize the damage of a collision. Never swerve to avoid a deer. This action may cause you to strike another vehicle or leave the roadway, causing more damage or serious injuries. If you do have an accident, call the police as soon as possible. Most insurance companies will require an accident report from the police before paying claims for those vehicles covered by collision insurance.

Deer are usually seen along the roadside during the early morning hours and late evening. Drivers should be alert for deer during these peak hours. Deer are most active in the fall months of October, November and December during the peak breeding season. Late February and early March are also critical months for deer-car collisions. During this period they concentrate along road shoulders to feed on new green food available following winter. However, deer are often spotted at mid-day during summer months. Therefore, it is important for drivers to remain cautious when traveling on rural roads or areas known to have a high deer population.

## ***DDS Customer Service Centers***

This section contains the cities, addresses, and telephone numbers of all DDS Customer Service Centers (CSC's) in Georgia. These telephone numbers can provide you with recorded information, such as directions and dates and times of operation for each CSC. So that we can provide a higher level of service to our customers visiting our CSC's in person, our CSC's do not accept telephone calls from the public. Our Customer Contact Center can answer any questions you have concerning Georgia driver's licenses. To reach our Customer Contact Center, please call (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500, (678) 413-8600, or outside metro Atlanta, toll free at (866) 754-3687.

City	Address	Telephone #
Albany	2062 Newton Road	229-430-4258
Americus	506 W. Lamar Street	229-931-2535
Athens	1505 US Highway 29 North	706-542-4427
Atlanta	445 Capitol Avenue, SE	404-463-1490
Augusta	3423 Mike Padgett Hwy	706-771-7815
Between	1010 Heritage Pkwy.	770-207-4136
Blairsville	37 Chase Drive	706-781-2426
Blue Ridge	211 Industrial Blvd.	706-632-8468
Brunswick	134 Jack Hartman Blvd.	912-264-7390
Calhoun	402 Belwood Road	706-624-1334
Canton	220 Brown Industrial Pkwy, Suite 200	770-720-3693
Carrollton	512 Old Newnan Road, AMS House	770-836-4603
Cartersville	1300 Joe Frank Harris Parkway	770-387-3704
Cedartown	1626 Rockmart Highway	770-749-2203
Colquitt	308 East Crawford Street	229-758-5837
Columbus	8397 Macon Road, Midland, GA	706-569-3033
Conyers	2206 East View Parkway	770-918-5822
Cordele	409 South Midway Road	229-276-2332
Covington	8134 Geiger Street	770-784-3195
Cumming	400 Aquatic Circle	770-205-5402
Cuthbert	608B Blakely Street, South Side Plaza	229-732-5215
Dalton	235 Wagner Road	706-272-2272
Decatur	2801 Candler Road, Suite 82	404-244-2178

City	Address	Telephone #
Douglas	348 Thomas Frier Sr Drive	912-384-1600
Dublin	620 County Farm Road	478-275-6600
Elberton	45 Forest Avenue	706-213-2200
Evans	4408 Evans to Locks Road	706-860-3616
Fayetteville	278 McElroy Road	770-460-2736
Forest Park	5036 GA Highway 85	404-669-3961
Gainesville	1010 Aviation Blvd.	770-532-5308
Greensboro	1180C Weldon Smith Drive, Suite 108	706-454-2527
Griffin	1313 Arthur K. Bolton Pkwy	770-229-3415
Helena	351 8th Street	229-868-3073
Hinesville	2301 Airport Road	912-370-2604
Jackson	149 Riverview Park Road	770-504-2469
Kingsland	333 South Ashley Street, Suite 1	912-729-1362
LaGrange	900 Dallis Street	706-845-4108
Lawrenceville	310 Hurricane Shoals Road, NE	770-995-6855
Lithonia	8040 Rockbridge Road	770-484-3850
Locust Grove	619 Tanger Blvd	678-565-4362
Macon	200 Cherry Street, Terminal Station	478-751-6031
Marietta	1605 County Services Parkway	770-528-3250
Marietta (North Cobb)	2800 Canton Road, Suite 1000	770-528-5400
Milledgeville	200 Carl Vinson Road	478-445-4717
Newnan	128 Bullsboro Drive	770-254-7203
Norcross	2211 Beaver Ruin Road, Suite 100	770-840-2282
Perry	450 Larry Walker Parkway	478-988-6721
Reidsville	3092 Highway 147	912-557-7780
Rincon	2792 Highway 21 South	912-754-1425
Rock Spring	156 Pin Oak Drive	706-764-3755
Rome	3390 Martha Berry Highway, NE	706-295-6032
Sandersville	115 Jones St., Suite 2	478-552-3646
Sandy Springs	8610 Roswell Road, Suite 710	770-551-7371
Savannah	1117 Eisenhower Drive	912-691-7400
Statesboro	202 Randy Lowery Road	912-681-5999
Swainsboro	994 Highway 1 North	478-289-2595
Thomaston	281 Knight Trail	706-646-6454
Thomasville	4788 US 84 Bypass	229-227-2500
Thomson	172 Bob Kirk Road	706-595-9751
Tifton	3057 Highway 41 South	229-386-3530
Toccoa	62 Doyle Street	706-282-4821
Valdosta	371 Gil Harbin Industrial Blvd	229-333-5385
Warner Robins	198 Carl Vinson Parkway	478-929-6774

**Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Post Office Box 80447  
Conyers, Georgia 30013**



**DDS**  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF DRIVER SERVICES