TADRA: Teenage & Adult Driver Responsibility Act

What You Need to Know

Stay Alert and Watch Out for Other Drivers

TADRA Violations

A driver can only move to the next level if he or she has completed 12 consecutive months without a conviction for any of the following:

- DUI
- Fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer
- Racing
- Reckless driving
- Hit and run / leaving the scene of an accident
- Any moving violation for which four or more points are assessable

Suspension of License

If a driver under the age of 21 is convicted for any of the following offenses, their license will be suspended for 6 months (1st offense) or 12 months (2nd offense):

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For drivers under age 18, an accumulation of four or more points in a 12-month period will also result in a 12-month suspension.

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The Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TADRA) continues to make strides in creating safe Georgia roads for the motoring public. TADRA directly addresses the leading killer of our young people – traffic crashes. The law significantly changes the way young motorists earn and maintain the privilege of driving by providing a controlled means for new drivers to gain experience and by reducing high-risk driving situations. While the law does focus on young drivers, it also contains important provisions that affect drivers over 21, particularly in the area of DUI prevention and enforcement.

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Driving and Cell Phone Usage
It is illegal for anyone under age 18 to engage in any wireless communication while driving in Georgia.

Examples of wireless communication include:
- Use of cell phone
- Any text messaging device
- Personal digital assistant
- Standalone computer
- Any other wireless device used to initiate or receive communication with another person
- A conviction for this violation will result in the addition of 1 point on your driving record
- A conviction under the age of 18 drops out of school and has remained out of school for 10 days, or has 10 or more unexcused absences in any current school year or previous school year, notice will be given by the school to the Department of Driver Services. The student’s driver’s license will be suspended for one year or until his or her 18th birthday.

School Attendance Required
No individual under the age of 18 can obtain a driver’s license or instruction unless he or she is attending a public school, a private school or is enrolled in a home school authorized by law, or has graduated from high school, received a certificate of high school completion, or has completed his or her secondary education and is enrolled in a post-secondary school.

If a student under the age of 18 drops out of school and has remained out of school for 10 days, or has 10 or more unexcused absences in any current school year or previous school year, notice will be given by the school to the Department of Driver Services. The student’s driver’s license will be suspended for one year or until his or her 18th birthday.

School/Suspension
A student’s driver’s license will be suspended for one year or until his or her 18th birthday if the student has been found in violation by hearing officer, panel, or tribunal of one of the following offenses, has received a change in placement for committing one of the following offenses, or has waived his or her right to a hearing and pleaded guilty to one of the following offenses:
- Threatening, striking or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel
- Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school grounds or at a school sponsored event
- Possession or use of a weapon on school grounds 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

Hardship Exemption
A hardship exemption may be granted by the Department of Driver Services in certain situations following a license suspension. Further details are available at www.dds.ga.gov.

JOSHUA’S LAW IN EFFECT
Drivers 16 years old wanting to obtain their Class D license will need to complete an approved driver education course which includes a licensed private or public driver training school or other training approved by the Department of Driver Services. A total of at least 40 hours of other supervised driving, including 6 at night, is also required. Individuals who do not complete an approved driver education course must wait until age 17 to become licensed.

Driver training is not mandated for 17-year-olds, although it is highly recommended.

ALL SUPERVISED DRIVING MUST BE VERIFIED IN WRITING BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OVER 18 YEARS OLD
Specific information about requirements is available at www.gateendrivereducation.com

What You Need to Know About School & Your License

What You Need to Know About

Punishments for DUI conviction under the age of 21 include:

FIRST OFFENSE: under .08%
A blood-alcohol content of .02% or greater is considered a DUI for any driver under the age of 21.
- Suspension of driver’s license for 6 months with no provision for a limited permit or early reinstatement
- No nolo contendere plea
- Attendance at a DUI school
- At least 60 hours of community service, to begin within 60 days of sentencing
- Loss of ability to obtain next Graduated License level for 12 months

FIRST OFFENSE: .08% or more
Punishment is the same as for the first offense under .08% except:
- Mandatory jail term not less than 24 hours
- Community service not less than 40 hours
- Suspension of license for 12 months, with no reinstatement prior to the end of the suspension period

SECOND OFFENSE:
Punishment is the same as for the first offense except:
- For drivers 16 years or older, suspension of driver’s license for a minimum of 18 months, with a provision of ignition interlock permit after 12 months
- Community service not less than 30 days
- Clinical evaluation and treatment if directed
- Mandatory jail term not less than 72 hours
- The court will order a person convicted of a 2nd and subsequent DUI to surrender all license plates registered in his or her name to the court

If the offender is under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court due to age, the sentence will be served at a Youth Development Center (YDC) or be placed in the Sheriff’s custody. In all cases, the offender will be separated from the main prison population.

Regardless of age, the judge will still have the discretion to sentence the driver for a misdemeanor with graduated punishment, depending on the number of prior offenses.

Other DUI provisions for drivers 21 and over, include:
- The nolo contendere plea for DUI changes will be treated as a conviction for all drivers
- Upon a second DUI conviction, the offender will face a mandatory clinical evaluation and, if indicated, will have to complete a substance abuse treatment program at the offender’s expense
- The court will order a person convicted of a second or subsequent DUI to surrender all license plate(s) registered in his or her name to the court
- Suspension of driver’s license for a minimum of 18 months, with a provision of ignition interlock permit after 12 months
- There are provisions for the offender to obtain a license plate for any car used by other family members, and the existence of the special tag will not be probable cause for a traffic stop, search of the vehicle, or seizure

Buckle Up • Slow Down • Obey Traffic Laws • Don’t Drink and Drive!