

Here at the Law Offices of John W. Alexander, we want to help you put a safe driver on the road. Please find the following helpful hints to make sure that your young driver knows the steps and possible missteps that can be taken or avoided!

GRADUATED LICENSE PROCESS:

The process for those age 15-18 has certain steps and several levels as well as strict requirements that have to be met.

- **Step 1-** Provide two ID documents that can establish the identity of the individual.
 - Proof of Social Security
 - Obtain Drivers eligibility certificate
- **Step 2-** Find a responsible supervisor
 - Your child can be supervised by:
 - A parent or grandparent, or an adult approved by the parent
 - This adult must have had a driver's license for 5 years and **MUST** be seated next to the driver being supervised
- **The license levels are as follows:**
 - **Level 1-** Limited Learners Permit (ages 15-18) - Can be obtained with a birth certificate, Social Security card and a driver's eligibility certificate from a school official. Your teenager must drive while being supervised.
 - **Level 2-** Limited Provisional License (ages 16-18) - Which means the teenager must be 16 years old, have had permit for 1 year, no moving or traffic violations within the last 6 months and have 60 hours driving including 10 hours of night driving- Teenager can be unsupervised from 5am-9pm.
 - **Level 3-** Full Provisional License (ages 16-18) - which means the teenager must have had limited provisional license for 6 months, no violations in the last 6 months, and 12 hours of driving including 6 hours of night driving. Teenager can now drive unsupervised anytime.

We are happy to provide you with the address and phone numbers of the local DMV's in your county.

Burke Co. DMV:

260 Enola Rd DMV Building
Morganton, NC 28655.
Phone: 828-438-6294

McDowell Co. DMV

3809 NC 226S
Marion, NC 28762
Phone: 828-652-0707

Catawba Co. DMV:

1033 Smyre Farm Rd
Newton, NC 28656
Phone: 828-466-5511

Caldwell Co. DMV

309 Pine Mtn. Rd.
Hudson, NC 28638
Phone: 828-757-1325

LIABILITY INSURANCE:

Liability insurance on the vehicle you are driving is required by law in NC. Parents please remember that if your child is driving your car they must be listed as a qualified driver on your current insurance policy. Also, please encourage your young driver to take caution and obey the laws of the road. If your young driver receives a ticket that carries points, that will be a costly mistake for both your driver and you.

THE INSURANCE POINT SYSTEM:

These are some of the moving violations of which when convicted can place points on your child's driver's license and cause your insurance rates to sometimes double. For example:

- Passing a stopped school bus -5 points
- Following too closely -4 points
- Speeding in excess of 55 mph -3 points

DROPPING OUT COULD MEAN A LOSS OF LICENSE!

If your child is under 18 they must have either a high school diploma, GED or drivers certificate of eligibility signed by a school official who can attest that the applicant is still in school. The DMV will revoke the driver's license of a person under the age of 18 when they receive notice from the proper school authority that the person has dropped out of school.

PROVISIONAL LICENSEE (UNDER 18):

The following are some rules that apply to those drivers who are 18 or under and have a provisional license, that can cause a suspension of the license:

- 30-day suspension with a conviction of a 2nd moving violation within a year
- 90-day suspension with a 3rd conviction of a moving violation within a year
- 6 months suspension with a 4th conviction of a moving violation within a year

ALCOHOL AND YOUR CHILD- NOT A GOOD COMBINATION:

It is also illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase an alcoholic beverage.

THE LAW REQUIRES A ONE-YEAR LICENSE REVOCATION WHEN A CONVICTION IS HANDED DOWN FOR:

- Anyone underage who attempts to purchase or purchases any alcoholic beverage
- Any underage individual who helps another who is trying to purchase any alcoholic beverage
- Any underage individual who buys or attempts to buy an alcoholic beverage using a fake ID or Driver's license or someone else's ID
- Anyone who knowingly give alcohol to an underage individual

THE DISTRACTED DRIVER:

Types of distractions include: Texting, eating and drinking, grooming, reading this includes maps, watching a video or adjusting your car radio. Drivers who are distracted tend to react more slowly to road conditions and events happening around them.

CELL PHONES AND YOUR CHILD:

There is no doubt that a cell phone can come in handy in the event of an emergency or your car breaking down. However, there are laws in North Carolina to help the driver not run the risk of their cell phone becoming an accident waiting to happen.

- It is unlawful to use a cell phone to text while operating a motor vehicle. Most people know this law but, unfortunately, not many abide by this law.
- Drivers less than 18 years old are strictly prohibited to use a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle the only exception is calling 911 in an emergency
- If you must use a phone, stop and do so in a safe and secure place.
- Secure your phone when driving so that in the event of an accident the phone does not become a dangerous weapon, flying about inside the car.