



Bureau of Transportation Safety  
and Technology  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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## New Teen Drivers' License Rules Take Effect in 2010

**TOPEKA** – A new Graduated Driver's License system for Kansas teens goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2010. State officials and private sector leaders who support the new system will discuss the changes, and the rationale behind them, at a special media event at 10 a.m., Tues. Dec. 15 in the Capitol Rotunda in Topeka.

Jim Hanni, executive vice president for the Kansas region for the AAA Kansas, will describe the benefits the new law will provide for the motoring public. Darlene S. Whitlock, RN, is a Trauma Services Nurse at Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center in Topeka and president-elect of the Kansas Emergency Nurses Association. She will explain the health and safety risks that are most common among young drivers and describe how the new system helps protect them. Colonel Terry Maple, superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol, will provide details on the specific changes in the driver's licensing procedure for teens and new rules limiting passengers and use of cell phones and other electronic devices. Kansas law already requires all teen drivers and passengers to wear seat belts.

This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact KDOT Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.

Also on hand at the event to answer questions will be Terry Mitchell, manager/administrator of the Kansas Driver License Bureau for the Kansas Department of Revenue, and Joan Peterson, Driver Education/Motorcycle Education/Commercial Driving School Director for the Kansas Department of Education.

Features of the new licensing system include:

- At ages 14-15, teens can apply for an instruction permit after passing a written test and a vision test and submitting an application from a parent or guardian. These teen drivers must drive with a supervising driver at least 21 years of age, who holds a valid license. The instruction permit must be held for a period of one year.
- At age 15, teens can apply for a restricted license. These teens must first complete an approved driver safety course and must submit an affidavit from a supervising driver as proof of 25 hours of driving experience prior to the restricted license being issued, as well as an application from a parent or guardian. The restricted license allows teens to drive to and from school or work but does not allow minor non-siblings as vehicle passengers.
- At age 16, teens continue to operate under a restricted license for a period of six months. Teens must submit an affidavit noting 50 hours of supervised driving, 10 of which must be completed at night. These teens may drive unsupervised to and from school, work and authorized school activities and anywhere between the hours of 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- The use of wireless devices such as cell phones is prohibited until the teen has achieved full license without restrictions. Seat belt use is required at all times.

Complete details on all changes to the law, and comparisons between existing and new provisions, will be available for media at the event.

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