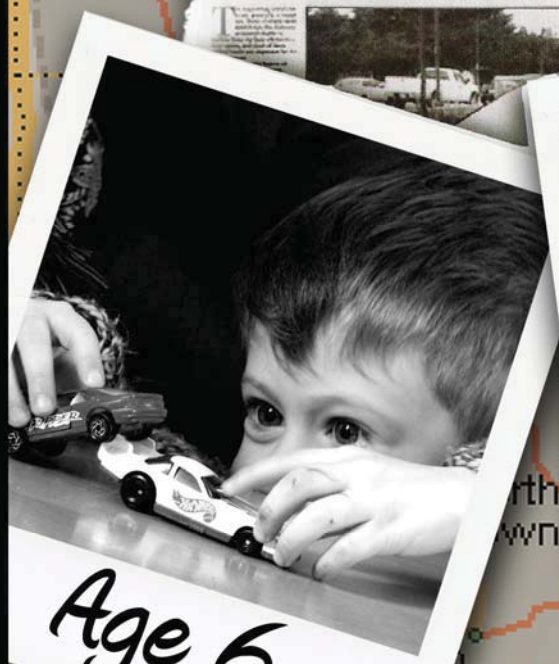
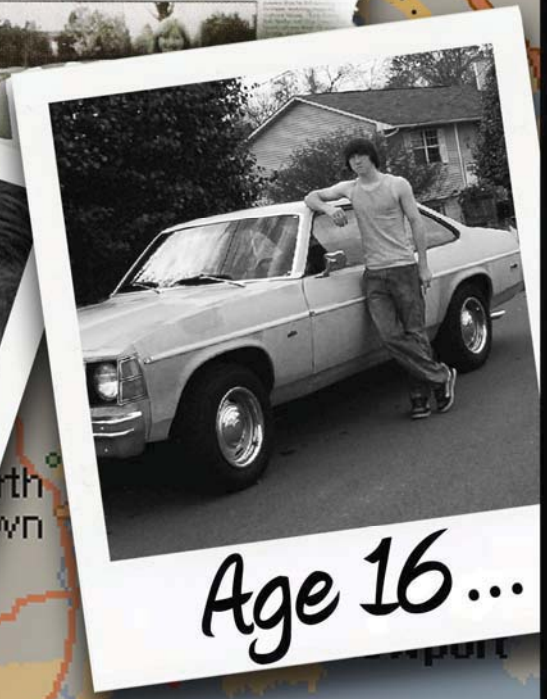
RI DMV

Newsflash Newspaper

"UPGRADE"

By Kelly Walls & Cortney Desiata





Driver's Manual

Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles

Built by Science Fueled by Fun

Rhode Island's 1st Choice for Driver's Education

Get Started Now

www.DriverZ.com

DRIVERZ by IMPROV®Learning

SIGNS

Regulatory Signs

Stop

Yield

Do Not Enter

No Left Turn

No Parking

No Trucks

No U-Turn

Wrong Way

No Parking

No Passing Zone

One Way

One Way

Speed Limit

Keep Right

No Right Turn On Red

Right Turn Only

Restricted Lane

Right or Straight

Left or Straight

Lane Restrictions

Guide Signs

Freeway Direction

Exit Ahead

Exit

Mile Marker

Telephone

Hotels

Hospital

Food

Tourist Attraction

R.I. Route

U.S. Route

Interstate Route

For Warning Signs, please refer to the inside of back cover

DONATE LIFE® Rhode Island

Organ Donation Saves Lives

When you apply for your license you will have an opportunity to register as a donor.

Saying "*Yes*" can save a life!

Fact: Saying "Yes" to donation will not affect your medical care.

Fact: There is no cost to the donor or their family for donation to take place.

Fact: All major religions support organ and tissue donation or view it as an individual's decision.

Fact: In the United States, it is illegal to buy or sell organs for transplantation.

You Have the Power to Donate Life!

For more information please visit

www.DonateLifeRI.org

The Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is a governmental agency within the Department of Revenue for the State of Rhode Island. Under the direction of the Administrator ("Registrar"), the Division administers motor vehicle and transportation related laws, specifically Motor Vehicle Titling, Registration and Licensing Laws, Transportation Safety Laws, Motor Vehicle Franchise Dealer and Manufacturer laws, and other Motor Vehicle-related laws and regulations as directed by the Registrar for the State of Rhode Island. The division is responsible for motor vehicle registration, testing licensing of motor vehicle operators, inspection of motor vehicles, enforcement of laws relating to the issuance, suspension, and revocation of motor vehicle registrations and driver's license, and administration of the financial responsibility law.

CCRI is New England's largest comprehensive community college with an average of nearly 18,000 students enrolled in credit classes each semester and thousands more in non-credit workforce and personal enrichment classes. CCRI has full-service campuses in Warwick, Lincoln, Providence, Newport County and satellite campuses in Westerly and Downcity Providence.

The Community College of Rhode Island is responsible for the administration of the majority of the traffic safety education programs in Rhode Island that provide services to nearly 20,000 residents annually. Under the auspices of the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education, the college operates the statewide Driver Education and Motorcycle safety programs; manages the state's two primary driver retraining programs, the DWI course and the defensive driving course; and administers all federal Commercial Driver's License and School Bus Driver road tests. The college also provides classroom training and recertification for all of Rhode Island's School Bus Drivers.

For information on any of these programs, contact the Division for Lifelong Learning at CCRI at 401-825-1214 or visit our Web site at www.ccri.edu/cwce.

MESSAGE TO THE READER

Read this Driver's Manual carefully. It contains a wealth of information that you will need to know to be a good driver. The information on the written test and the road test is covered in this manual.
Once you have obtained your driver's license, keep this manual where you can find it easily and refer to it. Please read on . . .

PLEASE NOTE

Effective July 3, 2007, per Public Law 2006, Chapter 246, Article 7, Relating to Debt Management Act Joint Resolutions, Section 4, the Division of Motor Vehicles instituted a technology surcharge applicable to all DMV transactions for which a fee is typically charged.
Effective July 1, 2013, Rhode Island licenses and motor vehicle registrations are subject to surcharges as part of the Transportation Investment and Debt Reduction Act of 2011.
Please be advised that the fees listed in this manual may be subject to these surcharges.

PLEASE NOTE

Effective October 12, 2010, a non-refundable fee of $25.00 (plus a $2.50 technology surcharge) will be charged on all operator road tests conducted by the Division of Motor Vehicles. A road test may be scheduled at the time of the computerized knowledge exam or anytime at any DMV facility. Please refer to www.dmv.ri.gov for locations.

This manual is co-produced by Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles, the Community College of Rhode Island, Driver Education Program, the Rhode Island State Police, and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation as a guideline for the user to develop helpful procedures for safe and law abiding driving skills. While the manual contains a great deal of useful information about state laws and driving procedures, this is not a legal document. For up-to-date changes in laws, fees, and procedures, log onto to www.dmv.ri.gov or www.rilin.state.ri.us.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DOT DIRECTOR

Dear Future Drivers,

My name is Peter Alviti, Jr. and I am the Director of RI's Department of Transportation. You might assume that I write this letter because it's my job to assure everyone that our roads and bridges are built for safe driving and because I lead the charge for DOT's highway safety initiatives. Certainly that is undeniable. More importantly I write this letter because I care, because I am a father, a grandfather, a husband, and a friend. The people I invest in drive on our roads, walk on our streets, bike on our bike paths, and use public transportation. We all have people who care about us, who invest in us, and who want us to succeed and to be safe.

We at the Department of Transportation want *you* to succeed as you progress through the process of becoming an educated and responsible driver. That is why we support the Department of Motor Vehicle's well designed Driver's Education program and manual. Please use the tools you receive through this program to gain the knowledge you will need to become a licensed Rhode Island driver. Once you earn your permit we suggest that you take time to gain numerous and, well monitored, behind-the-wheel driving experience. A *good* driver knows and respects the rules of the road. A *good* driver obeys posted speed limits. A *good* driver is never impaired by alcohol or any other drug. A *good* driver always wears his/her seatbelt and only allows belted passengers in their vehicle. A *good* driver doesn't text and drive and they don't check their phone messages.

A GREAT driver understands that driving is not only about operating a vehicle. A GREAT driver understands that they must respect pedestrians and other motorists. A GREAT driver recognizes that their behavior on the road impacts others. A GREAT driver knows that there are people who need them to return home safe and alive so they make good choices to protect themselves and others. And a GREAT driver knows that driving in Rhode Island is a privilege, not a right, and they honor that privilege by gaining driving knowledge, practicing their driving skills, and respecting others who use our roadways.

I know you'll be GREAT. Driver's education is crucial for that *greatness*. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for all 15-20 year olds. That is the truth we at the RI DOT recognize and it is the truth that drives us to support RI's young driver training programs. Each of you deserve the right to grow into safe and responsible drivers. We are honored to support that right and to do all we can to help you remain safe, alive, and injury free.

Stay Safe and Make Good Decisions,

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E.
Director
Rhode Island Department of Transportation

A MESSAGE FROM THE DMV ADMINISTRATOR

Welcome,

Obtaining a driver's license is a memorable experience. It is a symbol of independence and gives us the opportunity to become productive members of society and no longer rely on others to get to school, work, or appointments.

But having a driver's license comes with a high degree of responsibility and personal accountability. When you get behind the wheel and drive around our great State, and elsewhere, it is YOUR responsibility to do so in a manner that ensures your safety, that of your passengers, and the public at large.

This Manual is designed to help you get your license by explaining the application process, types of permits and licenses, and the road test requirements. It also is a wealth of information on various topics such as basic skills, safety rules, signs and markings, driving emergencies, and driving under the influence, to name a few.

While the Manual will help you prepare for the knowledge exam it will be up to you to practice and develop safe driving habits, not only as you prepare to get your license but every time you drive.

Please remember to always buckle up, don't drink and drive, and don't text and drive – it really can wait!

Good luck! I wish you many years of safe driving.

Walter R. Caddick

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I. Applying for a Rhode Island Driver's License

Rhode Island has a graduated licensing system for persons under age eighteen (18) wishing to drive a motor vehicle. The three levels of the **graduated licensing system** are: **limited instructional permit**, **limited provisional license** and **full operator's license**. They are described below.

A. Before Getting a Limited Instructional Permit

What do I do first if I want to get my Limited Instructional Permit?

If you are between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18), there are two (2) requirements you must complete before you can get your Limited Instructional Permit.

First: You must pass an accredited thirty-three (33) hour classroom driver education class.
Second: You must pass a computerized test administered by the Division of Motor Vehicles ("DMV").

If you are over age eighteen (18), you are not required to attend the classroom course, but you must take the computerized test.

How do I enroll in a driver education class?

Contact the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) at 825-1214 or go on line at: www.ccri.edu/cwce. Click on Rhode Island Driver Education Program for information about locations or dates and times of classes. For your convenience, a registration form is available to be downloaded. You may register for class by: walking into any CCRI location (see Appendix D for CCRI locations), mailing in an application. The fee for Driver Education classes is $85.00[1]. You will be required to bring the following items to the first day of class: proof of identity and age (birth certificate, state issued identification card, baptismal certificate, passport, resident alien card, etc.). Photocopies of these documents are not acceptable.

Can I take the driver education course before the age of 16?

Although you cannot obtain a Limited Instructional Permit from the DMV until you are sixteen (16), you are eligible to register for a driver education class when you are between fifteen (15) and eighteen (18) years of age, provided you will be at least fifteen years and ten (10) months old when the class begins.

Who must take the test?

All applicants who take the thirty-three (33) hour driver education course with CCRI take the examination through CCRI. Applicants must successfully complete the course and pass the test to apply for their Limited Instructional Permit.

Other first time applicants (and those who fail CCRI's computerized test) must take the examination at the main office of the DMV in Cranston. The computerized test has a 90-minute maximum, but usually takes 20-30 minutes to complete. No appointment is necessary. Licensed applicants from other states are exempt from taking the test, but must turn in their out-of-state licenses for cancellation.
Applicants holding active licenses from foreign countries may retain their foreign country license but must take the examination as well as a driving test.

How do I prepare for the test?

The computerized test questions are based on the motor vehicle laws and the rules of the road. Applicants should study this manual to prepare for the test. The test is available in other languages upon request.

[1] CCRI is a state supported agency and therefore, fees are subject to change.

B. Level One: Limited Instructional Permit

How do I get my Limited Instructional Permit?

The Limited Instructional Permit is a preliminary license for persons learning to drive who have passed the computerized test.

You may apply for a Limited Instructional Permit at the DMV. Applicants for permits must show:

- A certified birth certificate, an active passport, Rhode Island/government identification card, certified baptismal certificate, or a resident alien card (photocopies are not acceptable);
- A driver education certificate of completion of thirty-three (33) hours (if you are under eighteen (18) years of age);
- Original social security card (not a copy); no laminated cards
- $12.50 cash, check (no third party checks accepted), or money order;
- Proof of Rhode Island residency;
- Application for Instructional Permit;
- Parent, legal guardian (court documentation must be presented), licensed foster parent (DCYF documentation must be presented), or adult spouse must accompany you to the DMV. This adult person must be a resident of Rhode Island and qualified to be a supervising driver (as described below). NOTE: A parent who does not hold a valid Rhode Island license can sign the application for a child who is under eighteen (18) years old, but must be seated in the back seat during practice driving.

See Appendix G (Identification Requirements and Acceptable Documents) for detailed information about which documents are required and what types of documents are acceptable.
A supervising driver must be a licensed driver who has been licensed to drive for at least five (5) years and must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older.
All applicants must take a vision test. If you normally wear contact lenses or corrective lenses to see at a distance, you must wear them at the time of your vision test. Your vision must be at least 20/40 with corrected lenses.

The application of any person under the age of eighteen (18) years for a limited instruction permit, a limited provisional license, or a full operator's license shall be signed and verified, before a person authorized to administer oaths, by one or more of the following individuals: the father, mother, guardian, adult husband or wife, or licensed foster parent, who is a resident of this state and qualified to be a supervising driver pursuant to 31-10-6.1. In the event there is no parent, who meets these requirements, then by another responsible adult who is willing to assume the obligation imposed under 31-10-1 - 31-10-33 upon a person signing the application of a minor.

What does a Limited Instructional Permit allow me to do?

With a Limited Instructional Permit, you can practice driving under the supervision of a properly licensed driver who has held a license for at least five (5) years and is twenty-one (21) years of age or older. The licensed driver must be sitting beside you at all times and be ready to take control of the vehicle in an emergency. The licensed driver is legally responsible for any driving violation you may commit. You must wear a safety belt as required by law unless you provide the DMV with a physician's letter indicating you cannot wear a safety belt for medical reasons. ALL passengers must wear a safety belt or be in a child restraint system as required by law.
A driver is more apt to perform the way they practice. Learning the correct way to drive from the beginning will assist you in driving safely on a daily basis. Learning only from a family member or close friend may introduce you to bad habits that the family member or friend may have learned or adapted on his or her own. You should drive with as many different supervising drivers as possible to gain as much experience as possible.

How long must I drive with a Limited Instructional Permit?

You must hold a Limited Instructional Permit for at least six (6) months before you can take a Rhode Island DMV road test. If your permit expires before you have passed the driving test, you must take the computerized test again OR be re-certified by CCRI and obtain a new Limited Instructional Permit.

How long is a Limited Instructional Permit valid?

The permit is valid for one (1) year OR until you reach the age of eighteen (18), whichever comes first. A Permit may be extended if satisfactory evidence of a hardship is presented to the DMV.

If you reach the age of eighteen (18) before having a Limited Instructional Permit for one (1) year, you may apply for a Full Operator's License.

C. Level Two: Limited Provisional License

When can I get a Limited Provisional License?

In order to get this license, you must:

1. Have held for at least six (6) months a Limited Instructional Permit issued by the DMV.
2. Not have been convicted of a motor vehicle moving violation or a safety belt infraction during the previous six (6) months.
3. Have passed the driving test administered by the DMV.
4. Present a statement signed by a parent or guardian stating that you have completed a minimum of fifty (50) hours of driving experience with a supervising driver with ten (10) of those hours at night.

What is the driving test?

An applicant for a Limited Provisional License or a first license must pass a driving test administered by a DMV examiner. You must provide the automobile to be used in the test. It must be a vehicle registered in Rhode Island and the registered owner must be present in the vehicle. If the owner is not present, a notarized letter from the owner giving permission to use the vehicle for this purpose must be presented to the DMV examiner. In addition, the vehicle must be actively inspected and insured.

How do I apply for the driving test?

Once a Limited Instructional Permit is issued, you should begin practicing your driving. Be sure to schedule your road test with the DMV before the one (1) year Limited Instructional Permit expires. Call or visit the main office of the DMV (401-462-5808) or one of the branch offices to schedule your driving test.

What is covered on the driving test?

The test includes pre-driving procedures, driving in traffic, parking, making proper turns and other common driving experiences. If you fail the driving test, you must reschedule your test and take it again.
The following are reasons for immediate failure of a driving test:

- Leaving the designated roadway (driving on the sidewalk, leaving the laned roadway or leaving the lane of travel, and driving in safety zone)
- Any "moving" violation
- Lack of cooperation with the License Examiner
- Collision or contact with any other object

Who must take the driving test?

All first time applicants must take the driving test. Persons with a valid driver's license from another state are not required to take the driving test.

Preparing for the Driving Test

All driving exam instructions and directions will be in English. To assist you, there is a translated vocabulary list (Spanish and Portuguese only) of common words and instructions used during the driving exam. The list is available on the Rhode Island DMV website, www.dmv.ri.gov and at any of the Rhode Island DMV locations.

The following is a checklist of documentation and vehicle requirements that must be met prior to performing a road test. Please take the time to review this list and check the vehicle to be used for compliance. If you have any questions feel free to contact the DMV Road Test Office at (401) 462-5750 prior to arrival in order to avoid any possible setbacks or complications.

A parent, legal guardian or instructor who qualifies as a supervising driver must be present at the time of the driving test.

At the time of the driving test (road test), permittees under the age of 18 should have **$12.50** cash, check or money order, to pay for the issuance of a first license. Permittees over 18 years of age should have cash, check or money order in the amount of **$27.50**.

DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DRIVING TEST

- ❑ Original permit – photocopies are not acceptable.
- ❑ Signed and notarized affidavit of 50 hours driving experience required for all drivers under 18 years of age.
- ❑ License of the supervising driver (out-of-state license is acceptable).
- ❑ Notarized letter allowing use of vehicle when registered owner is not present (where applicable).
- ❑ Notarized letter from the owner/president of a corporation acknowledging use of a corporate vehicle, if being used for the driving test (where applicable).

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DRIVING TEST

- ❑ Vehicle should have a center emergency brake.
- ❑ **Proof of valid Rhode Island registration**.

Two Exceptions:

1. Valid military ID is required if the vehicle is registered to a family member of a military person or the military person is stationed in Rhode Island.
2. Driving school with a valid out-of-state registration must have current RI Financial Responsibility Insurance Certificate (GU-1338b) on file with the RI DMV. A copy of this form must also be presented to the Examiner at the Road Test site.

- ❑ **Proof of valid Rhode Island insurance** – identification card or photocopies are acceptable. Vehicle owner *must* be listed on the card.
- ❑ Leased vehicles ***must*** show proof of lessee.
- ❑ Valid inspection sticker (Exception: vehicles that are less than 2 years old or 24,000 miles or less, whichever comes first).
- ❑ No rental vehicles allowed for the driving test.
- ❑ No pets allowed in vehicles used for the driving test.
- ❑ A Driving Test Examiner will conduct a vehicle safety inspection prior to the driving exam.

The following is part of the safety inspection:

- Brake lights
- Directional lights
- Headlights
- Hazard lights
- Tires
- Legal tint only (after manufacture tint must have proper certification).

If you do not bring all required documentation, or if your vehicle is deemed unsafe for the road test, you will be required to reschedule – you may not leave the road test area to secure missing documentation and return.

When taking your road test, you should drive a car that you are familiar with. You must be fully familiar with all the controls of the vehicle without having to look for them. If you take your road test in the rain you should know beforehand where the controls for the windshield wipers and the headlights are and how to adjust them. Likewise, you should know where the button for the hazard lights is located without looking or having it pointed out to you. The hazard light button is usually indicated by a red or white triangle and it normally located on top of the steering column or in the center of the dash.

Once I pass the driving test, what's next?

You must go to the DMV to get your Limited Provisional License after you have passed your driving test. You must do this before your Limited Instructional Permit expires. If you are under eighteen (18), a parent, guardian, licensed foster parent or adult spouse must accompany you. In the event there is not a person who meets these requirements, then you may bring with you a responsible adult who is willing to assume the legal obligation of a person signing the application of a minor under age eighteen (18). In all cases, the person must reside in Rhode Island and qualify to be a supervising driver, that is, a driver who has been licensed to drive for at least five (5) years and twenty-one (21) years of age or older.

What if I fail the driving test?

If you fail your driving test, you must call or visit a DMV office to schedule another driving test. You will not be allowed to re-take the test immediately. You must wait at least 30 days before your next appointment. If an appointment is not available before your permit expires, you may need to take the written test again and obtain a new permit. You are not eligible to take the written test until your present permit has expired.

What is the fee for a Limited Provisional License?

The fee is $12.50. This fee is subject to change through statute. Please check with the DMV to verify this fee.

What are the conditions of a Limited Provisional License?

A PERSON WITH A LIMITED PROVISIONAL LICENSE CANNOT DRIVE BY THEMSELVES BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 1:00AM AND 5:00AM.

With a provisional license in your possession, you can drive a motor vehicle under certain conditions:

With supervision:

1. At any time.
2. A supervising driver must be seated beside you while the vehicle is in motion.

Without supervision in any of the following circumstances:

1. Between 5:00am and 1:00am.
2. When driving to or from work.
3. When driving to or from any activity of a volunteer fire department, volunteer rescue squad, or volunteer emergency medical service if the driver is a member of such organization.

In both cases, everyone in the vehicle must be properly fastened by a safety belt or child restraint system at all times.

This license expires on your eighteenth (18th) birthday.

During the first twelve (12) months of a limited provisional license no more than one (1) passenger younger than twenty-one (21) years of age is allowed in the vehicle. Immediate family and household members are exempt from this rule.

D. Level Three: Full Operator's License

When can I get my Full Operator's License?

In order to get your full operator's license, you must:

1. Be at least seventeen (17) years, six (6) months old.
2. Have held for at least twelve (12) months a Limited Provisional License issued by the DMV.
3. Have not been convicted of a motor vehicle moving violation or safety belt infraction during the previous six (6) months.

Are there any restrictions for the Full Operator's License?

With a Full Operator's License, you may drive without restrictions concerning time of driving and supervision. You are, of course, still required to follow all the other rules of the road, including those applying to safety belts and child restraint systems.

What is the fee for a driver's license?

First license applicants receive a license valid for a "two-birthday" period, at a fee of $27.50 (if under 18) or $39.50 (if over 18.) After the "two-birthday" license expires, you may apply to renew your license for five years at a cost of $62.50. These fees are subject to change through statute. Please check with the DMV to verify these fees.

What happens if my license is suspended?

You will be required to turn in your license in person to the Operator Control Section or the Accident Section (if the order is the result of a collision) of the DMV. **The suspension period does not begin until your license has been surrendered or forwarded to the DMV.** Failure to comply will affect the reinstatement of your license. A license suspension will affect you in the following ways:

1. You cannot legally drive a motor vehicle in Rhode Island or any other state for any reason during the suspension period.
2. Your motor vehicle violations become a matter of public record. They are open to public inspection by insurance companies and other interested parties. Your insurance rates may increase significantly.

E. Summary: Rhode Island's Graduated Licensing System

The following is a summary of the three previously described levels of licensing.

To receive a Level 1: LIMITED INSTRUCTIONAL PERMIT, you must:

1. Be sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) years of age.
2. Successfully complete the Rhode Island Driver Education thirty-three (33) hour class administered by CCRI or its equivalent.
3. Apply for a permit at the DMV in the company of a parent, guardian, adult spouse, or licensed foster parent.

At Level 1, you are permitted to drive a motor vehicle under the following conditions:

1. The permit holder must be in possession of the permit.
2. A supervising driver must be seated beside the permit holder in the front seat of the vehicle when it is in motion (a supervising driver is defined as a properly licensed driver who has held a license for at least five (5) years and is over twenty-one (21) years old.
3. No person other than the supervising driver is located in the front seat of automobile.
4. Every person occupying the vehicle is properly fastened by a seat belt or child restraint system.

To receive a Level 2: LIMITED PROVISIONAL LICENSE, you must:

1. Have held a limited instructional permit for at least six (6) months without any conviction of motor vehicle moving violations or seat belt infractions during the previous six (6) months.
2. Pass the motor vehicle road test administered by the DMV. If the owner of the vehicle used for the road test is not present, a notarized letter from the owner giving permission to use the vehicle for this purpose must be presented to the DMV examiner. In addition, the vehicle must be actively inspected and insured.
3. Apply for the license at the DMV in the company of a parent, guardian, adult spouse, licensed foster parent, or driving instructor.
4. Must complete fifty (50) hours of supervised driving with a qualified supervising driver. The permitee must complete ten (10) of those hours at night.

At Level 2, you are permitted to drive a motor vehicle under the following conditions:

1. The license holder must be in possession of the Limited Provisional License.
2. At any time with a supervising driver seated beside the provisional license holder in the front seat of the vehicle when it is in motion.
3. Without supervision in any of the following circumstances: from 5:00 AM to 1:00 AM, when driving to or from work, or when driving to or from an activity of a volunteer fire department, rescue squad or emergency medical service (if the driver is a member of such organization).
4. Every person occupying the vehicle is properly fastened by a safety belt or child restraint system.
5. During the first twelve (12) months of the limited provisional license, no more than one (1) licensed passenger younger than twenty-one (21) years of age is allowed in the vehicle. Immediate family/household members are exempt from this rule.

To receive a Level 3: FULL OPERATOR'S LICENSE you must:

1. Be between seventeen (17) years, six (6) months and eighteen (18) years of age.
2. Have held a Limited Provisional License for at least twelve (12) months and be free of any convictions for motor vehicle moving violation or safety belt infraction for the previous six (6) months.

3. Apply for this license in the company of a parent, guardian, adult spouse, or licensed foster parent.
4. At Level 3, you may drive a motor vehicle without Level 1 and 2 restrictions concerning time of driving, supervision and passenger limitations.

F. Out-of-State Drivers: Obtaining a Rhode Island Driver's License

If you have a valid driver's license in another state, and you have just moved to Rhode Island, you can apply to have your license transferred to a Rhode Island Driver's License. If your license to operate a motor vehicle is suspended in any other state, you must address this issue with that state prior to applying for a Rhode Island license. If your out-of-state license is currently valid or has not been expired for more than one (1) year, you will not be required to take a computerized test or a road test.

If you have previously held a Rhode Island license, and it has not been expired for more than three (3) years, your previous Rhode Island license number will be reissued. If your Rhode Island license has been expired for more than three (3) years, you will be issued a new license number.

Any restrictions or endorsements you may have had on your out-of-state license (for example, a motorcycle endorsement) will be transferred to your new Rhode Island license with an equivalent restriction/endorsement.

In order to apply for an out-of-state transfer, you must complete and submit an Application for First License. You must also submit the required documents, as stated in G, Identification Requirements and Acceptable Documents. Please be sure that you have acceptable proof of Rhode Island residency before applying to transfer your license. Upon applying for the transfer, you must also present and surrender your out-of-state license.

The fee to transfer your license is $44.50. The license will be valid for up to two years, expiring on your birthday. At that time you may renew your license for five (5) years.

II. The Effects of Distractions, Drowsiness, and Emotions on Driving

A. Distracted Driving

Driving requires your full attention.

Alcohol and other drugs are not the only factors that can cause a driver to be impaired. Driver distraction and inattention are also major causes of impairment, resulting in thousands of collisions and deaths each year. Consider these facts:

- An estimated 80 percent of collisions involve some form of driver inattention.
- Each year, driver inattention is a factor in more than 1 million crashes in North America.
- Looking away from the path of travel for two or more seconds doubles the likelihood of a crash.
- Young drivers are especially susceptible to becoming distracted while driving.
- Every state has legislation under which drivers can be charged for inattentive driving.

Inattention and distraction.

Distraction results when a situation, event or person draws a driver's focus away from driving. Inattention, on the other hand, occurs when a driver's attention drifts away from driving without having been influenced by a situation, event or person. Both can result in the same outcome — a collision. When you drive, you are already multitasking — do not make it more difficult by performing additional tasks while behind the wheel.

Effects of distraction.

It does not take long to become distracted, and a lot can happen in a second or two. Distractions can affect driving performance in at least three ways:

1. **Slowed perception.** Distracted driving may cause drivers to be delayed in perceiving or completely fail to perceive an important traffic event. For example, a distracted driver may fail to perceive another vehicle pulling out of a parking lot directly into his or her path of travel.
2. **Delayed decision-making.** Distraction can cause a driver's decision-making process to be delayed, or cause a driver to choose an action inappropriate for the situation at hand. For example, a distracted driver may not decide quickly enough on a specific course of action to avoid a collision.
3. **Improper action.** Once drivers make a decision, they need to execute the chosen action. Distraction can cause drivers to be delayed in taking the intended action, or to make incorrect inputs to the steering, accelerator or brakes. For example, a distracted driver who decides to change direction in response to sudden blockage of the lane ahead may turn the steering wheel too slowly or too late to avoid a collision.

Types of distractions.

Some are more obvious than others. When windshield wipers were first introduced on vehicles at the beginning of the last century they were considered a distraction. Today, we would not drive without them. There are many causes of distraction, all with the potential to increase risk.

Distractions can be physical or mental in nature and are often a combination of both. A physical distraction is one that causes a driver to take his or her hands off the wheel or eyes off the road, such as reaching for an object. Mental distractions are activities that take the driver's mind away from the road, such as engaging in conversation with a passenger or thinking about something that happened during the day. Both increase the risk of a collision substantially. When physical and mental distractions are combined, there is an even greater chance a crash could happen.

Distractions inside the vehicle.

There are many potential causes of distractions related to events and objects inside the vehicle. Some of these include:

- **Passengers:** Other occupants' behavior can be very distracting to the driver, especially for young drivers. Research shows that for each additional passenger, risk of a collision increases dramatically. Specifically, for teen drivers, the addition of just one teen passenger doubles the likelihood of experiencing a fatal crash. With two or more teen passengers, the risk of a fatal crash jumps by 300 percent.
- **Adjusting the radio:** Many young drivers enjoy listening to the radio while driving. However, research shows that each time a driver adjusts the radio, the risk of a collision increases. Adjustments to the radio could include changing a CD, selecting a song from an MP3 player or changing the radio station. All of these functions involve taking hands off the steering wheel, eyes off the road, or both.
- **Reaching for a moving loose object:** Similarly, research shows that teens are especially vulnerable to collisions when reaching for a loose object. This frequently involves taking eyes off the road.
- **Using a cellular phone:** Using a cellular (cell) phone while driving can be extremely risky. While using a cell phone might seem simple, it requires significant concentration that takes attention away from the driving task. It is estimated that cell phone use accounts for approximately 2,600 motor vehicle fatalities and 300,000 collisions each year. Overall risk of a collision while using a cell phone increases by 400 percent.

Young drivers are especially vulnerable to becoming distracted while using a cell phone. Additionally, modern cell phones are capable of far more than spoken communication; many can perform navigational functions, access the Internet, share photos and send and receive text messages. As such, today's cell phones hold even more potential for increased risk while driving.

Dialing: While it may not take long to dial a phone number, doing so may require a driver to remove one hand from the steering wheel and look down at the phone's keypad.

Talking and listening: Holding a conversation requires mental effort, which diverts attention away from driving. One study indicated that talking on a cell phone was over four times more likely to cause a near crash than the next-most frequent cause of distraction. Drivers talking on cell phones frequently vary their speed and weave along the roadway.

Hand-held versus hands-free: Some drivers choose to use a headset that eliminates the need to physically hold a cell phone. While a hands-free device may initially appear to be less distracting, research indicates no differences in risk between the two modes. Both methods of cell phone use are fully capable of diverting a driver's attention so much that a collision results.

Text messaging: Text messaging is the common term for sending short (160 or fewer characters) text messages from cell phones. Faster than email, cell phone users receive incoming text messages almost immediately after they are sent. Evidence suggests that text messaging is even riskier than talking on a cell phone, as text messaging often requires the driver to both look at the phone and manipulate the keypad with one's hands.

- **Navigating:** Every driver has a destination, and driving an unfamiliar route can be challenging enough without being distracted. Using a map while driving can cause distraction, not to mention significant reductions in visibility. Even drivers who use an electronic navigation system can become distracted.
- **Other internal distractions:** Additional causes of distractions inside the vehicle include eating, drinking, grooming, adjusting vehicle controls such as climate systems, and attending to pets.

Distractions outside the vehicle.

Distractions can also be caused by objects, people and events outside the vehicle. These could include:

- **Crash scenes:** It can be tempting to reduce speed and divert attention to a nearby crash scene. Sometimes this is referred to as "rubbernecking."
- **Emergency vehicles:** Emergency vehicles are often present at crash scenes or to deliver roadside assistance. With their flashing lights and other warning devices, they can easily divert a driver's eyes from the path of travel.
- **Objects:** There are many objects outside the vehicle that could compete for a driver's attention, including other vehicles, pedestrians, road debris, collisions and billboards and other signs. Some signs may electronically alternate among different messages, and thus be even more likely to catch a driver's eye. Construction zones may contain unusual vehicles or machinery that can also divert a driver's attention.
- **Animals:** On certain types of roadways, animals are more likely to cross into the path of travel. Often, animals move very quickly onto the roadway, surprising the unwary driver. Even if there is no risk of colliding with an animal, it may still draw a driver's attention away from the roadway.
- **Other roadway users:** Although full-size motor vehicles are the most common users of the roadway, other users could attract a driver's attention. These could include horse-drawn buggies, motorcycles, scooters, bicycles and pedestrians.
- **Eyes off the road:** Regardless of the cause of distraction, drivers can be tempted to look away from the roadway. While this might appear harmless, it is actually very risky. When a driver looks away from the roadway for two or more seconds, the risk of a collision doubles. The bottom line: regardless of what may be occurring that could draw your attention and vision away from the road, keep your eyes on your intended path of travel.

B. Preventing and Managing Distractions

Preventing and managing distractions.

The key to preventing becoming distracted is to prepare as much as possible before you drive. With a little forethought, you can anticipate potential distractions and address them before getting behind the wheel. Despite your best efforts, distractions can arise while driving. Handling distractions effectively is critical to minimizing your risk. Techniques for preventing and managing distractions include:

- Familiarize yourself with your vehicle's features and equipment, before you get behind the wheel.
- Preset radio stations, MP3 devices, and climate control.
- Secure items that may move around when the car is in motion.
- Do not text message, access the internet, watch video, play video games, search MP3 devices, or use any other distracting technology while driving.
- Avoid smoking, eating, drinking and reading while driving.
- Do your personal grooming at home — not in the car.
- Review maps and driving directions before hitting the road.
- Pull safely off the road and out of traffic to deal with children.
- Monitor traffic conditions before engaging in activities that could divert attention away from driving.
- Ask a passenger to help you with activities that may be distracting.
- Recognize driving requires your full attention. If you find your mind wandering, remind yourself to stay focused on the road.

Cell Phones.

The first tip is: Do not use a cellular phone while driving. But if you must:

- Familiarize yourself with the features of your cell phone before you get behind the wheel.
- Use message-taking functions and return calls when you are stopped at a safe location.

- Use the cell phone only when absolutely necessary. Limit casual conversations to times when you are not operating a motor vehicle.
- Plan your conversation in advance, and keep it short — especially in hazardous conditions such as bad weather or heavy traffic.
- Let the person you are speaking with know you are driving.
- Do not engage in emotional conversations while driving. Pull off the road to a safe spot before continuing this type of conversation.
- Do not combine distracting activities such as talking on your cell phone while driving, eating and adjusting the audio system.
- Ask a passenger in the car to place the call for you and, if possible, speak in your place.
- Secure your phone in the car so that it does not become a projectile in a crash.

Remember, driving is a full-time job.

You have learned it involves more than controlling the vehicle and keeping it on the road. Driving involves searching where you plan to go, identifying problems and potential conflicts, making decisions on what you perceive, judging what may occur and carrying out appropriate actions. To do all of this competently and safely you must stay focused and avoid distractions. When you do anything else while you are driving, you increase risk to yourself and others.

C. Drowsy Driving

Drowsiness.

Drowsiness while driving is a condition that affects everyone at one time or another. As drivers become tired, their ability to drive becomes impaired, and the risk of a collision rises. Driving while drowsy is dangerous because your senses and abilities become impaired. You may not see objects clearly, or in a timely manner. You may miss critical information — signs, lights and sounds. It may also take you longer to process the information you take in or to make decisions in potential high-risk
situations. You may misjudge speed and distances. In sum, drowsiness can affect every process involved in safe driving.

The risks.

Drowsy driving is now recognized as one of the leading causes of traffic collisions. The NHTSA conservatively estimates that 100,000 police-reported crashes each year are the direct result of drowsy driving. This results in an estimated 1,550 deaths, 71,000 injuries, and $125 billion in monetary losses. These figures may be just the tip of the iceberg, because it can be challenging to determine with certainty that drowsiness was involved in any given crash.

Unfortunately, driving while drowsy is not rare. In fact, according to the National Sleep Foundation's *Sleep in America* poll, 60 percent of adult drivers — about 168 million people — say they have driven a vehicle while feeling drowsy in the past year, and more than one third (36 percent, or 103 million people) admit to having actually fallen asleep at the wheel! Drivers may experience short bursts of sleep lasting only a few seconds (microsleeps) or fall asleep for a longer period of time. Either way, the chance of a collision increases dramatically.

Who is at risk?

Many drivers are at increased risk of becoming drowsy behind the wheel, including:

1. **Drivers on long trips.** Drivers could become fatigued while driving on long trips. Some drivers attempt to drive longer than they should on any given day.
2. **Drivers lacking sleep.** Drivers who are sleep deprived are more likely to fall asleep behind the wheel. According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, people who sleep only six to seven hours a night are twice as likely to be involved in a drowsy-driving crash as those sleeping eight hours or more. Additionally, people sleeping fewer than five hours increase their risk of a collision by four to five times.
3. **Drivers with undiagnosed or untreated sleep disorders.** Drivers with sleep disorders are more likely to fall asleep while driving. Untreated disorders such as sleep apnea (stoppage of breathing due to soft-tissue blockage of the airway), narcolepsy (the inability to remain awake) and others can cause serious sleep

disruption and uncontrolled nodding or falling asleep at the wheel. If you suffer frequent daytime sleepiness, often have difficulty sleeping at night, and/or snore loudly every night, consult your physician or a local sleep disorder center for diagnosis and treatment.

4. **Drivers on the road during the body's natural "low" times.** Each person's alertness, energy and sleep likelihood rises and falls throughout the day. This is referred to as the body's "circadian rhythm," the pattern of energy throughout a 24-hour period. Most people experience "lows" between approximately midnight and 6 am, and again between approximately 2 to 4 pm.
5. **Drivers on the road after extended wakefulness.** Remaining awake for extended periods of time can significantly increase drowsiness and its impact on driving ability. Research shows that being awake for 18 hours produces impairment approximately equal to a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .05 percent. After 24 hours awake, the impairment rises to that roughly equal to a BAC of .10 percent. Remember that fatigue can set in after a long day's work, an outing at the beach or any other activity.
6. **Young drivers.** Drivers under age 30 are involved in over two-thirds of all fall-asleep crashes. Additionally, these drivers are four times more likely to experience a sleep related crash than drivers age 30 and older.
7. **Shift workers.** Drivers who work late-night or early-morning shifts are more likely to fall asleep while driving. Working the night shift increases collision risk by nearly six times. Rotating-shift workers and people working more than 60 hours a week need to be particularly careful.

Other causes of drowsiness.

Emotional stress, illness or boredom can cause drowsiness. Sun glare, a major factor in eyestrain, can also contribute to fatigue. Overeating, drinking alcoholic beverages or riding in a warm passenger compartment can all affect the likelihood of becoming drowsy.

Monotony.

Driving on an empty, straight road with no signals or billboards may seem like a simple task. Yet there is often not enough stimulation in the environment to keep you mentally alert. Compound this with the engine's constant purr, the hum of the tires, the tendency to fix your eyes on a single point ahead and the general monotony of easy vehicle operation, and mental alertness drops. Under such circumstances, a driver is much more likely to doze off than when on a more difficult and demanding road.

How can you tell if you are at risk of becoming drowsy?

There is no guarantee that you will recognize when you are becoming tired behind the wheel. One half of drivers who crashed after falling asleep did not detect *any* signs of drowsiness before the crash. Be aware that there may be no warning before falling asleep, but recognize any warning signs that you may detect, including:

- Difficulty focusing, frequent blinking or heavy eyelids.
- Yawning repeatedly or rubbing your eyes.
- Daydreaming; wandering/disconnected thoughts.
- Trouble remembering the last few miles driven; missing exits or traffic signs.
- Trouble keeping your head up.
- Drifting from your lane, following too closely or hitting a shoulder rumble strip.
- Feeling restless and irritable.

Preventing drowsiness.

To help prevent becoming drowsy, take the following steps before driving:

- Get a good night's sleep. While this varies from individual to individual, sleep experts recommend between 7 to 9 hours of sleep per night for adults and 8½ to 9½ hours for teens.
- Prepare your route carefully to identify total distance, stopping points and other logistic considerations.
- Plan to drive long trips with a companion. Passengers can help look for early warning signs of fatigue or take over driving when needed. At least one passenger should stay awake to talk to the driver.
- Avoid medications (over-the-counter and prescribed) that cause drowsiness or otherwise impair performance.

Once you are on the road.

To help maintain your alertness while driving:

- Protect yourself from glare and eyestrain with sunglasses.
- Avoid heavy foods.
- Be aware of your physiological down time during the day (circadian rhythm).
- Have another person ride with you, and take turns driving.
- Take periodic breaks. A good rule of thumb is to stop every 100 miles or every two hours.

On long trips, stopping periodically can temporarily offset fatigue. You should be able to drive a reasonable distance without difficulty if you stop for at least 10 minutes every two hours or every 100 miles and make regular stops for fuel, food and restrooms. The problem with long-distance driving is that many people do not know, or choose to ignore, how much driving is too much. There is no rule to say how far you should drive at any given time, but no destination is worth gambling with your life. Do not overextend yourself. Determine a reasonable distance in advance and stop driving when you reach it.

Ineffective actions.

The following actions will not help prevent drowsiness longer than just a few minutes:

- Trying to tough it out.
- Playing the radio at high volume.
- Driving at a faster or slower speed.
- Chewing gum.
- Opening the windows.

Rest is the key.

Remember, resting is by far the most effective way to counter drowsiness. It usually is not a good idea to sleep in a vehicle at the side of the road. Yet there may be times when it is better to pull off than continue driving. If you must stop along the roadway to rest, follow these practices:

- Stop at a roadside area where security is present. If no such facility is available, make sure that you are as far off the highway as possible.
- After dark, find a populated, lighted area.
- Give yourself a little outside air, but be sure that windows are closed enough to prevent entry from outside.
- Lock all doors and turn off your engine.
- Turn on parking lights and turn off other electrical equipment.
- After you rest, if safe to do so, get out of the vehicle and walk a few minutes to be sure that you are completely awake before you begin to drive again. Keep in mind that sleeping for more than 20 minutes can make you groggy for at least five minutes after awakening.

D. Emotions

Feelings.

It is natural for us to attach meaning and feelings to things we do. Strong emotions such as fear and anger can affect the way we perceive and process information. Therefore, emotions can — and do — affect the way we drive. A major study of driver performance indicates that the most critical factor in a driving record, regardless of training, is an individual's self-awareness and ability to interact with other people.

Causes.

Any number of situations may lead to temporary upsets. A person who has just received news of a serious illness or death of a close friend or family member may be too upset to operate a vehicle safely. What about the person who has an argument, jumps into a vehicle and drives off, or the person who is excited or disappointed at the end of a closely played ball game? It is easy to become angry under such circumstances. You also can

become frustrated or impatient when you wait in long lines of traffic or follow a slowly-moving vehicle along a winding roadway.

Effects of emotions.

When emotionally upset, a driver's normal response to common traffic situations can change. Strong emotions affect our ability to think, reason and make decisions. The upset or emotionally-charged driver may look directly at a traffic light or stop sign and drive through it. That same person also may follow too closely and pass on hills or curves. Emotions can draw a driver's attention away from driving, reduce concentration on the roadway and impair the ability to process information and take necessary actions. While positive emotions can certainly cause impairment, negative emotions such as anger may affect driving safety to an even greater degree.

E. Aggressive Driving and Road Rage

Aggressive driving.

Today, many drivers are operating their vehicles aggressively. Aggressive driving occurs when a driver operates a vehicle in a pushy or bold manner. Exceeding the speed limit, following too closely, failing to obey traffic controls and making improper turns and maneuvers are all examples of aggressive driving.

Road rage.

Road rage occurs when a driver uses the vehicle or some other weapon to threaten or cause harm to another roadway user in response to a traffic incident. Road rage is an escalation of emotions generally ignited by aggressive driving behaviors. Drivers who drive aggressively are more likely to allow their emotions to overwhelm self-control and engage in road rage. Examples of road rage include throwing objects at a vehicle, yelling at a specific roadway user and attempting to ram another vehicle.

F. Guidelines to Controlling Emotions

Self-control.

Since strong emotional responses are learned, you also can learn to control them. The following guidelines may help you keep emotions from unduly affecting your driving abilities:

- **Understand your own emotional makeup.** Limited self-awareness may be the cause of fear or other strong emotional responses. The more you know about yourself and why you act a certain way, the better you can control your actions. If you can predict the emotional responses of other drivers, you can better prepare your responses.
- **Identify situations that tend to upset you.** People tend to become excited, afraid or angry when they are faced with threatening situations. If a situation can be handled easily or does not concern you, it is not likely to lead to your being upset, and you can prepare for it more effectively. Effective trip planning can prevent numerous problems. Many traffic situations are frustrating because we fail to allow enough time for trips. In contrast, the pleasure of driving generally increases when friends are along.
- **Expect other drivers to make mistakes.** The more you drive, the more you will realize that all drivers make mistakes. They may be distracted or inattentive. Other drivers may not have the skill or knowledge they should have. You need to realize that others' mistakes may be ones that you have made or may make in the future.
- **Emotions are contagious.** Quite often, one emotion leads to another. If you yell at another person, he or she could become angry and take his or her anger out on someone else. That person, in turn, may get mad and take it out on someone else. This same thing can happen in traffic situations. Realize that smiles and courtesy can be spread among drivers just as easily as upsets and anger can. If you know what to expect, you can plan to overcome the errors and upsets of others.
- **Direct your emotions to actions rather than the individual.** It is easy to become angry with another person or driver without knowing exactly why. Drivers have different goals. Sometimes you are in a hurry. Remember, however, that other drivers do not know your goals or have anything against you.

- **Delay driving when upset.** Most emotional upsets are temporary. If you must drive, wait until the strength of the emotion has faded so that you are more likely to drive safely and courteously.
- **Unwind.** When an upset occurs while you are driving, find a place to stop and unwind. Take a short walk. Take a few deep breaths. You might choose such a time to stop for refreshments.
- **Ask someone else to drive.** Emotional upsets such as grief and anxiety may last several days. If you are depressed, it might be wise to have another person drive. In some cases, it might be best to use public transportation.

G. Preventing Aggressive Driving and Road Rage

One key to preventing aggressive driving and road rage is to avoid engaging in them yourself and trying not to give other roadway users cause to become aggressive. These guidelines can help:

- Leave in plenty of time to reach your destination.
- Remain calm at all times. Listening to soothing music can help.
- Maintain adequate distance between you and the vehicle ahead. Following too closely can easily cause the driver being followed to become angry.
- Avoid changing lanes unnecessarily.
- Do not block the passing lane. Except when passing, stay out of the far left lane.
- Always use your turn signals before changing lanes.
- Be sure you have plenty of room between you and other vehicles.
- Avoid using aggressive or offensive hand gestures when communicating with other drivers.
- Use your horn sparingly. A couple of short taps may be perceived as less aggressive than one long blast.
- Do not park across multiple parking spaces. Be sure not to touch adjacent vehicles either while parking, or with another vehicle's doors as you enter or exit your vehicle.
- When using high-beam headlights, return to using low-beam headlights as soon as you detect an oncoming vehicle. Do not drive behind another vehicle with your high-beam headlights on.
- If safe to do so, move out of the right-hand lane to allow vehicles entering the roadway to merge with minimal difficulty.

H. Responding to Aggressive Driving and Road Rage

Unfortunately, sometimes other drivers become aggressive or enraged. If you are confronted by a driver displaying aggressive behaviors toward you, follow these guidelines:

- Do not respond to the other driver. Avoid any escalation of conflict.
- Remain calm, and take a deep breath.
- Avoid eye contact with the other driver or passengers.
- Be tolerant and forgiving — the other driver may be having a really bad day and be looking for a way to vent anger.
- Be polite and courteous, even if the other driver is not. Your behavior may help reduce his or her anger.
- Be sure to allow enough room around your vehicle so that you can pull out or around if someone approaches your vehicle.
- Do not get out of your vehicle — it offers protection.
- If necessary, contact 911 for assistance.
- If necessary, drive to a busy public place where there are witnesses, such as a hospital, fire station or busy convenience store or gas station. Once there, use your horn to attract others' attention if needed.

Avoid conflict.

As you drive, your goal is to avoid conflict. Realize that other drivers' mistakes are not directed at you personally, so do not take them personally. Be as polite in your driving as you would be in any other social situation. If another driver challenges you, do not get out of your vehicle. Just as in a crash, your vehicle can give you protection. Do not lose that protection by getting out. You do not control traffic, but you do control your reaction to it.

III. Basic Driving Skills and Safety Rules

A. Before Starting The Engine

Most motorists can drive safely for years by using care, courtesy and caution. **Most motor vehicle collisions are caused by errors of the driver** and occur within a few miles of people's homes. Before entering your vehicle, check in front and behind the vehicle for objects, animals, or persons in your path. Safe driving starts before you turn on the engine. Please take the following steps every time you get in your vehicle:

1. Lock the doors
2. Adjust the seat
3. Adjust the inside and outside mirrors
4. Adjust ventilation
5. Fasten and adjust your seat belts
6. Ask passengers to fasten their seat belts
7. Adjust your feet to the pedals
8. Adjust the steering wheel
9. Adjust the head restraint
10. Adjust your radio/CD/Cassette player

B. Rhode Island Safety Belt/Child Restraint Law

The Seat Belt Use Law is a *primary law* for all ages, meaning you can be pulled over if anyone is unbuckled.

Safety Belt Use Law – Rhode Island General Law ("R.I.G.L.") 31-22-22:

1. 31-22-22 (f): Any operator of a motor vehicle transporting a person eighteen (18) years of age and older in any seating position of a motor vehicle operated on the roadways, streets or highways of this state shall ensure that the person be properly wearing a safety belt and/or shoulder harness system, as defined by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208.
2. 31-22-22 (g): Any person who is an operator of a motor vehicle shall be properly wearing a safety belt and/or shoulder harness system as defined by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208 while the vehicle is in operation on any of the roadways, streets, or highways of this state.
3. Vehicle operator is responsible for compliance of sections (f) and (g). The fine for violation of this section is $40.00 per occupant.

Child Restraint Law – R.I.G.L. 31-22-22:

1. 31-22-22 (a): Any person transporting a child under the age of eight (8), less than fifty-seven (57) inches (4 ½ feet tall) in height and less than eighty (80) pounds in a motor vehicle operated on the roadways, streets, or highways of this state, shall transport the child in any rear seating position of the motor vehicle properly restrained in a child restraint system approved by the United States Department of Transportation under Federal Standard 213. If the child is under eight (8) years old but at least fifty-seven (57) inches in height, or at least eighty (80) pounds the child shall be properly wearing a safety belt and/or shoulder harness approved by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Federal Standard 208 in any rear seating position of the motor vehicle.
2. 31-22-22 (b)(1): Any operator of a motor vehicle transporting a child who has attained the age of eight (8) years but is under eighteen (18) years of age in any seating position within a motor vehicle operated on the roadways, streets, or highways of the state shall ensure that the passenger is properly wearing a safety belt and/or shoulder harness system, as defined by Federal Standard 208.
3. 31-22-22 (b)(2): Any operator of a motor vehicle under eighteen (18) years of age shall properly wear a safety belt and/or shoulder harness system.

Exceptions: Children under age eight (8) years are exempt from being transported in any rear seating position if:

- the vehicle has no backseat (i.e. pickup truck, sports car, etc.)
- all rear seating positions are already being utilized by other children
- In 31-22-22 (b), as described above, the oldest child should ride in the front seat if the vehicle is equipped with a passenger side airbag

4. Penalty: The fine for a child riding in the front seat or for a child over age seven (7) years not in a seatbelt is $85.00. A violation for transporting a child not in a child restraint system mandates a court appearance.

Booster Seat/Safety Seat/Safety Belt Use Law – R.I.G.L. 31-22-22:

1. Infants:
- Birth to at least a minimum of one (1) year old and at least 20 lbs
- Rear-facing and/or convertible car seat
- Back seat use only

2. Toddlers:
- A minimum of one (1) year old and twenty (20) lbs to the car seat manufacturer's maximum recommended weight
- Forward-facing convertible car seat
- Back seat use only

3. Children under eight (8) years of age:
- Less than eighty (80) lbs. and/or less than fifty-seven (57) inches
- Booster seat or safety harness
- Back seat use only

4. Children under eighteen (18) years of age:
- Lap/shoulder seat belt
- Back seat . . . safest place for airbag safety

5. Drivers and passengers eighteen (18) years of age and older:
- Lap/shoulder seat belt
- Properly placed low on hips and across middle of chest

6. Does your child need a booster seat?

The five (5) step test: Did you know most children need a booster seat from the age of four (4) to at least between eight (8) and twelve (12)? If your child is not riding in a booster seat, then take this five (5) step test:

- Does the child sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
- Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
- Does the shoulder belt come down over the collar bone and the center of the chest?
- Is the lap belt on the hips, contacting the pelvis?
- Can the child stay seated like this for the entire trip?

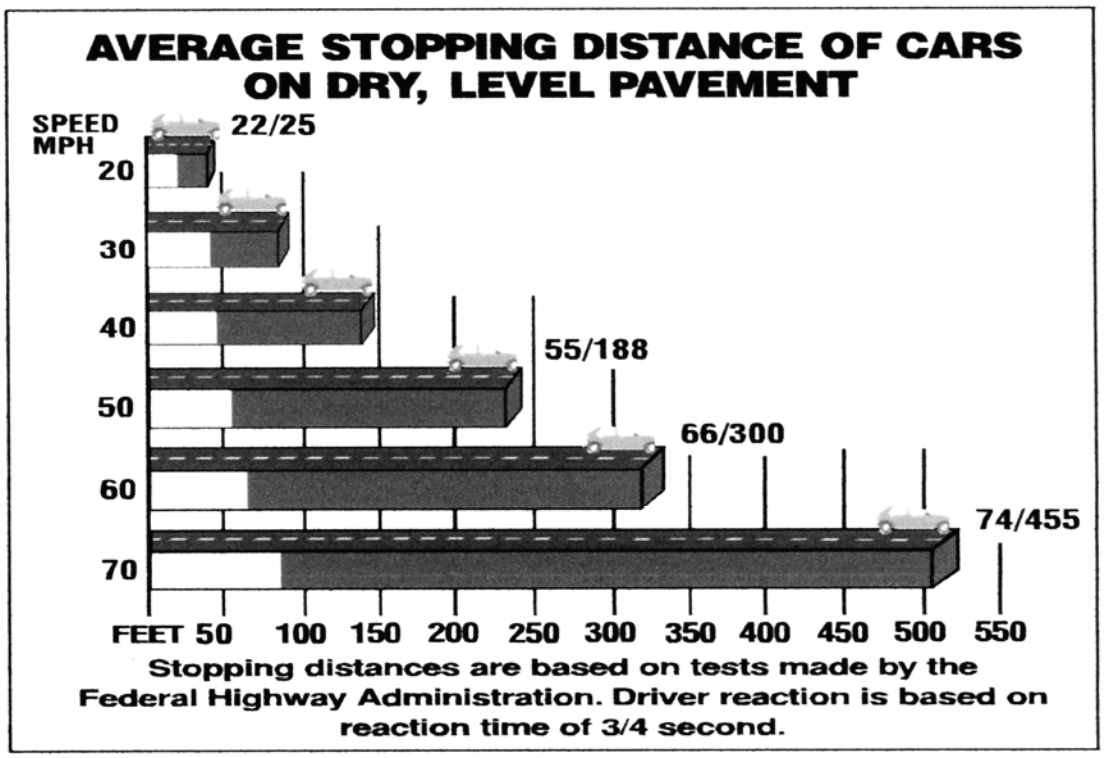
IF YOUR ANSWER TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS IS 'NO', THEN YOUR CHILD NEEDS A BOOSTER SEAT TO RIDE SAFELY IN THE VEHICLE. BOOSTER SEATS MUST BE USED WITH A LAP/SHOULDER HARNESS SYSTEM!

C. Stopping Your Vehicle

Even when road and vehicle conditions are ideal and the driver is perfectly alert, it takes a great distance to stop a motor vehicle. To stop your vehicle, three (3) things must happen:

1. You must **perceive** (recognize) the danger and the need to stop.
2. Your brain must **react** to the hazard and tell your foot to step on the brake.
3. Your foot must move to the brake pedal and operate the brake (**braking)**.

The distance your vehicle travels between the time you recognize the danger and react to it is called your **perception distance**. The distance your vehicle travels when you move to step on the brake is called your **reaction distance**. After seeing danger, it takes the average driver about ¾ of a second to apply the brake. The higher the driving speed, the further your vehicle will travel before you are able to apply the brake.
The distance your vehicle travels from the time the brakes are applied to the time that the vehicle is brought to a stop is called **braking distance.** Braking distance will vary depending on the conditions of the road. It is important to realize that on wet or icy roads the braking distance will be much longer. Therefore, when driving in these conditions, you must drive slower. Oil, rubber, dirt and water combine to make roads especially slippery when it first starts to rain.
The **perception distance** plus the **reaction distance** plus the **braking distance** equals the **total stopping distance.**

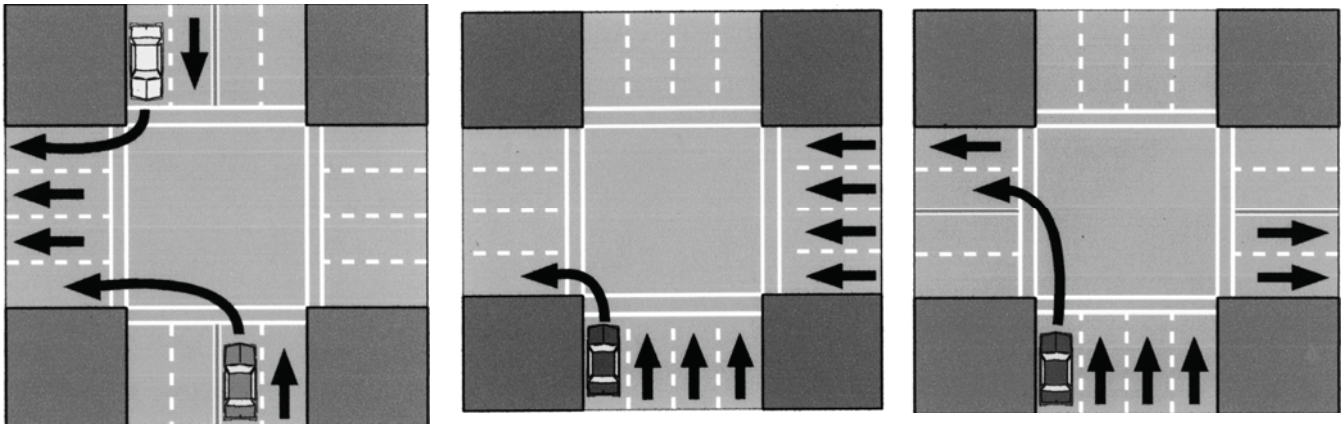


In addition, two (2) situations may occur which can prevent you from stopping when you need to:
Velocitizing occurs when you begin to feel that you are going slower than your actual speed. You can avoid this by varying your speed slightly when driving long distances on the highway. Use care while reducing your speed as you enter exit ramps.

Hydroplaning occurs when the front tires of your vehicle lose contact with the road surface on a wet road and you lose steering capability. Guard against hydroplaning by keeping tire pressure inflated to manufacturer's recommended standard, reducing speed, and being careful while driving in the rain. Avoid areas where water pools.

D. How To Turn

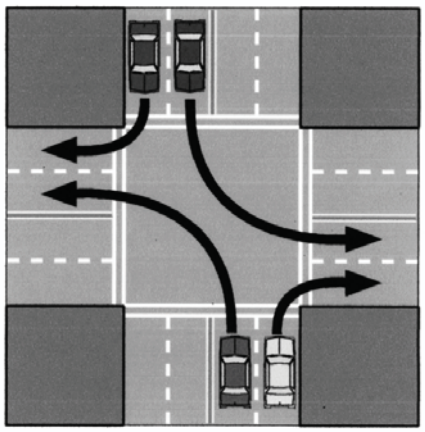
Making proper turns from proper lanes:



One-sixth (1/6) of all crashes happen when one vehicle is turning left. Most of these would not happen if the driver made the turn properly. Studies have shown that a motorist's greatest risk of a motor vehicle collision occurs at an intersection. Follow these steps to make a proper left turn:

1. Upon approaching an intersection at which you wish to make a left turn, you must give the proper signal in sufficient time to warn the driver of any vehicle behind you. As you gradually slow down, watch the mirror to see that the driver of the vehicle behind you has understood your signal. If the road is wide enough for you to do so without crossing the centerline, leave room for following vehicles to pass you on your right. Be sure that no vehicle behind you is trying to pass on your left, and, above all, never pull suddenly to your left from the right-hand lane. If you can't work your way to the center early enough, go on to the next intersection.
2. As you approach the intersection, position yourself in lane position #2 far enough in advance before your turn.
3. When you reach the intersection, wait until the way is clear. Do not turn your wheels in your intended path of travel until you are clear to make your turn.
4. Both the motor vehicle directly approaching you and the vehicle approaching on your right has the right-of-way.
5. When the road is clear, make your turn at the proper speed and keep to the right of the center of the roadway. After turning into a four-lane road, keep driving in the center lane until you can change to the right lane without getting in the way of other vehicles.
6. Always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in the street.
7. Cancel your directional.

Lane positioning for a right/left turn:



Follow these steps to make a proper right turn:

1. When you wish to make a right turn, you must first give the proper signal in sufficient time to warn the driver of any vehicle behind you.
2. Right turns must be taken from the extreme right-hand side of the road.
3. Do not develop the dangerous habit of swinging to the left before turning right. This is likely to make the driver of the vehicle following you assume you are going to turn left.
4. When you reach the intersection, wait until the way is clear. Do not turn your wheels in your intended path of travel until you are clear to make your turn.
5. The motor vehicle directly approaching you has the right-of-way.
6. When the road is clear, make your turn at the proper speed and keep to the right of the roadway.
7. Always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in the street.
8. Cancel your directional.

The Basics of making a turn:

"A" Approach the turn; plan your path through the turn.
"B" Brake prior to the turn to reduce speed to a safe level.
"C" Coast into the first half of the turn, covering the brake (gentle pressure on the brake pedal) in case the need to apply the brakes arises.
"D" Drive out of the turn by accelerating at a safe, comfortable rate of speed.

E. Turnabouts

Turnabouts are maneuvers in which you may turn your car around to drive in the opposite direction.

You may be asked to perform a turnabout during your road test.

To plan your turnabout you should make certain of the following:

- There are no signs which prohibit a turnabout, such as a *"No "U" Turn"* signs.
- You cannot cross a double yellow line at any time.
- Local statutes may prohibit turnabouts; you should be familiar with local traffic regulations.
- You have clear visibility in each direction for a distance of five hundred (500) feet.
- There are no hills or curves nearby which could obstruct your view of on-coming traffic.
- You are at least two hundred feet (200') from an intersection.
- You have enough space to complete the maneuver.
- You are not in an area of heavy traffic.
- There are no pedestrians in your path.

You must then decide which turnabout you will use. There are four (4) types. You must choose the safest and best suited for traffic conditions and the street on which you will make your turnabout.

"U" turn:

- You must have sufficient space to complete this maneuver.
- Check for traffic in both directions.
- Signal that you will be pulling to the right curb and stop.
- Signal your intent with your left turn signal or turn on your four way hazard lights.
- Check traffic in both directions.
- When you have a clear path, turn the steering wheel all the way to the left and slowly drive to the left, completing the maneuver.
- Make sure to cancel your directional signal or turn off the hazard lights upon completing your "U" turn.
- In Rhode Island, you may make a "U" turn only when it is allowed and does not interfere with the free flow of traffic in either direction.

Backing into a driveway or side-street on the right side:

- This turnabout allows you to reenter traffic by driving forward,
- Signal your intent to pull to the right side of the street,
- Drive past the street or driveway you plan to back into,
- Check for pedestrians and traffic in both direction and when clear,

- Begin to back up, slowly turning the steering wheel to the right.
- When you have completed your backing maneuver, straighten the steering wheel and stop once you have cleared the curb line,
- After you have stopped on the side street or driveway, check for oncoming traffic, signal your intention to turn and if clear proceed by entering the main street again.

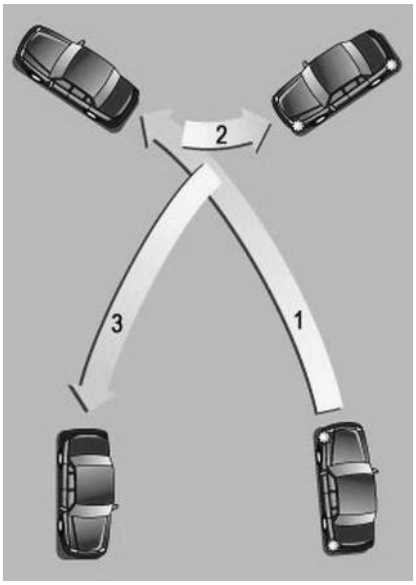
Pulling into a street or driveway on the left:

- This maneuver is more hazardous because you will be backing into the travel lane.
- Choose a street or driveway on the left which has clear visibility in both directions, when you have entered the street or driveway (the car has crossed the curb line), straighten the front wheels and stop,
- Look in both directions for pedestrian and vehicular traffic,
- Turn the steering wheel to the right and slowly backup into the first lane of travel,
- At about the half-way point in the turn, begin to straighten the steering wheel,
- After completing the turn, stop, check for on-coming traffic and when the path is clear, signal and enter the flow of traffic.

The three point turn:

Unless prohibited, you may use the three-point turn to turn around on a narrow street,

- Select a safe location to make this maneuver,
- Signal your intent to pull to the right side of the street,
- After you have come to a complete stop, signal your intent with your left directional signal or with the four way hazard lights,
- Check for on-coming traffic in both directions,
- Turn the steering wheel fully to the left and slowly drive forward, crossing the street,
- At a point before the left side curb, stop,
- Again check for traffic in all directions,
- Turn the steering wheel fully to the right and begin to back up,
- When you have reached a point where the front of the car is in the middle of the street, stop,
- Again check for traffic in all directions,
- Turn the steering wheel to the left and proceed in the opposite direction,
- Remember to turn off your directional signal or hazard lights.



BE CAREFUL WHEN MAKING THIS MANEUVER, WAIT FOR APPROACHING TRAFFIC TO PASS AND WATCH FOR PEDESTRIANS.

F. Stopping and Parking

Stopping

Stop When stopping, drivers should completely cease all forward motion for a minimum of three seconds. This gives the driver time to look left, look right, look left again, and proceed with caution.

Where to stop:
RIGL 31-20-9 Obedience to stop signs. – Every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection. In the event there is no crosswalk, the driver shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting highway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting highway before entering the intersection, except when directed to proceed by a police officer or traffic control signal.

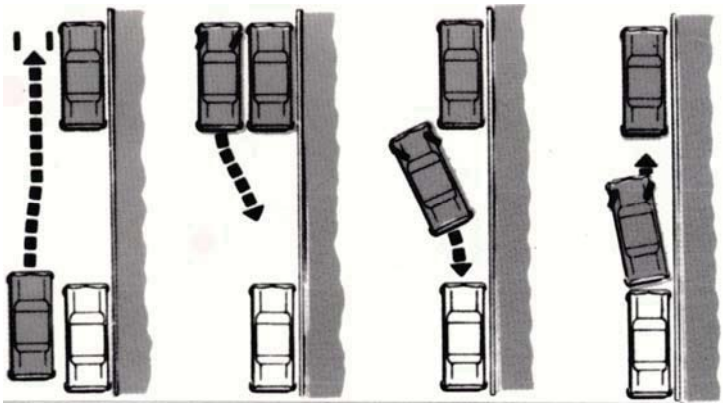
Four-Way Stops

Follow these procedures when at an intersection with a four-way stop:

- Once stopped, you must yield to all other vehicles that were stopped prior to your arrival at the stop sign.
- Once having stopped, all other vehicles arriving at the intersection after you must yield the right of way to you.
- If two vehicles arrive at the intersection at the same time, you must yield the right of way to the vehicle on your right.
- As always, being courteous and respectful will help prevent dangerous situations and make the roadways safer for all drivers.

To leave a traffic lane to enter a parking space/parallel parking:

1. Move into the traffic lane nearest the parking space.
2. Use a turn signal to indicate your intentions.
3. Enter the parking space using the four (4) steps shown in the diagram below.
4. Stop the engine, lock the ignition switch, remove the key, and set the parking brake.



To enter a traffic lane from a parked position:

1. After starting the engine and releasing the parking brake, maneuver the vehicle to a position from which re-entry into the traffic lane can be made in one motion.
2. Look to the rear. Check the rear view and side view mirrors and look over your left shoulder to cover the blind spots.
3. Signal first, then drive out carefully.
4. Enter the driving lane that is closest to the parking space.

How to park on hills:

Where you may not park or stop:

1. On the travel portion of the highway.
2. Beside a vehicle stopped or parked at the side of a street (Double Parking).
3. On a sidewalk.
4. Within an intersection.
5. Beside any roadwork so that you block traffic.
6. On a bridge or in a tunnel.
7. On any railroad tracks.
8. Any place where official signs prohibit stopping.
9. In front of any driveway.
10. Within 8 feet of a fire hydrant.
11. Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
12. Within 30 feet of a flashing red or yellow light, a stop sign, or a traffic light.
13. Within 20 feet of the driveway of a fire station or across the street within 75 feet of the driveway, where there are signs.
14. Any place where a sign says 'No Parking'.
15. Within 50 feet of the nearest rail or a railroad crossing, unless you stop for just a short time to load or unload passengers or packages.
16. At any curb cut or ramp for handicapped persons.

Unless a law prohibits parking, a vehicle parked on a two-lane road must have the right wheels a maximum of twelve (12) inches from the right side of the road or curb. On a one-way road, a parked vehicle may have either wheel a maximum of twelve (12) inches from the side of the road and headed in the same way the traffic goes.

G. Starting on a Hill

When you take your driving test, you may have to stop and start your vehicle on a hill. You will be instructed by the examiner to drive to the right side of the road, stop, and then set your parking brake and shift to neutral. The parking brake must hold the vehicle from rolling back.

When starting your vehicle on the hill, look over your left shoulder to be sure that traffic is clear, put the vehicle in gear, signal, release the parking brake and drive out carefully. In a vehicle with a standard shift, you should be able to drive up the hill without rolling back.

H. Starting from the Curb or Making a Safe Lane Change

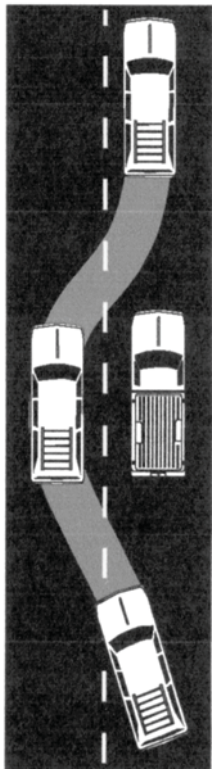
1. Signal your intent with sufficient time to warn other motorists of your intent.
2. Check your mirrors and look over your shoulder to make sure the blind spots of the mirrors are clear and no other vehicle has entered your intended path.

I. Entering the Roadway from a Private Road or Driveway

When entering the roadway from a private road or driveway, you must stop at the sidewalk before continuing to the curb line where you are mandated to stop again. Stopping at the sidewalk will allow you to check for pedestrians in the sidewalk and stopping at the curb will allow you to check for oncoming traffic.

J. Passing Another Vehicle

Passing a vehicle on the left:



On multiple lane highways, the law requires you to use the left lane to pass and the right lane for normal driving. When you are being passed by another vehicle, you should slow a little and keep right. This will allow the other driver to pass safely.
When approaching another vehicle from the rear and you want to pass, be sure you have sufficient distance to pass safely and check your blind spots. **Blind spots are areas that cannot be seen in your rear or side-view mirrors.** Before making any lane changes or passing maneuvers, a motorist must check over his or her left or right shoulders to view the areas not visible in the mirrors. Avoid placing packages or other large items in the back seat or on the rear window ledge, which could cause a blind spot.

1. Give a left turn signal to let the driver ahead/behind you know that you will be pulling out.
2. Look to the rear through the rear view and side view mirrors and over your left shoulder to view any blind spots that may exist.
3. Proceed to change lanes and pass on the left.
4. Cancel your left turn signal.
5. At night it might be necessary to blink your headlights from low beam to high beam and back to low beam to warn the driver in front of you that you intend to pass.
5. When you have safely passed the vehicle, activate your right turn signal.
6. You should go far enough past the vehicle you are passing so that you are able to see the tires on the pavement of the vehicle you passed in your inside rear view mirror. It will then be safe to return to the right side of the road.
7. In general, pass vehicles only on the left.
8. Never pass more than one (1) vehicle.
9. Never travel over the posted speed to pass a vehicle.

Passing a vehicle on the right:

A driver may pass on the right of another vehicle only as follows:

1. When the motor vehicle ahead is making or about to make a left turn.
2. On a street or highway that is wide enough for two or more lanes of traffic with no obstructions and not occupied by parked vehicles.
3. On a one-way street or roadway wide enough for two or more lanes of traffic and free of obstructions or parked vehicles.

Under no conditions can you drive off the pavement or main traveled portion of the road to pass a motor vehicle. Passing on a hill, curve, railroad crossing, at an intersection, where signs prohibit, over solid lines, entering a tunnel or bridge, or over the posted speed limit is dangerous and may be the last mistake you make.

K. Proper Backing Procedures

- If you are backing up for a distance greater than 30 feet, it is recommended that you activate your hazard lights to warn other motorists of your maneuvers.
- While backing, you should look over your right shoulder, partially turning your body, while maintaining proper control of your vehicle.
- When backing in a straight line, you should periodically check all mirrors to be sure that no other vehicles, pedestrians, or obstacles are in your path of travel.

L. Freeway Driving

Driving on freeways can be easier than on other types of roads (no crossroads, traffic lights, or pedestrians) provided the motorist takes necessary precautions and remains alert. Because of the higher speeds of freeway traffic, you may be called upon to think faster, to anticipate situations, and to act sooner.

Sudden lane changes on a freeway by you or another driver can be dangerous. You should use the proper signal for every lane change. When you want to pass, check for fast approaching vehicles to the rear and use your turn signals briefly before swinging out as well as before turning back into the right lane.

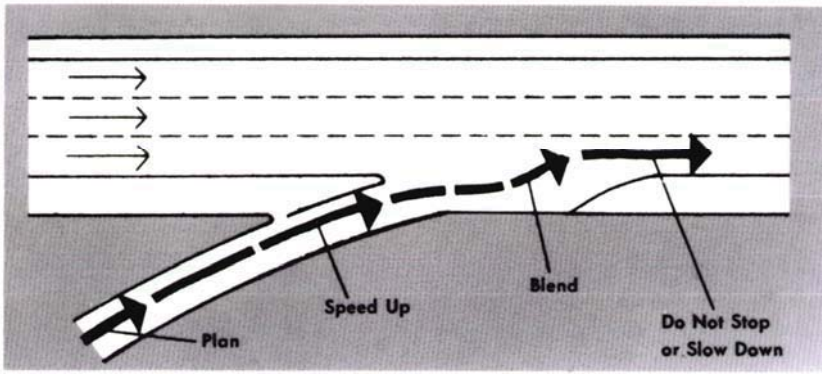
If you must stop on a freeway because of mechanical or other difficulties, signal and move your vehicle into the breakdown lane if possible. Beware of vehicles that might be traveling wrongfully in the breakdown lane.
Beware of the condition called **velocitizing**. This happens when you begin to feel that you are going slower than your actual speed. Be particularly aware of **velocitizing** when preparing to leave a freeway. You must reduce speed and return to normal driving conditions as you approach the exit.

On long freeway trips, pull off the road to a safe place occasionally to rest in a designated safe area (not in the breakdown lane). To avoid the effects of **highway hypnosis**, (a condition caused by long periods of driving) get out of your vehicle for a while to relax and to take refreshments.

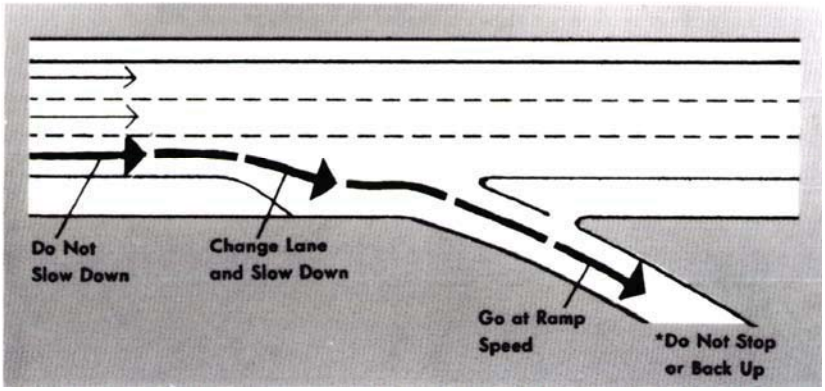
If it becomes necessary to make repairs along any highway, be sure to move the vehicle to a place where all four wheels are off the main pavement. Be sure to turn on the vehicle's hazard (emergency) flashing lights. If available, consider using flares, reflectors, or triangles.

Acceleration lanes permit motorists entering freeways the opportunity to accelerate to the speed of traffic.
Deceleration lanes permit motorists about to exit a freeway to slow down to the exit ramp speed.
Merging area is the area beyond the acceleration lane on a freeway where motorists merge into the flow of traffic.

ENTERING THE FREEWAY



LEAVING THE FREEWAY



Freeway speeds vary from lane to lane; therefore, it is important for motorists to pick the proper lane to travel. The **far left lane** is for passing other vehicles. Trucks, busses, and other special vehicles are prohibited from traveling in this lane. The **middle lane(s)** is (are) for through traffic. The **right lane** is for slower moving traffic and for motorists entering and exiting the freeway.

M. Safe Driving on the Highway

The following are recommendations to be a safe highway driver:

- **Drive at or below posted speed limits.** Rhode Island law sets speed limits as follows: 25 miles per hour (mph) in residential areas and 50-65 mph on most highways.
- **Don't tailgate.** The easiest way to tell if you are a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you is the three-second-following-distance rule (see 4.e.A, The Three Second Rule). If the roadway is wet or slippery, you will need additional distance (seconds). If you are being tailgated, change lanes. Never speed up because you will be tailgated at a higher speed. Never slam on your brakes. Never antagonize or call on a tailgater. Stay calm and ignore potential aggressive road rage incidents.
- **Don't drive at the same speed for a long time.** Change your speed occasionally on long trips.
- **Look behind you now and then in your rear/side mirrors.** Never pass a vehicle until you are sure no one is coming up behind you in the passing lane.
- **Always signal before changing lanes.** Do this soon enough to let other drivers know what you are going to do.
- **Never stop in the traffic lane**. Stop on a highway only if you must. Move as far off the traffic lane as you can. If you need help, raise the hood of your vehicle, tie a white cloth on the door handle and stay in your locked vehicle.
- **Drive in the right lane unless otherwise posted or if you are passing another vehicle.** Making frequent lane changes are unsafe. Slow traffic must always keep to the right.
- **Stop and rest when drowsy.** Driving when drowsy is a major cause of serious motor vehicle collisions.
- **Slow down and drive with care in bad weather**. Wet, icy, and snow covered highways can be very dangerous.
- **If you miss your exit ramp, go on to the next exit.** Never stop and back up to the missed exit.
- **Keep your eyes moving, looking at other vehicles**. Always be aware of what is going on around you.
- **Give emergency vehicles the right-of-way at all times**. If an emergency vehicle is approaching, pull over ***to the right***, stop and wait for it to pass. Before re-entering the flow of traffic; activate your turn signal, glance over your shoulder to ensure another emergency vehicle is not coming, then proceed. Always drive 500 feet behind emergency vehicles.
- **Be especially careful when buses stop**. Passengers may be entering or leaving buses.
- **Never take the right-of-way for granted**. The law grants right-of-way, but the other driver may not. Yield to the other driver in these cases; it may save a life.

The Basic Speed Law in Rhode Island requires motorists to drive only as fast as the road conditions dictate. Be it snow, rain, sleet, ice, or road construction, motorists must realize the speed limit sign is the maximum speed for ideal conditions and therefore, they must adjust their speed to the conditions. The Basic Speed Law promotes driving at a speed which is safe for pedestrians, road conditions, and other traffic.

N. Cellular Phone Usage

Drivers under the age of 18 are prohibited from using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle, per R.I.G.L. 31-22-11.9. This includes a prohibition from using a hands free device or speakerphone. The only time a minor is permitted to use a cell phone is in the case of an emergency. **If you are under 18, *do not* use a cell phone while driving!**

Using a cellular telephone while driving is a major distraction to the operator of a motor vehicle. If you do use a cellular phone, take the following precautions:

- Decide if you really *need* to make/receive a call while driving.
- Have a passenger place the call *or* dial the telephone when stopped. Pull off the road.
- Try not to allow the telephone call to become emotional.
- Purchase hands free or speaker type telephone devices.
- When receiving or making calls, have the cellular telephone within your reach.
- Try to avoid using the cell phone if at all possible.

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING IS FORBIDDEN IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND!

Evidence suggests that text messaging (or texting) often requires the driver to both look at the phone and manipulate the keypad with one's hand.

CELLULAR PHONE PENALTIES YOU NEED TO KNOW:

CELL PHONE PENALTIES

If you are a minor (less than 18 years of age), you are NOT allowed to use a cellular phone while driving, as stated in Rhode Island General Law § 31-22-11.9.

If you are found to be in violation of the law, you are subject to the following penalties:

First Offense =	$50.00 fine
Second Offense =	$50.00 fine
Third Offense + =	$100.00 fine + lose license until 18 years of age.

TEXTING PENALTIES

No matter the age, you are NOT allowed to use a wireless handset to compose, read or send text message while operating a motor vehicle, as stated by Rhode Island General Law § 31-22-30.

If you are found to be in violation of the law, you are subject to the following penalties:

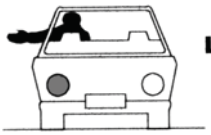
First Offense	=	$85.00 fine
Second Offense	=	$100.00 fine
Third Offense +	=	$125.00 fine

IV. Signals and Roadway Markings

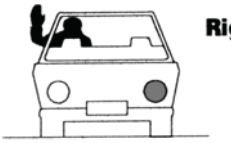
A. Signals

The law states that a driver has to make a signal by hand or by using directional lights when driving out of a parking space and at least **100 feet at a minimum** before making a turn.

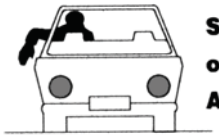
These are the hand signals to use:



Left Turn



Right Turn



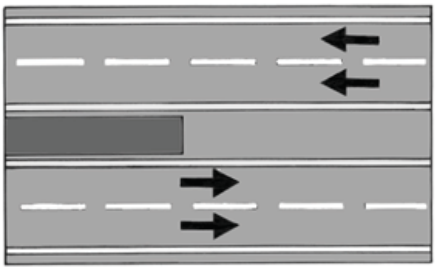
Stopping or Slowing Abruptly

- ***To turn left:*** Put left hand and arm straight out, keeping hand and arm still.
- ***To turn right:*** Put left hand and arm up, keeping hand and arm still.
- ***To stop or slow down:*** Put left hand and arm down, keeping hand and arm still.

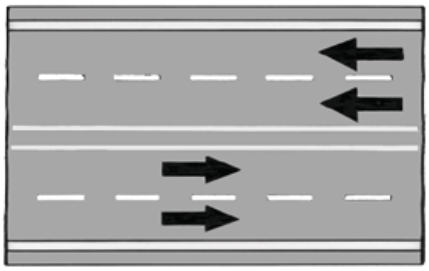
All signals should be given in time to let drivers in back of you know what you are going to do.

B. Roadway Markings

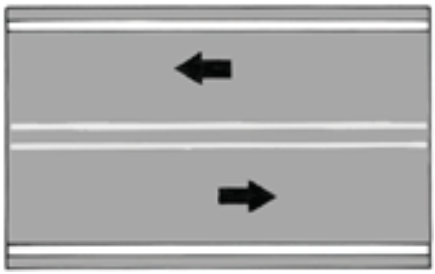
- ***Solid Lines*****:** Solid lines separate lanes of traffic. Motorists are not permitted to pass other vehicles nor change lanes. You may cross the solid lines in an emergency (turns, breakdown, object in road, parking, etc).
- ***Broken Lines*****:** Broken lines separate lanes of traffic. Motorists are permitted to pass other vehicles (yellow or white) and change lanes (white).
- ***Solid with broken lines*****:** A solid line with a broken line is usually painted on two-lane roadways. Motorists with the solid line on their side of the roadway should not pass another vehicle nor cross the solid line. Exceptions exist in emergencies (object in roadway, vehicle in roadway, making a legal left/right hand turn, parking, breakdown). Motorists with the broken line at the drivers' side may pass another vehicle with care.
- ***Yellow Lines*****:** Yellow lines separate traffic traveling in opposite directions. Single or double solid yellow lines separate traffic traveling in opposite directions. They prohibit motorists from passing other vehicles. Motorists may not cross the solid lines. Exceptions exist (legal turns, object in road, etc). Broken yellow lines separate traffic traveling in opposite directions. Passing another vehicle is permitted with care.
- ***White Lines*****:** White lines are painted upon the highways to separate traffic moving in the same direction. Solid white lines are usually found to the far right or left (carpool, restricted lane, breakdown, parking) of roadways. Passing another vehicle and changing lanes are restricted. Exceptions exist (carpool lane, slow moving vehicles, hills, breakdown, parking, etc). Broken white lines allow motorists the opportunity to pass other vehicles and change lanes.
- ***Other roadway markings consist of*****:** Crosswalks, Xing, RR, stop lines, parking lanes, reversible lanes, restricted lanes, and shared turn lanes. A **shared turn lane** is the center lane of traffic set apart from the travel lanes by solid single yellow lines on the outside and broken yellow lines inside the shared turn lane. The lane also has arrows painted on the pavement and usually signs indicating restriction for use of the lane for turning only. Motorists wishing to turn shall not enter the lane unless they intend to turn within 100 feet (minimum).
- ***Sharrows and "Share the Road" with bicycles and bike lanes*****:** A shared-lane marking, installed in the center of a travel lane to indicate that a bicyclist may use the full lane. It is to alert motorists of the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within the traveled way and reduce the incidence of wrong-way bicycling.



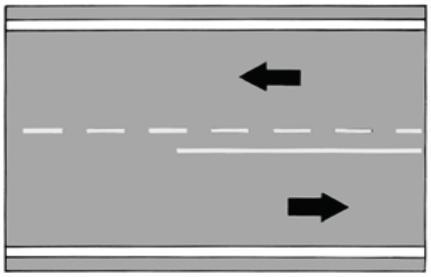
Divided roadway delineated by a median strip, jersey barrier, guard rail, etc.



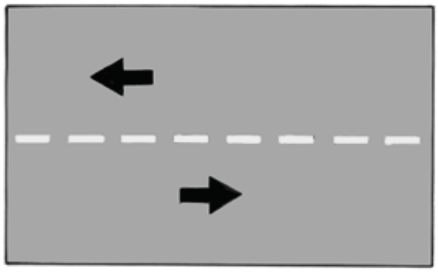
Multi-lane roadway, crossing center or side solid lines permitted to turn or in the event of a breakdown.



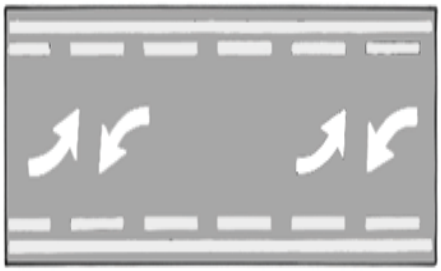
Two-lane, two-way roadway, passing prohibited in both directions, crossing solid lines permitted to turn or in the event of a breakdown.



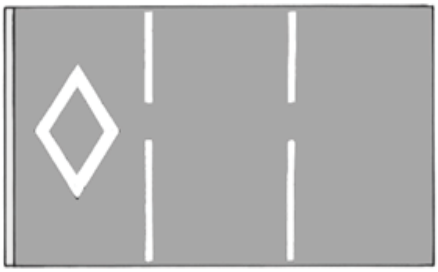
Two-lane, two-way roadway, passing prohibited in one direction.



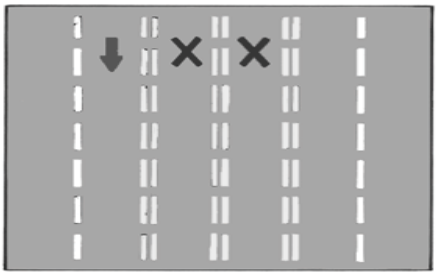
Two-lane, two-way roadway, passing is permitted.



Shared Left Turn Lane: All vehicles use the center lane for left turns in and out of left side streets/driveways.



HOV Lane: High Occupancy Vehicle - Carpooling



Reversible Lanes: Motorist may travel in lane with green arrow.

Disabled Parking with Permit Only.

Sign Panel

Pavement Painting

C. Rotary/Roundabout Diagram

A = Splitter or Refuge

B = Crosswalk

C = Center Island

Roundabouts are intersections that direct traffic in a counterclockwise direction around a center island. The purpose of this circular intersection is to slow traffic while reducing delays in traffic movement. This type of traffic control does not have stop signs or traffic signals; instead, it utilizes yield signs, directional signs and pavement markings to guide traffic through the intersection.

Prior to entering a roundabout, the motorist should observe the yellow diamond shaped warning sign for an arrow with a circle pattern with two (2) or more arrows pointing away from the circle that represents roundabout exits.

Listed below are the procedures to follow while entering and leaving the traffic circle. **NOTE**: The information in this manual refers to single lane roundabouts. Many states utilize multi-laned roundabouts, so plan ahead.

1. MOTORISTS' DUTIES WHILE NAVIGATING A ROUNDABOUT:

a. Slow down to the posted speed. Yield to pedestrians and other motorists, they have the right-of way.
b. Ensure you have an adequate safe gap. Move to the proper lane position upon entering, maneuvering and exiting the roundabout.
c. **ENTER:** Yield to vehicles in the roundabout. Wait for a gap in traffic, and then merge into traffic in the roundabout in a counterclockwise direction.
d. **PROCEED:** Continue through the roundabout until you reach your street. Never stop in a roundabout unless it is an emergency.
e. **EXIT:** Signal, then exit the roundabout to the right. Yield to pedestrians.

2. CYCLISTS' DUTIES WHILE NAVIGATING A ROUNDABOUT:

Generally, cyclists should walk their bicycles across the pedestrian crosswalk.

Experienced cyclists may navigate roundabouts like motorists. Bicyclists should ride in the middle of the lane, not near the curb line, to prevent vehicles from passing them. As with following the same laws as motor vehicles, cyclists must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

3. PEDESTRIANS' DUTIES WHILE NAVIGATING A ROUNDABOUT:

a. **APPROACH:** Pedestrians should look left upon arriving at a crosswalk in search of oncoming vehicles and bicycles.
b. **CROSS:** Pedestrians should cross to the raised or painted splitter or refuge. Then, look right and finish crossing to the opposite sidewalk.
c. Pedestrians should never walk through a roundabout or cross the center island.

R.I.G.L. 31-17-8, Right-of-Way at Rotary: In the absence of any traffic control device or sign, the driver of a vehicle about to enter a rotary, regardless of the direction from which the vehicle is approaching, shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles already in the rotary. The State Traffic Commission shall determine the location of yield signs at rotaries. Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in 31-41.1-4.

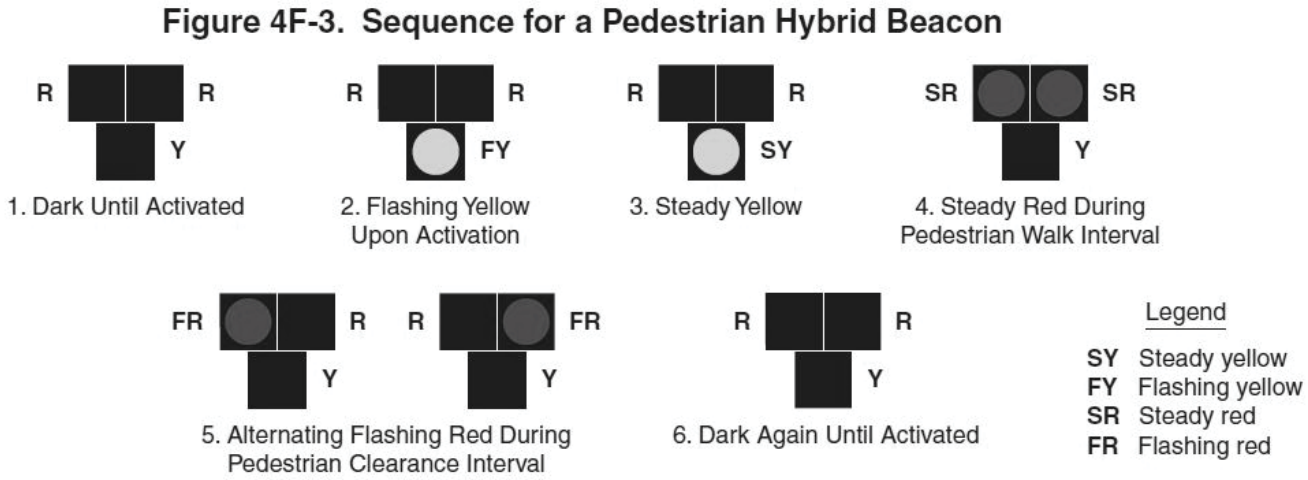
D. Traffic Lights/Signals

Traffic signals allow vehicles to proceed safely through busy intersections. Beware that **not all** intersections have traffic signals or traffic control signs. Intersections without signs or signals are known as **uncontrolled intersections**. When approaching uncontrolled intersections, motorists must treat the intersection as if there were a yield sign present. Signaled intersections give the right-of-way to drivers and pedestrians one street at a time. When a driver fails to stop at a red light, others who have a green light should not insist on the right-of-way. Motorists should be alert for possible lawbreakers and prepare to stop to avoid a collision. You should slow down, cover the brake, and proceed with caution when approaching all intersections. **Cover the brake** means taking your foot off the accelerator pedal and hovering it over the brake pedal without touching it, preparing to push the brake pedal if a hazard should arise. **Right-of-way** is the privilege of having or giving other motorists immediate use of a certain roadway.

- ***Steady Red Light:*** Stop before reaching the crosswalk and wait until the light is green (unless another light such as a green arrow directs you otherwise).
- ***Right Turn on Red:*** Except when a sign is placed prohibiting a right turn on red, vehicles may turn right on a steady red light after the driver has stopped completely and yielded the right-of-way to pedestrians and other vehicles.
- ***Steady Yellow Light:*** A yellow light tells a driver that a red light is next. Slow down and proceed with caution if a stop cannot be made safely. Clear the intersection.
- ***Steady Green Light:*** You may proceed with caution avoiding colliding with another vehicle or pedestrian.
- ***Flashing Yellow Light:*** Slow down, cover the brake, then proceed with caution.
- ***Flashing Red Light:*** When nearing a flashing red traffic light, you must make a full stop and yield the right-of-way to all vehicles on your right and left. Treat the flashing red signal as a stop sign.
- ***Traffic Light with a Green Arrow:*** In cities, intersections often have traffic lights that show a green arrow along with the red light. Vehicles at the light may proceed into the intersection and turn in the direction indicated by the green arrow. This is known as a protected turn lane. A **protected turn lane** will protect motorists as they turn at intersections. They are protected from on-coming traffic, and a special lane with markings designates this lane. The lane will have an arrow signal, which allows safe passage.
- ***Traffic Light with a Red Arrow:*** Red arrows are usually used on left/right-hand turns. When a red arrow is displayed, you must stop and may not proceed in the direction of the arrow. When the red arrow goes out, it will be followed either by a green arrow, a steady green light, or a flashing yellow arrow. If there is a lane marked for turning, you should be in that lane well in advance of approaching the intersection, give your signal and make the turn so as not to interfere with other traffic.
- ***Traffic Light with a Flashing Yellow Arrow:*** Flashing yellow arrows are sometimes used for left-hand turns. When a flashing yellow arrow is displayed, you may proceed with turning in the direction of the arrow only after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. Oncoming traffic has a steady green light.
- ***Stale green light*** is a light that has been green for a while.
- ***Fresh green light*** is a light that has just turned green.
- ***HAWK*****: High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk is used to let pedestrians safely cross a street.**

Traffic signals allow vehicles to proceed safely through busy intersections. They give the right-of-way to drivers and pedestrians one street at a time.

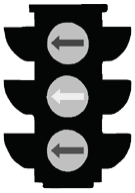
***HAWK*: HIGH-INTENSTY ACTIVATED CROSSWALK**



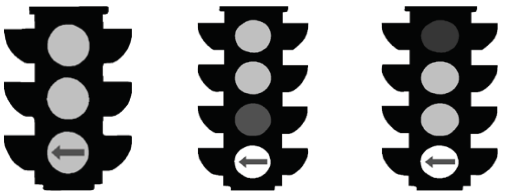
SOLID RED LIGHT
Complete stop. Remain stopped until signal turns green.

SOLID YELLOW LIGHT
Clear the intersection. Prepare for the red light.

SOLID GREEN LIGHT
Go, if clear, after yielding or stopping for vehicles or pedestrians.



RED, YELLOW and GREEN ARROWS tell motorist to stop/go in the direction the arrow is pointing.



GREEN ARROWS tell motorists they may proceed in the direction of the arrow (also known as the "Protected Turn Situation").

HORIZONTAL TRAFFIC SIGNAL

FLASHING RED SIGNAL
A flashing red signal is treated as a stop sign.

FLASHING YELLOW SIGNAL
A flashing yellow will tell motorists to proceed with caution.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNALS

V. Driving Emergencies

The following section contains suggested methods of handling common driving emergencies. Please keep in mind that every emergency situation varies and these suggestions may not be applicable to all emergencies.

A. How to Avoid Skidding

Most skids are caused by the driver's failure to react in time to adjust the vehicle's speed to road and traffic conditions. When you are driving on a slippery road, you should apply the brakes by very gently pumping them and maintaining the proper speed for the road conditions (this procedure is for vehicles with conventional brakes only). On roads that are wet or icy, you should never make any sudden changes in speed or direction. If your vehicle is equipped with anti-lock brakes, do not pump the brake. Press the pedal firmly and maintain pressure until the vehicle stops. Know your vehicle and follow the instructions in your owner's manual. **ABS – Anti-lock Braking System** is a computer controlled braking system that keeps the wheels rotating (turning) during emergency braking. Thus, the vehicle will not skid and steering is always available to the driver. If the driver stomps on the brake and stays on the brake, they will be able to steer in the direction they want to travel. The brake will pulsate – this is normal for ABS systems.

B. How to Control a Vehicle in a Skid

To control a vehicle as it begins to skid:

1. Let off the gas.
2. Keep your foot away from the brake pedal and the clutch (if applicable).
3. Let the vehicle slow gradually.
4. Turn in the direction you want the vehicle to go.
5. Be prepared to steer left and right a few times until you get your vehicle completely under control.

There is no set rule for vehicle control. Different techniques *may* be required depending on whether the vehicle is front wheel drive, rear-wheel drive, or all-wheel drive. Consult your owner's manual for instructions.

C. Total Brake Failure

If you put your foot on the brake and the pedal goes right to the floor:

1. Pump the brake pedal. Pumping might temporarily restore enough brake fluid pressure to slow or stop your vehicle. You will know after three (3) or four (4) pumps if your brakes are going to hold.
2. Downshift to a lower gear. This uses the braking power of the engine to slow your vehicle.
3. Engage the parking brake. You can quickly release the parking brake for a moment if the vehicle begins to skid.
4. Search for an open zone. You can still steer. As a last resort, rub the wheels against a curb to reduce speed. If a collision is unavoidable, steer for a sideswipe rather than colliding head-on into something solid.

D. Blowout or Flat Tire

If you experience tire failure, remember the tire is already a total loss; therefore, your task is to drive to safety:

1. Grip the steering wheel firmly with two (2) hands.
2. Ease up on the accelerator to slow the vehicle. Do not brake. Braking can cause the vehicle to swerve. Let the vehicle slow gradually.
3. Check the traffic situation as you gain control of the vehicle.
4. Drive off the roadway slowly, braking gently.
5. Turn on hazard flashers. Drive slowly to a location where you can stop safely.

E. Stuck Accelerator

If your accelerator pedal sticks to the floor or your engine races out of control:

1. Kick the side of the accelerator once to try to jar it free.
2. Shift the car to NEUTRAL at the same time you apply the brake.
3. Choose an escape path that leads to an open zone off the roadway. Continue braking.
4. If you are steering into a sharp curve or turn, shift to NEUTRAL immediately. Depress the clutch in a stick-shift vehicle. The engine will race, but power is removed from the drive wheels. You might damage the engine or transmission in an automatic transmission, but you may avoid a collision.
5. Follow your escape path off the roadway.
6. Turn off the ignition once you are off the roadway.

F. Engine Failure

If you are driving and the engine suddenly shuts off, shift to NEUTRAL when the engine first sputters or stops.

1. Begin moving out of traffic to the nearest shoulder or curbing.
2. Turn on the hazard flashers. Do not brake.
3. Try to restart the engine while you are moving. If the engine starts, shift to a forward gear and proceed. If it does not start, move onto the shoulder or to the curb, if possible. Steering will be harder when power is lost by engine failure. Try to start the engine.
4. If the engine still fails to start, raise the hood and leave the hazard flashers on. Go for help. If you have a cellular telephone, use it to secure assistance.

G. Off Road Recovery

If you are involved in a situation where driving off the road is your only option of avoiding a collision, or you have driven off the shoulder, follow the below listed steps to return to the roadway:

1. Hold the steering wheel firmly on the top half with both hands. The greater the drop-off between roadway and shoulder, the greater amount of steering control you need. Keep your vehicle heading straight toward your target.
2. Let up on the accelerator and brake gently to five (5) or ten (10) mph. Avoid hard braking.
3. Position your vehicle so it straddles the roadway edge.
4. Select a place to return to the roadway where the shoulder is nearest the level of the roadway.
5. Check for traffic. Signal, check your blind spot, and return to the roadway.
6. Steer sharply toward the roadway to return. If the drop-off is severe, you might need to slow more and turn very sharply to get back onto the pavement.
7. Counter-steer sharply the instant the front tires touch the roadway. You counter-steer when you steer in the opposite direction.
8. Center the vehicle in the lane closest to where you left the roadway and re-establish your target. Cancel your signal. Accelerate to match the flow of traffic.

H. Threat of a Head-on Collision

Head-on collisions may result in injury that is more serious to drivers and passengers, than any other type of crash. Head-on collisions are also more likely to result in death than any other type of crash. The following steps can be taken to avoid a head-on collision:

1. **Maintain vehicle control**. Brake hard, but do not lock the wheels. Slowing lessens the force of the impact, gives the other driver space, and time to recover control.
2. **Blow the horn and flash the headlights**. These actions might alert an impaired driver. Continue braking and move to the right if the driver does not heed your warning.
3. **Steer right toward the shoulder or curb-line**. Do not steer left. The other driver likely will try to steer back into the proper lane. Prepare to drive entirely off the roadway to the right, if necessary.

I. Threat of a Side-Impact Collision

Take these actions if you are threatened with a side-impact collision:

1. Brake or accelerate quickly. Do whichever seems more likely to lessen the collision impact.
2. Blow the horn to alert the other driver.
3. Change lanes or swerve away from the impact. Be aware of the constantly changing traffic situation around you.

J. Threat of a Rear-End Collision

Take these actions if you are threatened with a rear-end collision:

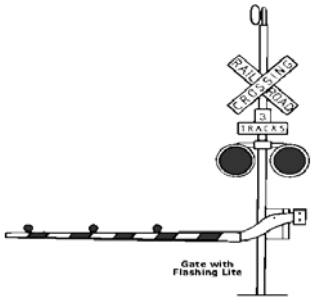
1. Flash your brake lights early to alert the driver behind you.
2. As the vehicle nears, check your front zones for open space and move forward, if possible. This precaution gives the driver approaching from the rear more time and space to stop safely.
3. If the intersection is clear, accelerate to give the other driver more space to stop. If your path is not clear, turn right.
4. If a collision is unavoidable, release your brakes just before the collision occurs. This helps soften the impact. Brake immediately after the collision to avoid sliding into another traffic lane.

K. Headlight Failure

If your headlights suddenly go out:

1. Turn on your parking lights, hazard (emergency) flashers, or turn signal.
2. Try the headlight switch a few times.
3. Pull off the road as quickly as possible and leave your emergency flashers on.

L. Vehicle Stalls on Railroad Tracks



If your vehicle stalls on railroad tracks and you know a train is approaching:

1. Get yourself and any passengers out of your vehicle and off the tracks, and move as far from the tracks as possible.
2. To avoid being hit by debris from the collision, exit your vehicle and run, far away from the tracks, in a parallel line in the opposite direction from which the train is moving. The debris field from the collision of train and motor vehicle will travel in the same direction that the train is moving – you want to be as far away as possible in the **opposite** direction.

Railroad crossing information for the motorist:

- Be alert to signs and roadway markings indicating a railroad crossing is ahead (X, or RR).
- When red signals begin to flash or gates are being lowered, stop, look, and listen.
- Never attempt to beat the train to the crossing or go around gates that are down.

- All busses, trucks transporting hazardous material, and certain other vehicles must *always* stop prior to crossing railroad tracks. Be patient and wait for these vehicles to cross.
- Assume a train will travel on the tracks, even if it appears the tracks are abandoned.
- The chance of being killed in a collision with a train is 40%.
- It may take a train a mile and a half to come to a complete stop after applying the brake.

M. Vehicle Catches Fire

Whenever you see smoke coming from under the hood of your vehicle:

1. Pull immediately off the road, turn your ignition to the off position, and move away from the vehicle.
2. Dial 911 for police and fire personnel.
3. Unless you have a fire extinguisher, do not attempt to put out the fire.

N. Vehicle in Water

Should your vehicle drive into water or become stalled in a rain-swelled roadway:

1. Take off your seat belt and attempt to flee through a window.
2. If your vehicle is equipped with power windows, open the window before the water causes a loss in power.
3. Avoid opening your door as water will fill the inside of your vehicle and could cause your vehicle to flip onto the roof.
4. Should your vehicle sink before you are able to get out, climb into the rear seat. The weight of the engine will cause the vehicle to sink nose first; therefore, a pocket of air may remain in the rear of your vehicle. As the vehicle settles, take a deep breath and climb out a window.

O. Driving in Inclement Weather

Winter Driving

First snow or ice – Drivers aren't prepared for winter driving and forget to take it slow. Remember to drive well below the posted speed limit and leave plenty of room between cars.

Black ice – Roads that seem dry may actually be slippery-and dangerous. Take it slow when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady areas – all are hot spots for black ice.

Brake – Brake early, brake slowly, brake correctly, and never slam on the brakes. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal. Either way, give yourself plenty of room to stop.

DRIVING TIP THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN OR SNOW WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON.

If the cruise control is on when your car begins to hydroplane and your tires lose contact with the pavement, your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed making you lose control.

P. Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide poisoning can occur during cold weather when motorists have *all* their windows closed. Carbon monoxide can be found in the exhaust fumes of *all* motor vehicles. If you begin to yawn or feel dizzy or nauseous, you may be experiencing the symptoms of the poisoning. The fumes are odorless, and the only cure is to open your windows and allow fresh air to circulate within your vehicle. Having your exhaust system checked periodically as well as not idling your vehicle with the windows closed for a long period of time may avoid the effects of the poisoning. Carbon Monoxide poisoning can cause death if untreated.

VI. Motorcycles

What all drivers should know about motorcycles:

1. Motorcyclists often slow by downshifting or merely rolling off the throttle, thus not activating the brake light. Allow more following distance, say three (3) to four (4) seconds. At intersections, predict a cyclist may slow down without visual warning.
2. Motorcyclists often adjust position within a lane to be seen more easily and to minimize the effects of wind, road debris, and passing vehicles. Understand that motorcyclists adjust lane position for a purpose, not to be reckless or show off.
3. Because of its small size, a motorcycle seems to be moving faster than it really is. Do not think cyclists are speed demons.
4. Because of its small size, a motorcycle may look farther away than it is. When checking traffic to turn at an intersection, assume a motorcycle is closer than it looks.
5. Because of its small size, a motorcycle can be easily hidden by objects inside or outside a car (door posts, mirrors, passengers, bushes, fences, bridges, blind spots, etc). Take an extra moment to thoroughly check traffic, whether you are changing lanes or turning at intersections.
6. The stopping distance for motorcycles is nearly the same as for cars, but slippery pavement makes it difficult to stop quickly. Allow more following distance behind a motorcycle because it cannot always stop 'on-a-dime'.
7. Mirrors are smaller on a motorcycle and usually convex. This gives the cyclist a smaller image of you and makes you appear farther back than you actually are. Keep at least a three (3) to four (4) second space cushion when following a motorcyclist.
8. Maneuverability is one of a motorcycle's better characteristics, but only at slower speeds and with good road conditions. Do not expect a motorcyclist to always be able to dodge out of the way.
9. Carrying a passenger complicates a motorcyclist's task. Balance is more difficult, stopping distance is increased, and maneuverability is reduced. Predict more problems when you see two on a motorcycle, especially near intersections.
10. There are a great deal more cars and trucks than motorcycles on the road, and some drivers do not 'recognize' a motorcycle and thus ignore it (usually unintentionally). Look for motorcycles, especially when checking traffic at an intersection.
11. At night, single headlights and taillights on motorcycles can blend into the lights of other traffic. Those 'odd' lights could be a motorcycle.

Use of Protective Equipment:

Cyclists can reduce or prevent injuries by using proper equipment and following the laws and regulations associated with motorcycles:

1. A helmet properly worn can reduce or prevent head injuries. Rhode Island law requires passengers on motorcycles to wear helmets. In addition, any operator under twenty-one (21) shall at all times, wear a certified helmet. New operators, regardless of age, must wear an approved helmet for the first year of license.
2. Eye protection in the form of glasses, goggles or a face shield can reduce or prevent eye injuries. Rhode Island law requires all operators to properly wear eye protection.
3. Heavy shoes or boots can reduce or prevent injury to an operator's feet.
4. Full length pants, not shorts, and a jacket made of durable material can reduce or prevent bodily injury.
5. Full-fingered gloves can reduce or prevent injury to the operator's hands.

VII. Systems for Safe, Courteous, and Defensive Driving

Defensive driving is the art of protecting yourself and others from dangerous and unexpected changes in the driving environment. The defensive driver anticipates actions of other roadway users and is ready to adjust speed and position accordingly. The defensive driver also adjusts to changes in weather and road conditions. The driver can learn to develop driving habits and skills by following the additional systems described below:

1. **IPDE:** The IPDE system is a 'thinking-doing' process. IPDE can help you to avoid collisions. With practice, this process will become automatic. IPDE will also help you become a defensive driver.

Identify:	Locate any hazards in the driving scene by getting the big picture.	**THINK!**
Predict:	Judge where possible points of conflict may occur.	**THINK!**
Decide:	Determine the actions to take and when and where to take them.	**THINK!**
Execute:	Act by maneuvering the vehicle to avoid any conflict.	**DO!**

2. **ZONES:** The zone system consists of six (6) zones (areas of space) around your vehicle that is the width of a lane extending as far as the driver can see. Being aware of open zones and closed zones around your vehicle can help you avoid collisions and become a defensive driver.

   - ***Open zone:*** A space you can drive without restrictions to your line of sight or intended path of travel.
   - ***Closed zone:*** A space not open because of restrictions in your line of sight or intended path of travel.

3. **ORDERLY VISUAL SEARCH PATTERN:** The orderly visual search pattern will help you develop your own process for identifying trouble while driving. It is a process of searching critical areas in a regular sequence for clues or conflicts in and around your intended path of travel.

   - Check your line of sight and path of travel ahead.
   - Evaluate your front zones in the 12-15 second target area (this refers to the area you will be in after you have traveled for 12-15 seconds) by searching intersections, driveways, and parked vehicles for possible changes in your line of sight and path of travel.
   - Glance in your mirrors to check your rear zones.
   - Evaluate your 4-6 second range for any changes to your path of travel.
   - Look ahead again to another 12-15 second range.
   - Evaluate your 4-6 second range for any changes to your path of travel.
   - Glance in your mirrors.
   - Glance at your speedometer and gauges.
   - Continue the sequence again as you drive.

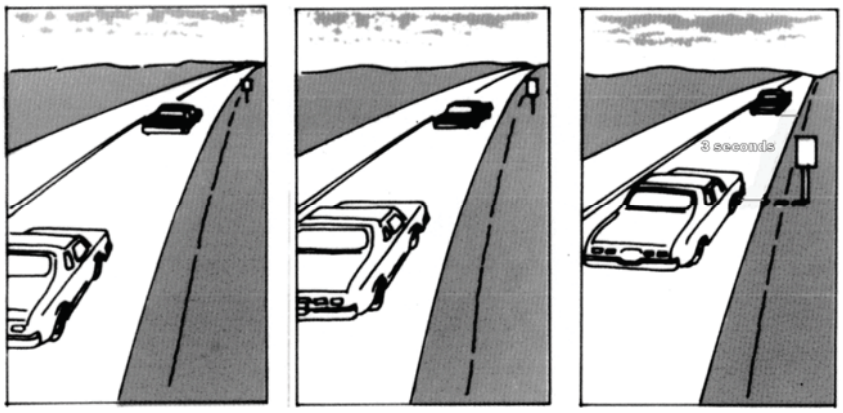
4. **MR. SMITH:** Mr. Smith is Harold L. Smith, who developed this system in 1952 based on a "space-cushion" principle, which manipulates space to provide a cushion between your vehicle and everything else on the road. It is an internationally recognized safety system. The Smith System has five (5) keys to collision free driving.

a. ***Leave Yourself an Out:*** Situations may occur that you don't plan on. Keep plenty of space between you and the next vehicle.
b. ***Aim High In Steering:*** Don't look down your fender or hood but ahead 4 to 6 seconds (the space you will travel in 4-6 seconds) and 12 to 15 seconds ahead at the middle of your driving lane.
c. ***Get The Overall Picture:*** Look ahead a full block in cities/towns and half a mile ahead on highways. You want to see everything in the space you are moving into, along with the vehicles you see ahead of you.
d. ***Keep Your Eyes Moving:*** Don't look at one thing. Develop the art of scanning and glancing, continually and quickly. Look ahead, look at the side, and look in your rear and side mirrors.
e. ***Make Sure They See You:*** See and be seen by other roadway users. Don't take for granted that others can see your vehicle. Tap your horn or flick your headlights if you need to.

A. The Three (3) Second Rule – Following Distance

The following three-second rule cannot always guarantee you time to stop to avoid a collision, but it works in most situations. Here's how it works: When the vehicle ahead passes a fixed point (traffic sign, overpass, pole, tree, a line on the pavement, etc.) start counting seconds, 'one-thousand and one, two-thousand and two, three-thousand and three'. If your vehicle passes the point before you finish your count, you are following too close to the vehicle in front of you. Just drop back a little and count again. When driving under adverse weather/road conditions, be sure to add another second or two to your following distance.

When you see a potential hazard ahead such as children playing in the street, a vehicle parked close to the highway, etc., slow down right away. Do not wait until you come upon the hazard before acting. Stop if necessary.



B. The Stopping Rule

A safe stopping distance within four (4) seconds gives you the opportunity to stop safely without colliding with a person, vehicle or object.

While driving, pick any fixed object such as a stop sign, light pole, bridge, parked vehicle, etc. in your path of travel and begin counting seconds, 'one-thousand and one, two-thousand and two, three-thousand and three, four-thousand and four'. If your vehicle reaches the fixed object you picked before you finish your count, you *will not* have enough distance to bring your vehicle to a complete stop, thus avoiding the potential hazard. You must slow the speed of your vehicle and try another fixed object.

C. Lane Positions

You have three (3) different lane positions within a single lane of travel by which you can position your vehicle.

1. **Lane position 1**: Driver positions his/her vehicle in the middle of the lane. This is the safest position to drive under normal driving situations when no potential hazards exist to the left and right of the roadway.
2. **Lane position 2:** Driver positions his/her vehicle three (3) to six (6) inches from the left line of the lane. This is the position to drive if hazards exist to the right of the vehicle or you intend to turn left.
3. **Lane position 3:** Driver positions his/her vehicle three (3) to six (6) inches from the right line or curb of the lane. This is the position to drive if hazards exist to the left of your vehicle or you intend to turn right.

VIII. Sharing the Road Safely

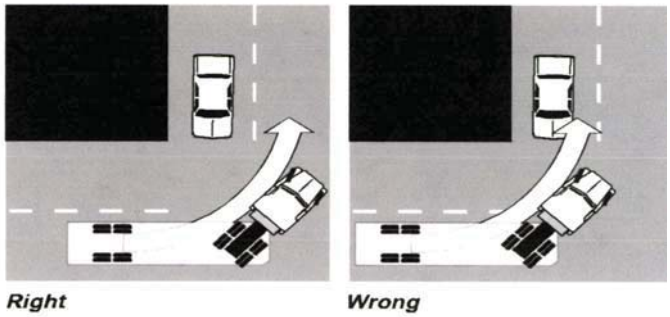
A. Sharing The Road With Large Trucks

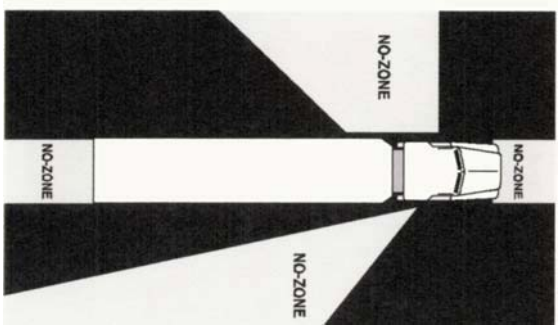
The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) warns that big trucks are four (4) times more likely than vehicles to get into collisions. Trucks are less maneuverable than vehicles and also come with far bigger blind spots. The following are three major blind spots for truck drivers:

1. The front of the truck.
2. The left and right front sides.
3. Behind the truck (if the truck is pulling a trailer, the blind spot is over 50 feet long).

It is up to you to avoid the blind spots, also known as 'no zones'. Be sure not to cruise into a truck's right side. If you find yourself in that position, pull ahead or fall back quickly. As you do, grip the steering wheel firmly, especially if narrow lanes force you to drive close to the truck. The airflow between the two vehicles may tend to draw them together unless you are on guard.

It is just as important never to tailgate. Tailgating can be fatal, especially if the vehicle ahead is a semi-tractor-trailer. Stay at least 50 feet back if you expect the driver to see you. You know you have enough distance behind a truck or semi-tractor-trailer when you can see the side-view mirrors of the truck you are following. Always be aware of your position to a semi-trailer in city driving as these large vehicles make wide turns. Be alert for the lights and markings on all large vehicles.





B. Night Driving

Using your headlights

It is more dangerous to drive at night than in the daytime because you cannot see as far ahead at night. The law requires motorists to turn their headlights on when driving from sunset to sunrise, any time you cannot see 500 feet ahead of you, and when windshield wipers are in use as a result of rain, sleet, snow, etc.

When bad weather has reduced visibility during the daytime, you must turn on your headlights. The law requires that you use your low beam headlights during bad weather conditions such as snow, rain, and fog or whenever there are conditions that reduce visibility. In these situations high beams may reflect off the snow, rain, or fog in the air and shorten the distance you can see.

The back license plate on your vehicle must be lighted so it can be seen and read at least 60 feet from the back of the vehicle.

Dimming your headlights: 500/200 Rule of Dimming Headlights

When driving a motor vehicle on the open highway at night, you should dim your high beam headlights when meeting or following another vehicle. Dim your high beam headlights promptly at a distance of at least 500 feet ahead when approaching another vehicle. When following another vehicle at a distance of 200 feet or less, dim your high beam headlights so that they will not distract or blind the driver ahead.

Approaching headlights

To avoid being temporarily blinded by approaching headlights, glance at the right edge of the roadway (or fog line: the white line on the right side of most roadways) until the bright lights have gone by and your vision has returned to normal. Motorists who stare into oncoming vehicles headlights or rear-view mirror light will experience temporary blindness as their body regains sight from the glare. This temporary blindness time is

known as glare recovery time. Motorists tend to experience the same effects from bright sunlight as well. The practice of looking to the side of the roadway helps with glare and allows you to detect pedestrians who may be walking close to the edge of the road.

High Beams

Low Beams

C. Pedestrians

Drivers must watch carefully for pedestrians. Many collisions are the result of pedestrians not paying attention or entering traffic carelessly. Drivers who fail to yield the right-of-way or do not use caution when pedestrians are present cause many collisions. Consider the following suggestions for pedestrian safety:

- Drive slowly and remain alert in any areas where there are pedestrians present.
- Watch for pedestrians who are walking against a red light, stepping into traffic from between parked vehicles, and crossing in locations where there is not a marked crosswalk. Even in situations where pedestrians cross the street carelessly, the driver must always yield.
- Use caution when children are playing in or near the street. Children often move quickly and do not check for traffic.
- Use caution in the presence of elderly pedestrians. They may not be alert to the dangers of traffic situations. They tend to move slowly and their reaction time is slow in traffic situations.
- Do not stop to pick up hitchhikers at any time.

Pedestrians must also realize the dangers of walking in traffic and should be aware of the following safety rules and suggestions:

- Always obey 'Walk' and 'Don't Walk' signals.
- If facing a yellow or red light, cross only if a 'Walk' signal is showing.
- When there are sidewalks, pedestrians should not walk on or along the highway. If there are no sidewalks, pedestrians should walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.
- Use crosswalks. The main purpose of crosswalks is to encourage pedestrians to cross only at certain locations where crossing can be made safely. **Any intersection of public roads constitutes a legal crosswalk whether it is marked or not.**

When walking at dusk or at night, pedestrians should wear light colored or reflective clothing.

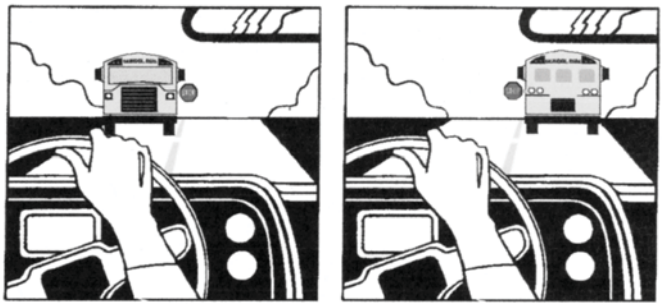
D. Blind Pedestrians

Use extra caution when approaching a blind or low vision pedestrian. Pedestrians who are blind or have low vision often use a white cane or a guide dog to assist them traveling along or across a street. Fines for failing to yield to blind or low vision pedestrian may result in a fine up to $1,000.

When a pedestrian using a white cane or a guide dog is crossing or attempting to cross the street ahead of you, you must bring your vehicle to a complete stop before arriving at the intersection and yield the right-of-way to the pedestrian.

Pedestrians who are blind or have low vision use the sound of traffic (including your engine) as a guide in determining when it is safe to cross a street, so never assume they will expect you to make a right turn on a red light at an intersection after stopping. Always be alert for pedestrians who are blind or have low vision, particularly if you are driving an electric or hybrid vehicle that is quieter than most other vehicles on the road.

E. School Buses



If red lights are flashing on the school bus, the law requires that motorists approaching from either direction come to a full stop and remain stopped until the bus's red lights no longer flash. This requirement applies not only on public highways but also on private roads and in parking lots. A fine of up to $300 and/or suspension of your driver's license for a period up to thirty (30) days will be imposed for the first violation of this law. Penalties increase for subsequent violations. Motorists do not have to stop for the flashing red lights of the school bus when the bus is opposite your vehicle on a divided highway. A divided highway is any roadway with a Jersey barrier, grass, guardrail, trees, water, etc. between the lanes of travel in opposite directions. There is no need to stop your vehicle if a school bus is in a loading zone.

F. Bicycle Riders

Bicycle riders are given the same rights and must obey the same laws as drivers of motor vehicles. In addition, they should follow these rules:

- Bicycle riders should ride as close to the right of the road as they can do safely. They should only cross the lane of vehicle travel to make a left turn.
- No more than two (2) bicycles may ride side by side.
- When there is a safe bicycle path near the roadway, riders should use the path rather than the road.
- Any person fifteen (15) years of age or younger riding a bicycle or a passenger on a bicycle on a public highway, bicycle path, or other public right-of-way must wear a certified bicycle helmet.
- Bicyclists have a legal right to ride on the roadway. Under Rhode Island Law, a bicycle is considered a vehicle with equal rights and responsibilities as other vehicles on the road. Bicyclists are transportation users as well as motorists and deserve respect. They are more vulnerable to injury than those in an automobile, so motorists must drive especially carefully when bicyclists are present.

Motor vehicle drivers must be alert and cautious for bicycle riders in or near the roadway.

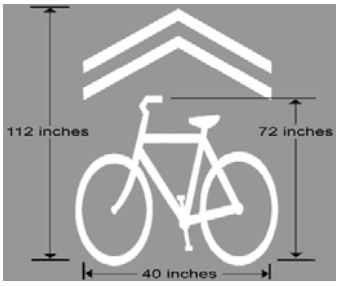
Share the Road with Bicyclists

Rhode Island General Law (RIGL § 31-19-6 "Bicycles to right of road") **–** *Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standard vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction except where official traffic control devises (signs or pavement markings) specifically direct bicyclists to do otherwise.*

Road hazards not easily seen by automobile drivers or trucks may hamper a bicyclist or cause them to crash. These hazards could include potholes, glass, litter, storm grates, and railroad crossings, as well as opened doors of parked vehicles. Any of these items could cause a bicyclist to move into your path or to slow down. Give bicyclists plenty of clearance on the street so they will have room to move around these hazards.

Bicyclists should travel in the same direction as the rest of traffic. Automobiles must yield to bicyclists in the same way as for other types of vehicles. Look for signs that a bicyclist is inexperienced such as whether the bicyclist is riding in a smooth and straight manner or weaving, wobbling, and riding against traffic without a helmet. Give such bicyclists plenty of room.

Shared Lane Markings



Have you seen this road marking? Well, be aware. They have been installed on some local and state roadways over the past few years. The road marking in the picture is a "shared lane" marking. What does the road marking mean? What purpose does it serve? The points below explain the purpose of the Shared Lane markings:

- Assist bicyclist with lateral positioning in a shared lane with on-street parallel parking in order to reduce the chance of a bicyclist's impacting the door of a parked vehicle.
- Assist bicyclist with lateral positioning in lanes that are too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to travel side by side within the same traffic lane.
- Alert road users of the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within a traveled way.
- Encourage safe passing of bicyclists by motorists.
- Reduce the incidence of wrong-way bicycling.

Seven Things to Know When Sharing the Road with Bicyclists:

1. When passing cyclists leave adequate space and be aware of road surface conditions like potholes, puddles or debris which may force cyclists to move further left than usual.

    - Don't blast your horn as you approach a cyclist as the loud noise can startle them and cause them to swerve.
    - Avoid talking on a cell phone, text messaging, or being otherwise distracted when approaching or passing a bicyclist.
    - Avoid driving or swerving into bicycle lanes.

2. When approaching or passing a bicycle be prepared to stop suddenly if a person enters the driver's lane.

    - In bad weather give bicyclists extra trailing and passing room like you would give other motorists.
    - Allow as much clearance as possible (3-5 feet) when passing to prevent contact with a bicyclist and be prepared to stop suddenly if the person were to fall into the driver's lane.

3. When a road is too narrow for cars and bicycles to travel safely side by side, be prepared to slow down or stop when the bicyclists ahead of you "takes the travel lane," (i.e., proceeds in the center of the road).

4. Do not pass bicyclists if oncoming traffic is near. Wait until there are no oncoming automobiles before you pass.

    - After you have passed a bicyclist, do not slow down or stop quickly directly in front of them.

5. When turning left at an intersection, yield to oncoming bicyclists just as you would to an oncoming motorist.

6. Before turning right at an intersection or driveway, check for bicyclists on your right or behind you who are continuing straight ahead.

7. Look behind you for a cyclist approaching your parked car before you open the door into a traffic lane.

Driving on Roads with Bicycle Lanes

In Rhode Island, bicycle lanes on the road are clearly marked with a solid white line, with the words "Bicycle Lane" and include bicycle symbols. Do not drive in a bicycle lane. You may cross a bicycle lane when you are turning a corner or entering or leaving an alley, private road or driveway. Yield to bicyclists in a bicycle lane or on a sidewalk before you turn into the lane or sidewalk.

Watching for Children on Bicycles

Children cannot see things out of the corner of their eyes as well as adults, and cannot judge the speed and distance of oncoming vehicles. They lack a sense of danger and believe adults will look out for them.

- Always reduce speed and use extra caution when children are in the vicinity, particularly in school zones.

Dooring

Dooring is when the driver or passenger carelessly opens the door of a parked or stopped vehicle and collides with a passing cyclist. Every passenger of a stopped or parked vehicle should check their surroundings before opening the door of a vehicle.

According to Rhode Island General Laws § 31-21-1, "Opening vehicle doors": No person shall open the door of a motor vehicle on the roadways, streets, or highways of this state, available to moving traffic, unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so, and can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic, including pedestrians and bicycles on sidewalks, shoulders, or bicycle lanes. No person shall leave a door open on the side of a vehicle available to moving traffic, including pedestrians and bicycles on sidewalks, shoulders or bicycle lanes, for a period of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be fined as provided in § 31-41.1-4.

Additional bicycling information to know:

Rhode Island's Department of Transportation (RIDOT) "Bike RI" website:
http://www.dot.ri.gov/community/bikeri/index.php#navigation

Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 31-19 "Operation of Bicycles":
http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE31/31-19/INDEX.HTM

Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 31-1-3 "Types of Vehicles":
http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE31/31-1/31-1-3.HTM

Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 31-15-18 "Passing, Use of Lanes, and Rules of the Road":
http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE31/31-15/31-15-18.HTM

G. Aggressive Driving

In its broadest sense, aggressive driving can refer to any incident in which an angry or impatient motorist or passenger intentionally injures or hits or attempts to injure or hurt another motorist, passenger, or pedestrian, in response to a traffic dispute or grievance. Incidences of aggressive driving cases have increased each year in the United States. As the driver of a motor vehicle, keep calm in traffic, be patient and courteous to other drivers, and avoid unsafe driving habits that can endanger or anger other motorists. Be aware of behaviors that have resulted in violence in the past:

1. Blocking the passing lane (not yielding to someone wishing to pass).
2. Tailgating (riding too close to the vehicle in front of you).
3. Making angry or obscene gestures.
4. Honking your horn repeatedly.
5. Taking more than one parking space or bumping another vehicle while parking.
6. Using high beam headlights in heavy traffic areas.
7. Blocking traffic to speak to a passerby or people in another vehicle.
8. Cutting off another vehicle so that it cannot merge, pass, exit, or make a turn.
9. Assuming that an apparently aggressive act was deliberate.

To avoid becoming an aggressive driver:

1. Take breaks on long drives.
2. Focus on your driving and not on the problems of your day.
3. Be comfortable and relaxed when you drive.
4. Avoid all alcohol use before driving.
5. Avoid eye contact with a hostile or angry driver.

6. Do not drive when you are angry, upset, or overtired.

To avoid becoming a victim of aggressive driving:

1. Do not react to any form of aggressive driving.
2. Avoid speeding up, braking or swerving suddenly, or making eye contact with other drivers.
3. If a driver continues to hassle or follow you, drive to the nearest police station or busy place to get help.
4. Lock your doors whenever you enter or leave your vehicle.
5. When stopped in traffic, leave enough room to pull out from behind the vehicle you are following.
6. If someone tries to get into your automobile, sound your horn or auto alarm.
7. Avoid a fight at all costs.
8. Do not carry any sort of weapon.

If an aggressive driver challenges you, take a deep breath and get out of the way, even if you THINK you are right. You don't want to be dead right. Save your energy and your life for something worthwhile.

IX. Laws You Must Know

It is your responsibility as a driver in Rhode Island to know all motor vehicle laws. Some of the most important ones are listed below:

1. Drivers of motor vehicles in Rhode Island are permitted, but not required, to turn right at a red light after a full stop unless there is a "no turn on red" sign posted. Drivers must first yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians before making the turn.
2. Children who are less than seven (7) years old must be transported in a federally approved restraint seat in the back seat of the vehicle. Follow instructions for use described in the restraint seat manual for age and weight.
3. Seat belt use by the driver and passengers is required.
4. Be alert to stop for school buses with flashing red lights.
5. You must begin to use your directional signals a minimum distance of at least 100 feet before making turns or changing lanes. Slow down gradually before turns to avoid being hit from the rear.
6. In the absence of signs or signals, when two (2) vehicles approach or enter an intersection from different highways or streets at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right.
7. You must turn on vehicle headlights when driving any time from sunset to sunrise and any time you cannot see 500 feet ahead of you. Headlights must be turned on if it is raining or snowing or in conditions which would reduce visibility to less than 500 feet. Headlights must be on anytime wipers are on.
8. State law in Rhode Island makes the motorist responsible for removing from the vehicle snow and ice that limit vision and for clearing away from the roof of the vehicle any snow that might blow down on the windshield or windows of other vehicles.
9. All persons driving on the state's public roads must carry motor vehicle liability insurance. When you obtain or renew your vehicle registration, you must sign a statement that you have liability insurance on your vehicle and will keep this insurance for the full registration period. Proof of insurance ($500 fine for failure to comply) must be carried in your vehicle along with the registration at all times. You must also certify upon obtaining or renewing your driver's license that you understand that you must carry proof of insurance when you drive a motor vehicle in the State of Rhode Island.
10. **Littering:** It is a violation of Rhode Island law to litter on public or private roadways or property ($500 dollar fine).
11. You are required by law to reduce your speed and refrain from sounding a horn or causing other loud noises when approaching a horse being driven or ridden upon a public highway.
12. Drivers in Rhode Island are not allowed to operate a motor vehicle upon a public highway while wearing earphones or headsets.
13. If stopped by a law enforcement officer, you are required upon request to display your driver's license and vehicle registration card. Further, upon request, you are required to write your name in the presence of that officer for the purposes of being identified.
14. You are required to exit your vehicle if the law enforcement officer tells you to.
15. If stopped by a law enforcement officer at night, a motorist is required to turn on the vehicle's interior lights and leave them on until the officer allows the driver to drive off.
16. All laws are subject to change and, as a driver, you are responsible for the safety of all occupants in your vehicle.

Common Motor Vehicle Violations – Fine Schedule

The following fines are subject to change through statute:

Violation	Statute	Fine
Driving with expired registration	31-3-32	75.00
Driving on expired license	31-10-30	75.00
Obedience to devices (i.e. red light, directional arrows, etc.)	31-13-04	75.00
Eluding traffic light	31-13-6(3)(i)	75.00
Operator left of center	31-15-3	75.00
Overtaking on left	31-15-4	75.00
Overtaking on right	31-15-5(a)	75.00
Clearance for overtaking	31-15-6	75.00
Places where overtaking prohibited	31-15-7	75.00
No passing zone	31-15-8	75.00
Following too closely	31-15-12	75.00
Manner of turning at intersection	31-16-2	75.00
Turn signal required	31-16-5	75.00
Time of signaling turn	31-16-6	75.00
Obedience to stop signs	31-17-4	75.00
Right of way [to pedestrians] in crosswalks	31-18-3	75.00
Safety belt/Child restraint violation	31-22-22	85.00
Times when lights required	31-24-1	75.00
No inspection sticker	31-38-3	75.00
Speeding		
1-10 miles per hour (mph) in excess of posted speed limit		85.00
11 mph in excess of posted speed limit with a fine of $10.00 per mile in excess of speed limit		195.00 minimum
Cell phone usage (minors)	31-22-11.9	50.00

X. Drinking and Driving

A. Effect of Alcohol and Other Drugs on the Body

Alcohol is by far the greatest hazard for a driver. In Rhode Island, the legal drinking age is twenty-one (21). Drunk drivers cause more than half of the collisions in which somebody is killed. More than 25,000 people die each year in alcohol-related collisions in the United States; 5000 are teenagers. If you drink, even just a little, your chances of a collision are seven (7) times greater than if you don't drink.

Alcohol reaches your brain in seconds affecting it before any other part of the body. Upon reaching the brain, alcohol affects first the control of your judgment and skill. Alcohol will affect your ability to estimate distance (depth perception), speeds and the movement of other vehicles as well as reducing your ability to handle your own vehicle.

Alcohol slows you down; it doesn't pep you up. It slows down normal reflexes, interferes with judgment and reduces alertness and vision. Some people appear stimulated after drinking. This is because the alcohol has caused a loss of caution and self-control.

A 12 ounce container of beer, a 4 to 5 ounce glass of wine and a 1 to 1 1/2 ounce shot of hard liquor have about the same amount of alcohol. Any amount of alcohol can affect you differently at different times. For example, drinking on an empty stomach will affect the body faster than drinking after eating. Alcohol's effects are greater when you are taking medicine or are tired.

After drinking, there is nothing that will reduce the effects of alcohol except *time*. Coffee, food, fresh air, or exercise might wake an intoxicated person up, but it will not sober them up. Alcohol is burned up by the liver at a set rate and eliminated through the kidneys and lungs.

ALMOST ANY DRUG CAN AFFECT YOUR DRIVING SKILL. HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

1. Most drugs taken for headaches, colds, hay fever, allergy, or to calm nerves can make you drowsy and can affect your control of a motor vehicle.
2. When taking prescription medicine, it is important to ask your doctor about any possible side effects which relate to driving.
3. Even though pep pills, uppers, and diet pills can make you alert for a short time, later they can make you nervous, dizzy and unable to concentrate. They can also affect your vision. When they wear off they can cause the opposite effect, making you tired and less attentive.
4. Tranquilizers or sedatives make you drowsy and make driving very dangerous especially when mixed with alcohol.
5. Studies have shown that people who drive after smoking marijuana make more mistakes and get arrested for traffic violations more than other drivers. These drivers also have more trouble adjusting to headlight glare. It is also illegal to smoke marijuana!
6. Dangerous types of drugs can be obtained illegally. LSD, cocaine and heroin are examples. They make users unaware or indifferent to their surroundings and unable to drive a motor vehicle safely.
7. Many drugs, both legal and illegal, have unexpected effects when they are taken with alcohol. Alcohol and other drugs should never be used at the same time. Combining alcohol with another drug can cause a synergistic (additive) effect, whereby the effects are multiplied. Not only does this pose a serious hazard to your health, but also it can have a disastrous effect on your ability to drive. One drink taken when you are also taking another drug, even a simple allergy or cold remedy, could have the same effect on your driving ability as having several alcoholic beverages. Even worse, it could kill you!

B. Blood Alcohol Concentration

The blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is the ratio of alcohol to blood (to body weight) present in the bloodstream at any given time. In Rhode Island the BAC level is evidence that you are legally intoxicated or unfit to drive. The current BAC level set by law in Rhode Island is different for different ages:

- Any person of any age with a BAC of .08% or more is intoxicated and will be charged with drunk driving – Driving Under the Influence (DUI).
- Any person under the age of twenty-one (21) with a BAC of .02% but less than .08% is impaired and will be charged with Driving While Impaired (DWI).

When alcohol enters your stomach, it goes into your blood and to all parts of your body. Your BAC depends on several factors:

1. How much alcohol you have had to drink.
2. How much you weigh.
3. How much food you ate before drinking.
4. How much time you have been drinking.
5. The speed at which your body processes the alcohol in your system, which is different for each person.

C. Implied Consent

Implied consent means that any person who drives a motor vehicle in Rhode Island has given consent to a chemical (breathalyzer-blood-urine) test to determine the amount of alcohol/drug, if any, in his/her blood if arrested for suspected driving while intoxicated (DWI).

When test results show a BAC in excess of .05% but less than .08%, drivers twenty-one (21) years of age or older can be convicted of DWI if there is other evidence that the driver was driving under the influence of alcohol. If your BAC is .08% or more, it is evident by itself that the driver was intoxicated at the time of the test. A driver may be convicted of DWI, however, if the officer convinces the court that your ability to drive was affected by the alcohol/drug, even if you are not given a chemical test.

D. Refusal to Take the Breathalyzer Test

If you refuse to take a chemical test, your license will be suspended for a minimum of six months. You are also subject to a fine, a highway safety assessment, public community service, and drunk driving school and/or referral to an alcohol treatment program.

E. Penalties

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW FOR A DRIVER OF ANY AGE TO CONSUME AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE WHILE DRIVING.

Chemical Test Refusal	Under 18 years of age
1st Violation	
▪ 6 month license suspension ▪ $200 - $500 fine ▪ $500 highway safety assessment ▪ 10 – 60 hours of community service	▪ $200 department of health chemical testing program assessment ▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated and/or alcohol/drug treatment
2nd Violation (within a 5 year period)	
▪ Up to 6 months of incarceration ▪ License suspension until age 21 ▪ $600 - $1,000 fine ▪ $500 highway safety assessment	▪ $200 department of health chemical testing program assessment ▪ 60 – 100 hours of community service ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment
3rd or subsequent violation (within a 5 year period)	
▪ Up to 1 year of incarceration ▪ 2 – 5 year license suspension ▪ $800 - $1,000 fine ▪ $500 highway safety assessment	▪ $200 department of health chemical testing program assessment ▪ 100 hours or more of community service ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment

Driving While Impaired (DWI) BAC 0.02% - 0.08%	Under 18 years of age
1st Violation	
▪ 6 – 12 month license suspension ▪ $150 highway safety assessment or community restitution	▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment
2nd Violation	
▪ License suspension until age 21 ▪ $150 highway safety assessment or community restitution	▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment
3rd or Subsequent Violation	
▪ Additional 2 year license suspension ▪ $150 highway safety assessment or community restitution	▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment

Driving under the influence (DUI) BAC: 0.08% or above	Under 18 years of age
1st Violation	
▪ 6 – 18 month license suspension ▪ $500 highway safety assessment ▪ 10 – 60 hours of community service	▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated ▪ Alcohol/drug education and/or treatment
2nd or subsequent violation	
▪ Up to 1 year of incarceration and/or $500 fine ▪ License suspension until age 21	▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment

Driving while impaired (DWI) BAC: 0.02% - 0.08%	18-21 years of age
1st violation	
▪ 1 - 3 month license suspension ▪ $250 fine ▪ 30 hours of community service	▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment
2nd violation	
▪ 3 – 6 month license suspension ▪ $250 fine ▪ $300 highway safety assessment	▪ 60 hours of community service ▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment

Chemical Test Refusal	Adults
1st violation	
▪ 6 month – 1 year license suspension ▪ $200 - $500 fine ▪ $500 highway safety assessment ▪ 10 – 60 hours of community service	▪ $200 department of health chemical testing program assessment ▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated and/or alcohol/drug treatment
2nd violation (within a 5 year period) – Misdemeanor	
▪ Up to 6 months in prison ▪ 1 – 2 year license suspension ▪ $600 - $1,000 fine ▪ $500 highway safety assessment	▪ $200 department of health chemical testing program assessment ▪ 60 – 100 hours of community service ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment
3rd or subsequent violation (within a 5 year period) – Misdemeanor	
▪ Up to 1 year in prison ▪ 2 – 5 year license suspension ▪ $800 - $1,000 fine ▪ $500 highway safety assessment	▪ $200 department of health chemical testing program assessment ▪ 100 hours or more of community service ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment

Driving under the influence (DUI)	21 years of age or older
BAC: 0.08% - 0.1%	
1st violation – Misdemeanor	
▪ Up to 1 year in prison ▪ 30 – 180 day license suspension ▪ $100 - $300 fine ▪ $500 highway safety assessment	▪ $86 fee ▪ 10 – 60 hours of community service ▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated and/or alcohol/drug treatment
BAC: 0.1% - 0.15% (or unknown)	
1st violation – Misdemeanor	
▪ Up to 1 year in prison ▪ 3 – 12 month license suspension ▪ $100 - $400 fine ▪ $500 highway safety assessment	▪ $86 fee ▪ 10 – 60 hours of community service ▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated and/or alcohol/drug treatment
BAC: 0.15% or above	
1st violation – Misdemeanor	
▪ Up to 1 year in prison ▪ 3 – 18 month license suspension ▪ $500 fine ▪ $500 highway safety assessment	▪ $86 fee ▪ 20 – 60 hours of community service ▪ Special course on driving while intoxicated and/or alcohol/drug treatment
BAC: 0.08% - 0.15% (or unknown)	
2nd violation (within a 5 year period) – Misdemeanor	
▪ 10 days – 1 year in prison ▪ 1 – 2 year license suspension ▪ Use of ignition interlock system for 1 – 2 years following the completion of the sentence	▪ $400 fine ▪ $500 highway safety assessment ▪ $86 fee ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment
BAC: 0.15% or above	
2nd violation (within a 5 year period) – Misdemeanor	
▪ 6 months – 1 year in prison ▪ 2 year license suspension ▪ $1,000 fine	▪ $500 highway safety assessment ▪ $86 fee ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment
BAC: 0.08% - 0.15% (or unknown)	
3rd or subsequent violation (within a 5 year period) – Felony	
▪ 1 – 3 years in prison ▪ 2 – 3 year license suspension ▪ Use of ignition interlock system for 2 years following the completion of the sentence	▪ $400 fine ▪ $500 highway safety assessment ▪ $86 fee ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment ▪ Seizure of the vehicle by the state
BAC: 0.15% or above	
3rd or subsequent violation (within a 5 year period) – Felony	
▪ 3 – 5 years in prison ▪ 3 year license suspension following the completion of the sentence ▪ $1,000 - $5,000 fine	▪ $500 highway safety assessment ▪ $86 fee ▪ Alcohol/drug treatment ▪ Seizure of the vehicle by the state

Driving under the influence (DUI)	Serious bodily injury resulting
1st violation – Felony	
▪ 1 – 10 years in prison	▪ Up to 2 year license revocation
▪ $1,000 - $5,000 fine	▪ Alcohol/drug treatment
2nd violation (within a 5 year period) – Felony	
▪ 2 – 15 years in prison	▪ $3,000 - $10,000 fine
▪ Up to 4 year license revocation	▪ Alcohol/drug treatment

Driving under the influence (DUI)	Death Resulting
1st violation – Felony	
▪ 5 – 15 years in prison	▪ $5,000 - $10,000 fine
▪ 5 year license revocation	▪ Alcohol/drug treatment
2nd or subsequent violation (within 5 years) – Felony	
▪ 10 – 20 years in prison	▪ $10,000 - $20,000 fine
▪ 5 year license revocation	▪ Alcohol/drug treatment

R.I.G.L. 3-8-9, Transportation of alcoholic beverages by underage persons. – Any person who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday and who operates a motor vehicle upon the public highways, except when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and, knowingly having liquor or intoxicating beverages in any form in containers, opened or unopened, in any part of the vehicle, shall have his/her license suspended or his/her right to operate a motor vehicle denied for a period of not more than thirty (30) days by the administrator of the division of motor vehicles. This section does not apply to persons between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-one (21) who are transporting unopened alcoholic beverages in the course of their employment.

R.I.G.L. 3-8-10, Possession of beverage by underage persons. – Any person who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday and has in his or her possession any (alcoholic type) beverage as defined in this title shall be fined one hundred fifty dollars ($150) to seven hundred fifty dollars ($750) for the first offense, three hundred dollars ($300) to seven hundred fifty dollars ($750) for the second offense, and four hundred fifty dollars ($450) to seven hundred fifty dollars (($750) for the third or subsequent offense. In addition, any person who violates this section may be required to perform community service and shall be subject to a minimum sixty (60) day suspension of his or her driver's license, and upon a second offense may be ordered to undergo a substance abuse assessment by a licensed substance abuse professional.

XI. In Case of A Collision

A. What to do After a Collision

1. Try to stay calm.
2. Stop your vehicle immediately.
3. Return to the scene of the collision and make your identity known to any interested person. Severe penalties are imposed against drivers who choose to leave the scene of a collision ('hit and run') without properly identifying themselves.
4. Report all collisions to the nearest state or local police immediately.
5. Request rescue assistance if personal injury is involved.
6. In the event of a minor collision, if possible, drive your vehicle off to the side of the roadway and notify the police.

If you collide with or do damage to a parked vehicle or other property, you must leave your name and address in writing attached securely to such vehicle or property so that the owner may find it when he/she returns to their vehicle or property. Also, report the collision to the nearest state or local police immediately.

Collision involving personal injury or property damage in excess of $1000.00 must additionally be reported to the police.

A police report is required if:

- Someone is injured in the collision.
- Property damage is over $1,000.
- You hit an unattended vehicle.

B. What to Report if you Have a Collision

Record the following information if you have been involved in a collision:

- **The exact location:** Note the names of the street or streets if the collision was at an intersection. You should also note the number of the house nearest the collision or the nearest mile marker number on an interstate highway. If possible, note how far it is from any marker such as a telephone pole, railroad crossing, street sign, or highway marker.
- **The exact time of the collision.**
- **The name, address, license, insurance carrier and policy number, and registration state and number of the other driver:** It is your right and the right of the other driver to get this information.
- **The names and addresses of all parties who witnessed the collision, as well as those of the persons in the other vehicle.**
- **The name of the police officer who is at the scene, if one arrives.**
- **A description of the exact damages.**
- **A description of any injures.**

C. Common Causes of Collisions

Most collisions can be avoided. Be mindful of the most common causes of motor vehicle collisions:

- Driver/human error
- Speeding
- Driving after drinking and/or ingesting drugs
- Driving too fast for the road conditions – rain/snow/sleet/ice/construction
- Not paying full attention to what you are doing – inattention/distractions
- Driving too close to the vehicle in front of you – tailgating.
- Driving to the left of the centerline – wrong side of the road
- Not looking when driving away from the curb
- Not yielding the right-of-way
- Vehicle malfunctions – defective vehicle
- Roadways – construction/potholes/gravel/sand

D. Violations Resulting from a Collision

RIGL 31-26-1 Duty to stop in collisions resulting in personal injury [or death] – **Felony**

RIGL 31-26-2 Duty to stop in collisions resulting in damage to vehicle – **Court appearance**

RIGL 31-26-4 Duty on collision with unattended vehicle – **Court appearance**

RIGL 31-26-5 Duty in collision resulting in damage to highway fixtures – **Court appearance**

XII. When Stopped by Police

Listed below are simple suggestions for motorists to follow if they are stopped by a law enforcement officer:

- If you are stopped at nighttime, you are required to turn interior lights on and leave them on until the officer tells you to turn the light off. Leave your headlights on as well for safety reasons.
- The motorist should not pretend he/she does not see the officer, assuming it is *another* motorist that the officer is attempting to stop.
- Turn your right directional on and begin to slow down, and eventually pull to the right as far as possible. Do not obstruct traffic, nor block another persons' driveway, etc.
- After you have pulled completely to the right, turn your engine off; begin to put your window down before the officer arrives at your vehicle.
- Do not take your safety belt off until you ask permission.
- Keep your hands on the steering wheel.
- You are *not* allowed to exit your vehicle unless asked to do so by the officer.
- Do nothing until you are told to do so by the officer. Wait for him/her to ask for your license, registration and insurance card (you are required by law to carry each of these items on your person). Do not hand the officer your license or other documents in a holder. Take them out.
- You and any passengers should never make any sudden movements or gestures; reach under seat, lean towards glove box, etc.
- Do not follow the officer as he/she returns to the patrol vehicle. Wait until he/she returns with your documents.
- If asked to sign a citation, do so. It is not an admission of guilt, solely an acknowledgement that you have received the citation.

XIII. Equipment You Must Inspect!

To ensure the safety of passengers in your vehicle and other vehicles, you are required by law (R.I.G.L. 31-38-4) to maintain the serviceability of your vehicle and to comply with Rhode Island law with respect to equipment mandated by law.

Tires: You may not drive on a tire that has less than 3/32 of an inch of tread (measure the depth of the tread with a penny). Never mix and match tires on your vehicle (radial with bias-belted). Use your owner's manual for a schedule of prescribed maintenance checks. Measure tire pressure while your tire is cold to get an accurate reading.

Airbags: When combined with the shoulder and lap belts, airbags can save lives. Children and infants should always ride in the back seats of vehicles equipped with passenger side air bags. Airbags supplement safety belts. Some motorists may have to move their seats back to establish a safety zone from a deployed airbag.

Seat Belts: Properly worn safety belts can save lives. Lap and shoulder belts working together reduce the risk of death and serious injury by almost 50%. Safety belts will keep you from hitting the steering wheel, dashboard or other objects in your vehicle. Belts will also keep you inside your vehicle, which is really your only protection in a violent crash.

Brakes: Do not wait for the brake pedal to touch the floor before you schedule repairs. If while braking, your vehicle pulls to one side, or, the pedal feels spongy, follow the prescribed maintenance checks located in your owner's manual. Note, the parking brake serves as a means of stopping a vehicle's movement and therefore, it too must be in proper working order.

Steering: When you turn the steering wheel, there should be no play nor feel loose. If noises occur when you turn the wheel, it may be an indication you are in need of power steering fluid. As with other fluid checks, your owner's manual has scheduled maintenance suggestions for *all* fluids.

Lights: It is the responsibility of the motorist to check his/her headlights, taillights, directional, brake, backup, running, parking, and instrument panel lights to ensure they in fact work. It is also a good idea to clean the grime, dirt, and salt from all lights as you inspect the lighting system. Note: Certain lights must be checked with the assistance of another person.

Other equipment: Mirrors, mufflers, horn, and wipers are also important pieces of equipment in/on your vehicle that must be maintained and serviced on a regular basis.

Turn on the ignition switch in almost any car and watch the instrument panel. The modern automobile has an abundance of warning lights that provide valuable information. The list could include:

- Brake system warning
- Windshield washer fluid level
- Coolant level
- Brake fluid level
- Door ajar
- Headlamp door position
- Check Engine
- High beam indicator
- Seatbelt light
- Cold engine warning
- Turn signals
- Charging system
- Transmission temperature
- ABS or Anti-lock Brake System indicator light
- SRS or Supplemental Restraint System indicator light
- Brake lining wear indicator light.

XIV. Organ and Tissue Donor Program

Currently, more than 90,000 people nationwide await lifesaving organ transplants and many more will require a tissue transplant. Yet, many of them – almost 7,000 – will die this year because of a critical shortage.

You now have an opportunity to consider donating life through organ & tissue donation. You should know that:

- Anyone can be a potential donor, regardless race or medical history. If you are under 18 years old, you need parental consent.
- It costs nothing to donate.
- All major religions support donation.
- Signing a donor card or having a donor designation on your license will not affect the quality of health care you receive. If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the first priority of any health care provider is to save your life.
- People receive transplants based on factors like matched blood type, body size, critical need and how long they've been waiting.
- Donation does not interfere with funeral or burial arrangements.

IF YOU DECIDE TO DONATE, HERE'S HOW TO MAKE YOUR WISHES KNOWN:

- **LICENSE DESIGNATION**: Most importantly, ask the DMV to put the donor designation on your license.
- **DONOR CARD**: Sign a card and carry it with you. You can get a donor card from the New England Organ Bank at the number listed below.
- In addition to any of these methods, **BE SURE** to tell your family about your decision to donate.

For more information, contact the New England Organ Bank at 1-800-446-6362 or **www.neob.org.**

XV. Passing Your Road Test

When reporting for your road test:

- You must have your permit in your possession. Your permit is your identification in order to take the road test. Photocopies are not acceptable.
- Your vehicle must be registered in Rhode Island with only two exceptions: If the vehicle is registered to a family member of a military person and/or the military person is stationed in Rhode Island. Valid military ID will be required. All other rules apply.
- A driving school with a valid out-of-state registration must have a current Special Rhode Island Financial Responsibility Insurance Certificate (Form GU-1338b) on file with the Division of Motor Vehicle's Financial Responsibility Section. A copy of this form must also be presented to the examiner at the road test site. All other rules apply.
- You must present the vehicle's valid registration certificate.
- You must present a valid insurance identification card.
- There must be two plates on the vehicle.
- The vehicle must have a valid inspection sticker that has not expired (Exception: Vehicles under two (2) years old or with less than 24,000 miles are not required to have an inspection sticker).
- Rental vehicles are not allowed for the road test.
- Vehicles may have only the legal amount of window tint as described in RIGL 31-23.3

Failures must wait at least thirty (30) days before re-taking the road test. There are no same-day returns. If your vehicle is rejected or if you do not have proper documentation you must re-schedule your road test.

Grounds for immediate termination of the Road Test:

Lack of or violation of any requirement mentioned above; collision; any motor vehicle violation as defined in Title 31 of the Motor Vehicle Code, 1956 as amended; dangerous actions; leaving the designated roadway; dangerously inexperienced driver; lack of cooperation with the License Examiner, equipment failure or erratic operation of the vehicle.

XVI. One Final Word

Driving a motor vehicle is a privilege and not a right. A license to drive brings with it a serious responsibility for the safety of others and yourself. It has been said often that 'the life you save may be your own'. Always drive defensively and carefully. If you do, you will have many years of enjoyment on the road.

XVII. Appendices

A. Miscellaneous Motor Vehicle Laws

R.I.G.L. 31-23.3-2: Nontransparent Windshield and Windows:
No person shall own and operate any motor vehicle upon any public highway, road or street with transparent or sunscreen material, window application, reflective film or non-reflective film used in any way to cover or treat the front windshield, the side windows immediately adjacent to the right and left of the operator's seat, the side windows immediately to the rear of the operator's seat and the front passenger seat and the rear windows unless this vehicle meets one of the criteria set forth in 31-23.3-3. The fine for a violation of this law is $250.00. Rhode Island follows the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards of a total visible light transmittance of not less than seventy percent (70%).

R.I.G.L. 31-23-13.1: Altering height of or operating a motor vehicle with an altered height prohibited:
No person shall alter the height of or operate a motor vehicle with an altered height that has an original manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of up to and including ten thousand pounds (10,000 lbs.), by elevating or lowering the chassis or body by more than four inches (4") from the original manufacturer's specified height by use of so called 'shackle lift kits' for leaf springs or by use of lifts for coil springs, tires, or any other means or device.

R.I.G.L. 31-45-1: Noise Limits:
(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle, nor shall the owner of any vehicle allow the vehicle to be operated, at any time, or under any condition of grade, load, acceleration, or deceleration, in such a manner as to exceed the following noise limit based on a distance of fifty feet (50') from the center of the lane of travel within the speed limit. For the purposes of this section, "dbA" means decibels measured with a calibrated sound level meter weighted to the "A" scale.

(b) In speed zones of thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph) or less, not more than eighty-six (86) dbA. In speed zones of more than thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph), not more than ninety (90) dbA.

Note: This law also allows local cities and towns to develop other means to deal with noise regulations.

R.I.G.L. 31-24-22: Multiple beam lamps required:
Except as provided, the head lamps, or the auxiliary driving lamps, or combination of them on motor vehicles other than a motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle, shall be arranged so that selection may be made between distributions of light projected to different elevations.

R.I.G.L. 31-24-47: Regulation and certification of light devices:
The Administrator of the Division of Motor Vehicles is authorized to approve or disapprove lighting devices and to issue and enforce regulations establishing standards and specifications for the approval of such lighting devices, their installation and aiming. The regulations shall correlate with and, so far as possible, conform to the current standards and specifications of the Society of Automotive Engineers applicable to the equipment.

B. General Notice to Motorists

1. Carry proper identification: a valid driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance.

2. When being signaled to pullover, look for nearest place to position your vehicle as far out of the lane of traffic as possible. Generally, pull off to the right side of the road or to where the shoulder is widest, unless otherwise directed. Use your signal, and then turn on your hazard lights.

3. Never attempt to outrun a patrol vehicle or ignore the lights and siren.

4. Stay in your vehicle. If you are asked to exit the vehicle, do so slowly.

5. Remain calm. If there are passengers, ask them to remain quiet and cooperate with all reasonable requests. Do not let anyone in your vehicle make threatening statements or gestures to the officer.

6. Keep your seatbelt fastened until the officer has seen you wearing it.

7. Avoid any assumptions that the stop was based on gender, race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnic origin. Wait for the officer's explanation. All officers know that this type of traffic stop violates federal civil rights laws.

8. Turn on the interior lights if the stop occurs when it is dark so the officer can easily see you and that all is in order.

9. For safety purposes understand that an officer will leave his/her headlights and spotlights on when it is dark. It helps to illuminate the interior of your car.

10. An officer does not mean to intimidate you. Occasionally, an officer has to speak loudly because there may be traffic noise or other distractions.

11. Keep your hands in view, preferably on the steering wheel. Ask your passengers to place their hands in plain view, such as on their laps.

12. Do not duck down or make sudden movements, especially toward the floor, rear seats, or passenger seats. The officer may interpret these movements as an attempt to obtain a weapon or hide illegal goods.

13. Turn off your engine. Also, if in use, turn off your cell phone and radio.

14. Completely roll down your window, so you and the officer and communicate.

15. Ask for identification if the officer is not in uniform or does not have a marked patrol car.

16. Remember the name of the officer.

17. It is important to remember, the first words spoken by you and the officer may very well determine the tone of the conversation.

18. Do not immediately reach into your glove box, console, or backseat. Wait for the officer to request your identification, and then move to get it. Tell the officer where it is, if it is out of reach.

19. Give the officer a chance to explain the violation. They will typically ask for identification before explaining the stop.

20. Answer the officer's questions to the best of your knowledge.

21. If the charge or citation is unclear, ask for an explanation in a respectful manner.

22. There is no need to excessively apologize. This essentially will act as if you are testifying against yourself. Simply be civil and polite and if there are any special circumstances surrounding the situation, provide a straight, honest explanation.

23. Avoid provoking the officer or showing off in front of your occupants. Do not interfere with the questioning or arresting of other occupants. Comply with the officer first then, if needed, seek an explanation.

24. Do not argue with the officer at the roadside. If you disagree with the citation or the officer's actions, discuss it later with the law enforcement agency or a judge.

25. Let the officer know if you are carrying a properly registered weapon. In these cases, the officer may have you follow a special procedure, for example, identifying the location of the weapon, stating if the weapon is loaded, etc. In addition, the officer may ask for your permit number to compare it to the serial number on the weapon. In some states, weapons are registered for specific purposes such as hunting or target practice, so the officer may be required to question you about your activities.

26. Report the incident to the officer's agency if you feel the officer has acted irresponsibly. Document the officer's misconduct in a written statement and submit it within a week of the incident. Also, consult an attorney or law enforcement agency representative who is familiar with laws and agency policies, since traffic enforcement procedures may vary from state to state.

27. If you receive a citation, you will be asked to sign it. This is not an admission of guilt. It only means that you received the citation. Any refusal to sign the citation could result in arrest or being asked to go to the station to post collateral and pay for the offense.

28. Don't be surprised if another patrol car appears. Since many law enforcement agencies use one-person patrol cars, this is done to assure the officer's safety.

29. Do not resist a pat down search. This will be done only if the officer has a reasonable suspicion that you may be carrying an illegal weapon.

30. Be flexible. There are many issues of safety and officer concerns that may be unique to your traffic stop. Cooperate with the officer and follow instructions.

31. Remember the golden rule: Treat the officer as you would like to be treated.

32. Treat law enforcement officers with respect. In fact, say hello to an officer the next time you see one in your community. Write the agency when an officer is exceptionally kind and helpful.

33. Teach your children to respect and speak to law enforcement officers when they meet them in the community. Help them understand that police officers serve and protect everyone in the community. **We must continue to pass on respect for professional law enforcement officers.**

C. Construction and Work Zone Safety Requirements

Each work zone presents a specific set of challenges to motorists, therefore, it is important to remain alert, slow down, and be prepared for the potential hazards, which may present themselves as you pass through the construction work zone. Construction signs are orange in color, diamond or rectangular in shape, and posted prior to, within, and after the work zones. Orange construction signs warn motorists of potential hazards ahead such as detours, lane closures, uneven pavement, flaggers, police officers, etc.

- Drive within the posted construction speed limits. Note: Fines are doubled for speeding tickets issued within these designated areas twenty-four (24) hours a day.
- Slow down and pay attention. Speed and inattention are two (2) of the most common causes of work zone crashes.
- Dedicate full attention to the roadway.
- Refrain from distracting activities such as taking on the cell phone, changing radio stations, and conversations with passengers.
- Pay close attention to merge signs and flaggers and do not change lanes within the work zone.
- Watch out for workers in the zone as well as their equipment.
- Be aware of potential night work zones.
- Expect the unexpected; work zones change hourly.
- Do not tailgate; most work zone crashes are rear-end collisions.
- Merge as soon as possible; motorists can help maintain traffic flow by moving to the appropriate lane at first notice.
- Stay calm. Roadwork is not your personal inconvenience; it is for the improvement of the roads for everyone.
- Flaggers or police officers use hand signals or signs to instruct motorists to slow down or stop, as required. Flaggers have the legal authority to control traffic.

Motorists should be aware of other warning devices used in the work zone such as cones, barrels, tubes, panels, barricades, flashing arrow boards, and temporary roadway markings.

D. Directions to CCRI

Warwick: **Knight Campus, 400 East Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886 – 825-1214**
I-95 North, take Exit 11 (I-295) to Exit 1 onto Route 113 West. Turn left at the first set of lights into the campus.
I-95 South, take Exit 12B. Bear left at fork to Route 113 West. Turn left at the first set of lights into the campus.

Lincoln: **Flanagan Campus, 1762 Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865 – 333-7070**
Traveling North or South on Route 146, take Exit to Route 123. Turn left onto Route 123/Breakneck Hill Road; continue to campus entrance.

Providence: **Liston Campus, 1 Hilton Street, Providence, RI 02905 – 455-6019**
I-95 North to Exit 18 (Thurbers Avenue). Bear left at the second light, take a right onto Eddy Street. Travel Eddy Street and turn left onto Willard Avenue. Take a left onto Staniford Street and the campus is on the right.
I-95 South to Exit 19 (Rhode Island Hospital). Take a left at the light on Eddy Street and continue to Willard Avenue. Take a right onto Willard Avenue, then a left onto Staniford Street and the campus is on the right.

Newport: **275 Broadway, Newport RI, 02840 – 851-1661**
From Newport Bridge: Remain on access road to traffic signal. Newport Grand will be directly across from the light. Turn right onto Admiral Kalbfus Road. Enter rotary and take first right onto Connell Highway, and continue to campus on right.
From the North: Route 114 South (West Main Road). Turn right onto Coddington Highway to campus on the left.

E. Driver Education Completion Certificates

Duplicate/Replacement Certificates

If you need a Rhode Island driver education certificate because you have lost the original or it has expired, please send a request by mail along with a $10 check or money order payable to CCRI. Please be sure to include the following information: name, address, telephone number, and information regarding when (approximate date) and where the driver education course was taken.

Certification for courses taken out of State of Rhode Island

If you have taken an out-of-state driver education course and you need Rhode Island certification, please mail the original certificate issued along with a request and a $10 check or money order payable to CCRI. The request must include the following: name, address, telephone number, official documentation that indicates the number of classroom training hours, proof of age, and information regarding when and where the driver education course was taken.

To receive Rhode Island certification, those who have taken out-of-state courses must have participated in a classroom experience of 33 hours minimum. Students with fewer than 33 contact hours are not eligible for a RI Certificate and must register for the RI Driver Education Program. Proof of age can be documented by submitting a copy of your birth certificate, passport, or baptismal record.

Please note: According to Rhode Island General Law, all out-of-state driver education programs must be recognized by the RI Board of Governors for Higher Education as equivalent to the CCRI program.

Please mail all requests to:

CCRI's Center for Workforce and Community Education
Attn: Driver Education Program
400 East Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886

F. Summary of DMV Transactions ("How To")

RENEWING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

- You can renew your driver's license in any one of the branch offices during regular business hours.
- Your license is valid for a maximum of five (5) years. If you are 68 years old or older, your license will only be valid for two (2) years.
- Renewal fees are $62.50 for five (5) years, and $24.50 for those seventy-one (71) and over. When you renew your license at the DMV, you will be issued a temporary license valid for sixty (60) days. Your actual license will be mailed to you.
- To renew your license, you need to appear in person at a DMV branch office or a AAA branch (if you are a current member). You should have your current license and renewal form. If you did not receive a renewal from in the mail, just bring your current license. You must also bring your Social Security card for verification purposes.
- To change or correct your address on your license at the time you are renewing, you need to bring proof of your new address.

CHANGING YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS

Address Change

The DMV requires license holders to keep their current address on file. To get a new photo license with your new address you need to appear in person at any DMV branch office during regular business hours with your current license and proof of residency (See Appendix G, Identification Requirements and Acceptable Documents).

If you do not want a new photo license, you may simply complete the Change of Address card (see 0, Sample DMV Forms, Change of Address Notice) and mail it to the DMV.

Name Change

To change your name on your Rhode Island license, you are required to change your name with the Social Security Administration first. Please allow at least twenty-four (24) hours for Social Security to make the change to their records before changing your name with the DMV. If the name change is not in the Social Security system, the DMV cannot process your name change on your license.

You must then appear in person at the DMV branch office during regular business hours, and bring the following documents:

- Your current Rhode Island license.
- One document showing your correct name, such as a marriage certificate or divorce decree. The DMV will also accept a notarized affidavit stating the change of name. This affidavit is available in any DMV branch and must be signed by you and notarized.
- Along with this affidavit, you must provide the DMV with two (2) documents evidencing the new name, such as a Social Security card, a voter registration card, or current US passport.

The fee to change any information on a license is $7.50.

LOST OR DAMAGED LICENSES

If you lose or misplace your valid Rhode Island License, the DMV will issue a new copy. You must show one identity document (legal name and date of birth) and one signature document from the acceptable documents list (See Appendix G, Identification Requirements and Acceptable Documents). The fee is $27.50.

G. Identification Requirements and Acceptable Documents

All applicants for a driver's license or identification card must provide one document from the "Identity" section, one document from the "Signature" section and one document from the "Residency" section. At least two (2) separate documents must be presented. No photocopies will be accepted as proof of identification.

Identity Documents (legal name and date of birth*)

- Valid U.S./U.S. Territory or Canadian Driver's License with photograph, signature, and date of birth (must not be expired for more than one year); or
- Birth certificate: must be original or certified copy, have a seal, and be issued by an authorized government agency such as the Bureau of Vital Statistics. Hospital-issued certificates are not acceptable; or
  Baptismal certificate: must be original or certified copy, be issued by a church in the U.S., have an issue date of within one (1) year of applicant's birth, and contain the date of birth
- U.S. or foreign passport (B1, B2, and expired passports are not acceptable); or
- U.S. Naturalization Certificate; or
- INS form I-94 (document showing entry into U.S.); or
- INS form I-688 (Temporary Resident Identification Card); or
- INS form I-766 (Employment Authorization Card); or
- U.S. Active Service, Retiree, or Reservist Military ID Card

* Government issued Marriage Certificate/License required to prove name change from primary identity document.

Signature Documents

- Valid U.S./U.S. Territory or Canadian Driver's License with photograph, signature, and date of birth (must not be expired for more than one year); or
- U.S. or foreign passport (B1, B2, and expired passports are not acceptable); or
- Social Security Card (not a copy); or
- Work or school ID; or
- U.S. Active Service, Retiree, or Reservist Military ID Card

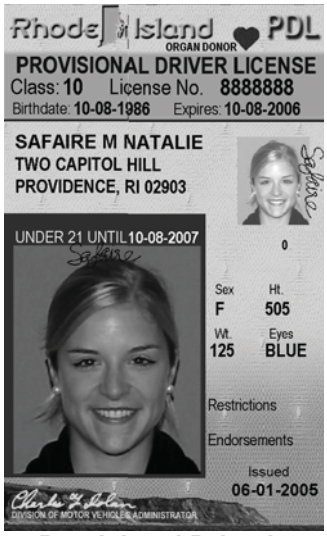
Proof of Residency Documents

- Valid Voter Registration Card. (or certified letter from Board of Canvassers)
- Utility bill (gas, electric, telephone, cable, oil) in your name or in the name of an immediate family member with the same last name (proof of relationship must be presented) ; or
- Personal check or bank statement with your name and address (no P.O. box) ; or
- Valid original lease agreement with your name and address (Landlord's name, address, and telephone number also must be provided)
- Payroll check stub with your name and address ; or
- Welfare check stub or food stamp card with your name and address
- Insurance policy for your home/apartment with your name and address ; or
- Property tax bill for your residence ; or
- If a minor, school records, which include the student's address and are for the current school year (or past year if during summer vacation). Acceptable records include a report card, diploma, transcript or ID card, together with and parent's license/ID with same address. will be accepted

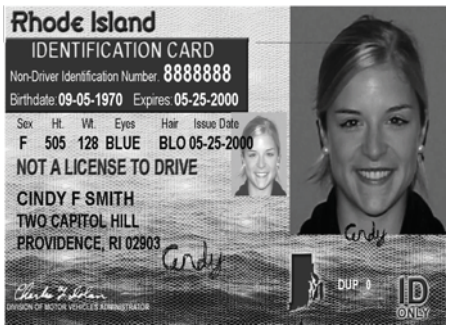
Social Security Number

The Division of Motor Vehicles is required by law to record Social Security Numbers for all applicants for a Driver's License. All new applicants must provide an official Social Security Card (laminated or metal cards are not acceptable). All social security numbers are verified electronically with the Social Security Administration. If you do not have a valid social security number, you must present a foreign passport and appropriate visa or documentation to validate the ineligibility for a social security number.

Driver's License



Provisional Driver's License



Identification Card

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DMV Locations and Hours

OFFICE ADDRESSES

Cranston (Main Office): 600 New London Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920

Middletown: 52 Valley Road, Middletown, RI 02842

Wakefield: Government Center, 4808 Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879

Warren: Government Center/Police Headquarters, 1 Joyce Street, Warren, RI 02885

Westerly: Westerly Town Hall, 45 Broad Street, Westerly, RI 02891

Woonsocket: 217 Pond Street, Woonsocket, RI 02865

For days and hours of operation for each office, please visit the DMV website
www.dmv.ri.gov

DMV Business Office Telephone Numbers

Main Information	(401) 462-4368
Accidents	(401) 462-5710
Automobile Dealers' License & Regulation	(401) 462-5731
Cashiers	(401) 462-5807
Directions to Offices	(401) 462-4368
Disability Parking	(401) 462-5840
Enforcement	(401) 462-5736
Financial Responsibility	(401) 462-5747
Overweight/Oversize Permits	(401) 462-5747
Plates	(401) 462-5801
Sales Tax (Motor Vehicles ONLY)	(401) 462-5765
School Bus Safety	(401) 462-5772
Tax Delinquent	(401) 462-5720
Titles	(401) 462-5774
Operator Control	
600 New London Avenue Cranston, RI 02920	(401) 462-0800
Safety & Emission Control	
325 Melrose Street, Providence	
Office	(401) 462-5890
Garage	(401) 462-5893
Road Tests	
325 Melrose Street, Providence	(401) 462-5750

For more information, forms and online services, please visit the DMV website
www.dmv.ri.gov

SIGNS

Warning Signs

Yield Sign Ahead

Traffic Signal Ahead

Stop Sign Ahead

No Passing Zone

Slow Moving Vehicle

Railroad Crossing Ahead

Railroad Crossing Here

Road Alignment (curve)

School Crossing

Detour

Entering Divided Highway

Leaving Divided Highway

Left Curve

Right Curve

Winding Road

Side Road (right)

Traffic Island

Intersection

Fire Station

Pedestrian Crossing

Object Markers (bridges)

Road Narrows (from right)

Added lane (from left)

Tractor Crossing

Deer Crossing

Bicycle Crossing

Ramp Speed Advisory

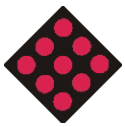
Intersection

Playground

Two-Way Traffic

Narrow Bridge

Hill


Road End Marker

Object Marker

Slippery When Wet

Construction Speed

Flagperson Ahead

Road Work

Construction

Dear New Motorist,

As Governor and the mother of two children, it is important to me that Rhode Islanders have every opportunity to become the best driver possible. Every time you get behind the wheel, safety must be your top priority. Driving is a privilege and it is important that you learn the rules of the road in order to make your driving experience as safe as possible.

Driving is fun and a great way to explore our beautiful state; it is also why it is important for you to limit your distractions every time you buckle up. Know there are consequences if you take your eyes off the road- no phone call or text message is worth endangering your life and the lives of those around you.

Please do your part by studying hard, always buckling up and never driving if you are feeling sleepy or are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Rhode Island is a beautiful state, so let's work together to keep our roads safe.

Thank you.

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