

## DDS GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DRIVER SERVICES







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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DRIVER SERVICES

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#### **GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE**



#### My Friends,

Since 2012, the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program has been one of several important measures passed by the General Assembly to address the tragic problems on our roads and highways caused by the use of alcohol and other drugs. Anyone under the age of 18 must complete and pass the alcohol and drug

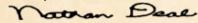


course before obtaining a license to drive. The Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act provides a tough, zero-tolerance standard for alcohol use by young drivers.

The Department of Driver Services and the Department of Education created this manual to make you more aware of the dangers and consequences of driving under the influence. The numbers are staggering. Each year, about one-third of the traffic deaths in Georgia involve a driver under the influence of alcohol or drugs or a combination of both. It is our hope that this manual will assist you in becoming more responsible on the road and increase your awareness of the risks of careless driving.

As a parent, please remember that you are a role model. Your new driver learns a lot by example, so please practice safe driving at all times. I also hope that you will take advantage of this valuable program. If we all help reinforce this important safety message throughout the community, countless injuries will be prevented and lives saved.

Sincerely,



Gov. Nathan Deal

#### DDS INTERNET SERVICES

Be certain to take advantage of DDS Internet Services and avoid an unnecessary trip to a Customer Service Center.

Teens under 18 years of age are first issued a "restricted" Class D license which imposes passenger and curfew restrictions. Upon reaching 18 years of age, these drivers are eligible to exchange the Class D "restricted" license for a Class C "unrestricted" license. DDS mails a postcard reminder to those eligible teens to notify them of the Internet service. After requesting a license upgrade online, the replacement license is mailed to the residence and arrives within 3 weeks.

DDS' Internet Services enable thousands of Georgia drivers to conduct many transactions via www.dds.ga.gov and eliminate a visit to a DDS Customer Service Center (CSC). This saves customers valuable time and money. DDS does not charge an additional fee for choosing Internet Services. A \$5.00 discount may apply for eligible license types that are renewed on the internet.

For more information visit the DDS website at:

www.dds.ga.gov and like DDS on Facebook!

This manual is produced by the Regulatory Compliance Division of Georgia Department of Driver Services.

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





### WILL MY DRIVING COST LIVES, OR SAVE THEM?

TEEN LAWS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Driving Ambition explains the new driving laws and looks at the results DUI, inexperienced and reckless driving have on society. Listen carefully to the message of families and individuals whose lives have been shattered by motor vehicle accidents. Make a commitment to be a safe and responsible driver.



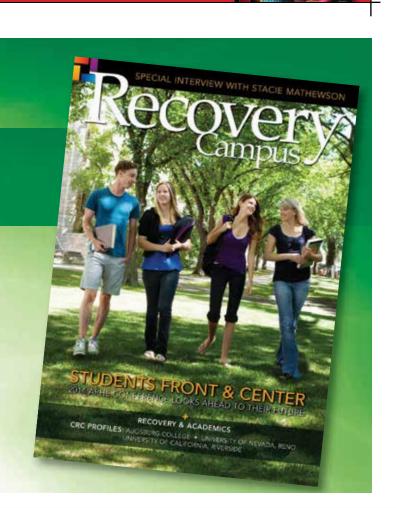




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#### **COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE**



#### **Dear Students,**

Congratulations on reaching this milestone in life. As you prepare to take control of the wheel, the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program will help prepare you to assume the responsibilities of driving and alert you to the dangers and penalties of not obeying the laws and safety rules. Please understand driving a car is a privilege that requires you to meet very important driver responsibilities.

As you are gaining experience behind the wheel, I encourage you to develop safe driving habits. A recent study by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) found that young drivers, between the ages of 15 and 20, account for 9.3 percent of the 6.6 million licensed drivers on Georgia's roads. Traffic crashes are the leading single cause of death in this age group.

Fatalities are six times more likely to happen in traffic crashes involving impaired driving than those not involving alcohol or drugs. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), more than 10,000 traffic crash fatalities resulted from alcohol related accidents. At the Department of Driver Services (DDS), we are committed to educating Georgia's teens about alcohol and drugs and their effects on a person's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Please join the efforts to make motor vehicle travel in Georgia safer by driving sober, always wearing your seat belt, obeying the posted speed limit, and refraining from texting while driving.

I look forward to seeing you on the road, and I hope that you enjoy a safe driving future.





#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MESSAGE**

#### **Board of Directors**

David W. Connell Chair

> Lynda Coker Vice-Chair

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Virginia Galloway - Member
Anthony Heath - Member
Carolyn Roddy - Member

Rachel Little - Member

The Department of Driver Services (DDS) Board of Directors would like to remind teens that driving in Georgia is a privilege that carries many responsibilities. Please strive to become a safe, sober, and dependable driver to ensure that this privilege will not be lost. This manual has two main purposes:

(1) to inform the young people of this state of the dangers involved in consuming alcohol or drugs in connection with the operation of a motor vehicle; and

(2) to emphasize the importance of highway safety and accident prevention.

Other manuals are available for commercial drivers, noncommercial drivers, motorcycle operators, and teens learning to drive.



#### **DDS MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide secure driver and identity credentials to our customers with excellence and respect.

#### **Our Core Values are to:**

- Empower one another to approach challenges with creativity and flexibility.
- Serve customers in a timely and professional manner.
- Deliver accurate and consistent information.
- Demonstrate integrity and foster trust.
- Champion roadway safety.
- Safeguard customer information.
- Support economic development.





## DDS QUSTOMER SERVICE CENTERS

This section contains the cities and addresses of all DDS Customer Service Centers (CSC's) in Georgia. So that we can provide a higher level of service to our customers visiting our CSC's in person, our CSC's do not accept telephone calls from the public. Our Customer Contact Center can answer any questions you have concerning Georgia driver's licenses. To reach our Customer Contact Center, please call (678) 413-8400.

City	Address	
Albany	2062 Newton Road	
Americus	1601 North Martin Luther King Blvd	
Athens	1505 US Highway 29 N	
Atlanta	400 Whitehall Street, SW *Coming Soon	
Atlanta	445 Capitol Avenue, SE	
Augusta	3423 Mike Padgett Highway	
Bainbridge	101 Airport Road	
Between	1010 Heritage Pkwy	
Blairsville	37 Chase Drive	
Blue Ridge	211 Industrial Blvd	
Brunswick	134 Jack Hartman Blvd	
Calhoun	402 Belwood Road	
Canton	220 Brown Industrial Pkwy, Suite 200	
Carrollton	512 Old Newnan Road, AMS House	
Cartersville	1304 Joe Frank Harris Pkwy	
Cedartown	1626 Rockmart Highway	
Columbus	8397 Macon Road, Midland, GA	
Conyers	2206 East View Parkway	
Cordele	409 South Midway Road	
Covington	8134 Geiger Street	
Cumming	400 Aquatic Circle	
Cuthbert	608B Blakely Street, South Side Plaza	
Dallas	114 Justice Center Dr	
Dalton	235 Wagner Road	
Decatur	2801 Candler Road, Suite 82	
Douglas	348 Thomas Frier Sr Drive	
Dublin	620 County Farm Road	
Elberton	45 Forest Avenue	
Evans	4408 Evans to Locks Road	
Fayetteville	278 McElroy Road	
Forest Park	5036 GA Highway 85	
Fort Benning	6691 Marchant Avenue, Bldg 217	
Gainesville	1010 Aviation Blvd.	
Greensboro	1180 C Weldon Smith Drive, Suite 108	

Citv	Address
Griffin	
Helena	1313 Arthur K. Bolton Pkwy 351 8th Street
Hinesville	2301 Airport Road
Jackson	149 Riverview Park Road
Kennesaw	3690 Old 41 Hwy NW
Kingsland	333 South Ashley Street 900 Dallis Street
LaGrange Lawrenceville	*** = *****
Lawrenceville	310 Hurricane Shoals Road, NE
2.1.101.1.0	8040 Rockbridge Road
Locust Grove Macon	619 Tanger Blvd
	200 Cherry Street, Terminal Station
Marietta	1605 County Services Pkwy
Milledgeville	200 Carl Vinson Road
Newnan	128 Bullsboro Drive
Norcross	2211 Beaver Ruin Road, Suite 100
Perry	450 Larry Walker Pkwy
Reidsville	3092 GA Highway 147
Rincon	2792 Highway 21 S
Rock Spring	156 Pin Oak Drive
Rome	3390 Martha Berry Highway, NE
Sandersville	115 Jones St., Suite 2
Sandy Springs	8610 Roswell Road, Suite 710
Savannah	1117 Eisenhower Drive
Statesboro	19051 Highway 301 N
Swainsboro	994 US Highway 1 N
Thomaston	281 Knight Trail
Thomasville	4788 US 84 Bypass W
Thomson	172 Bob Kirk Road
Tifton	3057 US Highway 41 S
Toccoa	62 Doyle Street
Trenton	75 Case Avenue
Valdosta	371 Gil Harbin Industrial Blvd
Warner Robins	198 Carl Vinson Pkwy
Waycross	3029 Memorial Drive



#### **Designers:** Jon Gulley, Evelyn Haddad, Dane Fay, and Chris Sobolowski

#### **About this Guide**

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the Georgia Department of Driver Services through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award-winning publishing house that specializes in producing state regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports GADDS's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. It also manages the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book

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## **TADRA**

TADRA is an acronym for Georgia's Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act, which is a comprehensive set of laws enacted in 1997 with the intent of reducing fatal motor vehicle crashes involving teenage drivers.

TADRA significantly changed the way teens in Georgia earn and maintain driving privileges, most notably through the introduction of a three-step Graduated Driver's Licensing process for newly licensed drivers 15 to 18 years of age. TADRA also contains important provisions specifically related to driving under the influence (DUI) prevention and enforcement and school enrollment requirements.

In a 2006 study conducted by Emory University, researchers found that in the 5½ years following the enactment of TADRA, the rate of fatal crashes in Georgia involving teenage drivers 16 years of age was 36.8% less than in the 5½ years immediately prior to its enactment. Moreover, researchers found that speed-related fatal crashes involving teenage drivers 16 years of age declined by nearly 50%, and alcohol-related crashes involving teenage drivers 16 years of age declined by 62%.

## Georgia's Graduated Driver's Licensing Process

#### **STEP ONE:**

#### Instructional Permit (Class CP)

A Georgia Instructional Permit (Class CP) is granted to persons at least 15 years of age upon passing a written knowledge exam.

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

#### **STEP TWO:**

#### **Provisional License (Class D)**

A Georgia Provisional License (Class D) is granted to persons 16 and 17 years of age that have held an Instructional Permit (Class CP) for 12 months and one day, have had no major traffic violations that resulted in the mandatory suspension of their permit, completed ADAP, and passed a behind-the-wheel skills test.

Since January 1, 2007, pursuant to Senate Bill 226 ("Joshua's Law"), in order to obtain a Provisional License (Class D) at age 16, teens must show proof of having successfully completed an approved driver training course consisting of at least 30 hours of theoretical instruction (classroom or virtual) and 6 hours of practical behind-the-wheel instruction (instructor or parent taught).

## Conditions of a Provisional License (Class D)

- A Class D license Holder may not drive between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. (effective July 1, 2014 pursuant to Senate Bill 392) NO EXCEPTIONS;
- During the first six months following issuance, only immediate family members
  may ride in the vehicle. 'Immediate family
  member' includes the driver's parents and
  step-parents, grandparents, siblings and stepsiblings, children, and any other person who
  resides at the driver's residence;
- During the second six months following issuance, only one passenger under 21 years of age who is not a member of the driver's immediate family may ride in the vehicle;
- After the first and second six-month periods, only three passengers under 21 years of age who are not members of the driver's immediate family may ride in the vehicle;
- A Class D license Holder must, for the 12 months preceding application for their class C license, be free from any convictions for major traffic violations that result in the mandatory suspension of a driver's license.

Section 3 of House Bill 269 (2011) amended O.C.G.A. §40-5-24(b)(2) by defining the term "immediate family member." Since January 1, 2012, the term "immediate family member" includes, "the license holder's parents and step-parents, grandparents, siblings and step-siblings, children, and any other person who resides at the license holder's residence."

#### **STEP THREE:**

#### The Class C License

Provisional License (Class D) holders may apply for a Class C Georgia driver's license upon reaching 18 years of age; provided, however, they have not been convicted of any of the following major traffic violations during the 12 months preceding application:

- Driving under the influence (DUI) (O.C.G.A. §40-6-391)
- Using a motor vehicle to flee or attempt to elude a police officer (O.C.G.A. §40-6-395)
- Racing on highways or streets (O.C.G.A. §40-6-186)
- Reckless driving (O.C.G.A. §40-6-390)
- Hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident (O.C.G.A. §40-6-270)
- Any violation that resulted in the assessment of 4 or more points against their driver's license.

#### **TADRA Suspensions (non-DUI)**

The State of Georgia applies strict penalties to teens who fail to obey the laws regarding the operation of a motor vehicle. The driver's license of any person under 21 years of age convicted of any of the following offenses shall be suspended for a period of 6 months for a first conviction, or for a period of 12 months for a second or subsequent suspension:

- Hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident (O.C.G.A. §40-6-270)
- Racing on highways or streets (O.C.G.A. §40-6-186)
- Using a motor vehicle to flee or attempt to elude a police officer (O.C.G.A. §40-6-395)
- Reckless driving (O.C.G.A. §40-6-390)
- Aggressive driving (O.C.G.A. §40-6-397)
- Underage possession of alcohol while operating a motor vehicle (O.C.G.A. §3-3-23(a)(2))
- Any other offense for which 4 or more points are assessed against the driver's license
- The accumulation of four or more points in any 12-month period while under 18 years of age

#### **TADRA Suspensions (DUI)**

In Georgia, persons under 21 years of age are presumed to be DUI, in violation of O.C.G.A. §40-6-391(k)(1), if they are operating a motor vehicle and their blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is .02 or greater.

#### **First Suspension**

- If your BAC was .02 or greater but less than .08, your license will be suspended for a minimum period of 6 months. However, if you have a previous conviction for an offense in the above list, your driver's license will be suspended for a minimum period of 12 months. You will not be eligible for any type of limited driving permit.
- If your BAC was .08 or greater or you refused implied consent testing, your license will be suspended for a minimum period of 12 months . You will not be eligible for any type of limited driving permit.

#### **Second Suspension**

Pursuant to House Bill 407 (2013), the driver's license of any person convicted of a second offense of driving under the influence, in violation of O.C.G.A. §40-6-391, within a 5-year period shall be suspended for a minimum of 18 months. During the first 120 days of the suspension, you will have no driving privileges whatsoever. Following the 120-day "hard suspension", you may

be eligible to have a certified and functioning ignition interlock device installed and maintained in any vehicle you intend to operate for a period of 12 months. During the final two months of suspension, you may be eligible for a limited permit without the interlock restriction.

#### **Third Suspension**

You will be declared a habitual violator and your driver's license will be revoked for a period of 5 years. You will also be subject to the 12-month ignition interlock requirement once you become eligible for reinstatement of your-driving privileges.

NOTE: A fourth violation of DUI within a 10-year period is considered a felony in Georgia and, upon conviction, may result in a fine of up to \$5,000 and 5 years imprisonment. See O.C.G.A. §40-6-391(c)(4).

## TADRA School Enrollment Requirements

#### O.C.G.A. §40-5-22(a.1)(2)

Anyone younger than 18 years of age must be enrolled in and not under expulsion from a public or private school to obtain a driver's license or instructional permit. A Georgia DDS Certificate of School Enrollment (DS-1) must be signed and notarized by the school. If you are under 18 and not enrolled in school, you must provide a high school diploma, GED, special diploma, certification of high school completion, or proof of enrollment in a GED program or a postsecondary school.

#### **Georgia's Implied Consent Law**

Georgia's Implied Consent law, O.C.G.A. §40-5-67.1, requires you to submit to state-administered chemical tests of your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances for the purpose of determining if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you refuse this testing, your Georgia driver's license or privilege to drive on the highways of this state will be suspended for a minimum period of 1 year for each refusal. In addition, there is no limited driving permit available for suspensions related to implied consent refusals.

Your refusal to submit to the required testing may be offered as evidence against you in a court of law. If you submit to testing and the test results indicate a blood alcohol concentration at or above the legal limit (.02 for persons under age 21), your Georgia driver's license or privilege to drive on the highways of this state may be suspended for a minimum period of 1 year.



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## KNOW?

#### FACT:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens, accounting for more than one in three deaths in this age group. Seven teens ages 16 to 19 died every day from motor vehicle injuries.

#### FACT:

In 2011, there were 159 roadway fatalities in Georgia among persons ages 15-20, representing approximately 9% of all roadway fatalities that year.

#### FACT:

Teens that do not complete an approved driver training course are not eligible to obtain a Provisional License (Class D) until 17 years of age.

#### FACT:

The State of Georgia applies strict penalties to teens who fail to obey the laws regarding the operation of a motor vehicle.





## **Traffic Laws and Safe Driving**

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

- Occupant Safety (O.C.G.A. §40-8-76): Georgia Law requires that each occupant in a front seat be restrained by a seat belt.
- Total Cell Phone Ban for Teens (O.C.G.A. §40-6-241.1): Georgia law prohibits anyone under the age of 18 who holds a learner's permit or Class D license from talking or texting on any wireless device while driving.
- Adult Texting Ban (O.C.G.A. §40-6-241.2): Georgia law prohibits anyone age 18 or over who holds a class C license from reading, writing, or sending a text message while driving.

#### **Traffic Laws**

#### **Safety Belts**

O.C.G.A. §40-8-76.1 requires that each occupant of the front seat of a passenger vehicle, while such passenger vehicle is being operated on a public road, street, or highway of this state, be restrained by a seat safety belt approved under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208. In Georgia, the term "passenger vehicle" means every motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, pickup trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles designed to carry 10 passengers or fewer and used for the transportation of persons.

Safety belts have proven to be the most effective occupant protection in all types of vehicle crashes. Using safety belts correctly is a health care habit that, in the event of a crash:

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

Moreover, when used correctly, safety belts are effective at helping reduce the risk of death or serious injury.

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

Every driver transporting a child under 8 years of age, with the exception of a taxicab or public transit vehicle, must properly restrain the child in a child passenger restraining system appropriate for the child's height and weight. The restraint system must comply with the United States Department of Transportation Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213.

NOTE: Senate Bill 88 (2011) amended O.C.G.A. §40-8-76 with regards to the age requirements for use of child restraint systems. Since July 1, 2011, children under 8 years of age must be properly secured in an approved car seat or booster seat while riding in passenger automobiles, vans, and pickup trucks. The car seat or booster seat must be in the rear seat, be appropriate for the child's weight and height, meet all U.S. Federal standards, and be installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Taxicabs and public transit vehicles are exempt from this new law.

#### Safe Driving

#### **Steering**

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

#### **Driving after sunset**

Driving after sunset presents a unique set of challenges, the most obvious being glare and reduced visibility. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), the fatal crash rate of teenage drivers 16-19 years of age is about four times as high at night. Vision can be severely limited at night. The vehicle's narrow headlight beams limit the driver's view.

Young drivers in particular may find it difficult to determine the size, speed, color, and distance of objects. Be sure to look at the outer fringes of head-light beams to get the best picture of possible dangers ahead and to the sides of the vehicle. Avoid using a light inside the car, as this, too, will greatly reduce your night vision. And, always remember that you can reduce the potential of accidents by slowing down and increasing following distance.

#### Speed

Speeding is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic crashes. It reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway, extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle, and increases the distance a vehicle travels while a driver reacts to a dangerous situation. Higher crash speeds also reduce the ability of the vehicle restraint system and roadway hardware such as guardrails, barriers, and impact attenuators to protect vehicle occupants.

In 2013, approximately 29% of all fatal crashes were speed-related, resulting in 9,613 fatalities. The economic cost to society of speed-related crashes is estimated by NHTSA to be \$59 billion per year.<sup>2</sup>

Always know your speed and the speed limit. Be mindful that hazards such as bad weather or dangerous road conditions may require a reduction in speed.

#### **Space Management**

Rear-end collisions are often caused by following another vehicle too closely. When following another vehicle, there must be enough distance for you to safely stop if the vehicle in front of you suddenly slows down or stops. One way to determine if there is enough distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you is to measure the amount of time between when the vehicle in front of you passes a reference point and when your vehicle passes the same reference point. Watch the car ahead of you. When it passes a reference point, such as a telephone pole or street sign, count "onethousand one, one-thousand two, one-thousand three." If you pass the same spot before you are through counting, you are following too closely. Maintaining at least a 3-second space margin between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you not only provides you with visibility, time, and space to help avoid a rear-end crash, but also allows you time to steer or brake out of danger at moderate speeds. In addition, remember that while driving at night, during inclement

<sup>1.</sup> Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). Beginning Teenage Drivers. 2014.

<sup>2.</sup> Quick Facts 2014: Speeding, (December 2014). DOT HS 812 100. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

<sup>3.</sup> Facts and Statistics. (July 2015). Distraction.gov. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

weather, or when hazardous road conditions are present, the distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you should be even greater. When stopping behind another vehicle, stop in a position that allows you to see the back tires of the car in front you.

#### **Tire Pressure**

Prior to entering vehicle check tire pressure using recommended psi located in the door jam of the vehicle. Use a tire pressure gauge to check your psi. If your psi is above the number listed on your door jam, let air out until it matches. If below, add air (or have a retailer help you) until it reaches the proper number.

You may also measure tread depth using the penny test. Once every month, or before you embark upon a long road trip, check your tires for wear and damage problems. One easy way to check for wear is by using the penny test.

- 1. Take a penny and hold Abraham Lincoln's body between your thumb and forefinger.
- 2. Select a point on your tire where the tread appears the lowest and place Lincoln's head into one of the grooves.
- 3. If any part of Lincoln's head is covered by the tread, you're driving with the legal and safe amount of tread. If your tread gets below that (approximately 2/32 of an inch), your car's ability to grip the road in adverse conditions is greatly reduced

## Texting and Cell Phone Use While Driving

#### **Distracted driving**

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 3,154 people were killed on U.S. roadways and an estimated 424,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes because of distracted driving.3 Drivers under 20 years of age represented the greatest proportion of distracted drivers. An estimated 10% of all drivers younger than 20 years of age involved in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving.3 Common distractions include talking on a cell phone, texting, or adjusting the stereo system. However, the presence of passengers can also increase crash risk. Limit distractions by pulling off the road to perform activities not related to the driving task.

#### **Texting and Driving**

Any driver under age 18 who holds a Class D license or a learner's permit is prohibited from using any wireless device while driving. This includes cell phones, computers, and all texting devices. Exceptions are provided for emergen-

cies and for drivers who are fully parked. The fine for a conviction is \$150, or \$300 if involved in an accident while using a wireless device.

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

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

#### **Take the Pledge**

Teens can commit to distraction-free driving by taking the pledge to:

- Protect lives by never texting or talking on the phone while driving.
- Be a good passenger and speak out if the driver is distracted.
- Encourage friends and family to drive distraction-free.

The NHTSA pledge form is available on www.distraction.gov. The Parent/Teen Driving Agreement available in this manual can also be used to take a pledge against distracted driving.



Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view the video online.

# KNOW?

#### FACT:

Georgia has a "primary" safety belt law, meaning that law enforcement officers may stop and cite violators without observing another violation.

#### FACT:

The fatal crash rate of teenage drivers 16-19 years of age is about four times as high at night.

#### FACT:

Two or more peer passengers more than triples the risk of a fatal crash with a teen at the wheel.

#### FACT:

In 2011, there were 220 speed-related traffic fatalities in Georgia.

#### FACT:

Maintaining at least a 3-second space margin between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you not only provides you with visibility, time, and space to help avoid rear-end crashes, but also allows you to steer or brake out of danger at moderate speeds.





## **Alcohol and Drug Awareness**

#### **Alcohol**

According to the CDC, alcohol is one of the most widely used drugs in the world. It is used by young people in the United States more often than tobacco or illicit drugs. Excessive alcohol consumption is associated with approximately 88,000 deaths per year and is a contributing factor in approximately 31% of all deaths from motor vehicle crashes. In 2011, there were 277 alcohol-related crash fatalities in Georgia, representing approximately 23% of all roadway fatalities for that year. 5

Among youth, the use of alcohol and other drugs has been linked to unintentional injuries, physical fights, academic and occupational problems, and illegal behavior. Long-term alcohol misuse is associated with liver disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and neurological damage, as well as psychiatric problems such as depression, anxiety, and antisocial personality disorder.

Since 1988, all states, including Georgia, prohibit the purchase of alcohol by youth under 21 years of age. Consequently, underage drinking is defined as consuming alcohol prior to the minimum legal drinking age of 21 years. Alcohol use among high school students decreased from 39% in 2011 to 35% in 2013. In 2013, 21% of high school students reported episodic heavy or binge drinking.<sup>6</sup>

Zero tolerance laws in all states make it illegal for youth under age 21 years of age to drive with a BAC of .02 or greater. In 2013, 10% of high school students reported driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days when they had been drinking alcohol. In addition, 22% of students reported riding in a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol.<sup>6</sup>

#### Marijuana

According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), adolescent marijuana use is on the rise again as it is presently the most abused illicit substance among youth. New medical marijuana laws and the legalization of marijuana in some States are considered major contributory factors to the increase of marijuana use in the US. Research data provided by the CDC shows the current use among high school students increased from 21% in 2009 to 23% in 2013.6 Reports project that about 46% of teens will have tried marijuana by the time they graduate high school.7 Contrary to popular belief, marijuana can be addictive. As many as 1 in 6 teens who smoke marijuana develop an addiction. It also leads to the use of other drugs.

#### **EFFECTS OF BAC**

The following chart contains some of the typical physiological effects people exhibit at various BAC levels and their predictable effects on driving ability:

exhibit at various BAO levels and their predictable effects of driving ability.				
Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)	Typical Physiological Effects	Predictable Effects on Driving Ability		
.02%	<ul><li>Some loss of judgment</li><li>Relaxation</li><li>Slight body warmth</li><li>Altered mood</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Decline in visual function</li> <li>Decline in ability to perform two tasks simultaneously</li> </ul>		
.05%	<ul> <li>Exaggerated behavior</li> <li>Loss of small-muscle control</li> <li>Impaired judgment</li> <li>Usually good feeling</li> <li>Lowered alertness</li> <li>Release of inhibition</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reduced coordination</li> <li>Reduced ability to track moving objects</li> <li>Difficulty steering</li> <li>Reduced response to emergency driving situations</li> </ul>		
.08%	<ul> <li>Muscle coordination becomes poor (e.g., balance, speech, vision, reaction time, and hearing)</li> <li>Harder to detect danger</li> <li>Judgment, self-control, reasoning, and memory are impaired</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reduced ability to concentrate</li> <li>Short-term memory loss</li> <li>Reduced ability to process information (e.g., signal detection, visual search)</li> <li>Impaired perception</li> </ul>		

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the American Medical Association, the National Commission Against Drunk Driving, webMD

The physiological effects of marijuana are similar to those associated with alcohol. It impairs judgment and distorts perception which can weaken a person's performance in school and/or at work. Driving under the influence of marijuana increases the risk of a traffic crash and the probability a fatality will result. Marijuana smoke deposits four times more tar in the lungs and contains up to 70% more cancer-causing substances than does tobacco smoke. It irritates the lungs which can cause the same breathing problems experienced by tobacco smokers (i.e. daily cough and phlegm production, frequent chest illnesses, lung infections, etc.) and raises the heart rate increasing the chance of a heart attack. In addition, marijuana can limit the body's ability to fight off infection. Per NIDA, there is scientific evidence proving marijuana use can lead to a drop in IQ and negatively impact one's functionality and well-being.

#### Cocaine

Among high school students, cocaine use increased from 5% in 1993 to 9% in 2003 and then decreased from 2003 (9%) to 2013 (6%). Cocaine is a highly addictive substance that causes hallucinations, paranoia, aggression, insomnia, de-

pression, and in some instances seizures, heart attack, respiratory failure, and even death.

#### **Ecstasy**

According to the CDC, use of ecstasy among high school students decreased from 8% in 2011 to 7% in 2013.6 Ecstasy can interfere with the body's ability to regulate its temperature, which can cause dangerous overheating (hyperthermia.) This, in turn, can lead to serious heart, kidney, or liver problems, and even death.

#### **Hallucinogens**

Hallucinogens change the way the brain interprets time, reality, and its environment. This may result in the user hearing voices, seeing images, and feeling things that do not exist. The use of hallucinogens leads to increased heart rate and blood pressure and can also cause heart and lung failure. Hallucinogens may change the way the user feels emotionally. They may cause the user to feel confused, suspicious, and disoriented. Hallucinogenic drug use among high school students increased from 8% in 2007 to 9% in 2011 and then decreased from 2011 (9%) to 2013 (7%).6

<sup>4.</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2013. Surveillance Summaries, June 13, 2014. MMWR 2014;63 (No. SS-4).

<sup>5.</sup> Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Georgia Crash Analysis and Statistics Information, 2011.

<sup>6.</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2013. Surveillance Summaries, June 13, 2014. MMWR 2014;63 (No. SS-4)).

<sup>7. &</sup>quot;Marijuana: Facts Parents Need to Know." A Letter to Parents. National Institute on Drug Abuse, Mar. 2014. Web. 15 June 2015.

#### Heroin

Heroin enters the brain very quickly, making it highly addictive. It slows the thought process, reaction time, and memory, thereby affecting the way the user acts and makes decisions. Heroin abuse is associated with serious health conditions. Chronic users may develop collapsed veins, infection of the heart lining and valves, abscesses, and liver or kidney disease. Pulmonary complications, including various types of pneumonia, may result from the poor health of the user as well as from heroin's depressing effects on respiration. In addition to the effects of the drug itself, street heroin often contains toxic contaminants or additives that can clog blood vessels leading to the lungs, liver, kidneys, or brain, causing permanent damage to vital organs. Heroin use among high school students was steady at 2% from 2005 to 2009 and then increased to 3% in 2011. According to the CDC, it decreased back to 2% in 2013.8

#### Inhalants

Inhalants are substances or fumes from products such as glue or paint thinner that are sniffed or "huffed", to cause an immediate high. Because it affects the brain with much greater speed and force than many other substances, the fumes can cause irreversible physical and mental damage before the user knows what has happened. Inhalants starve the body of oxygen and force the heart to beat irregularly and more rapidly. Users of inhalants can experience nausea and nosebleeds; develop liver, lung, and kidney problems; and lose their sense of hearing or smell. Chronic users can experience muscle wasting and reduced muscle tone and strength. Use of inhalants among high school students increased from 12% in 2003 to 13% in 2007 and then decreased from 2007 (12%) to 2013 (9%).8

#### **Methamphetamines**

Methamphetamines increase the body's regulatory functions, including heart rate, breathing, and blood pressure. Users experience dry mouth, increased sweating, dilated pupils, headaches, disorientation, severe depression, paranoia, fatigue, and, in some cases, hallucinations. Increased heart rate and blood pressure enhance the possibility of a stroke. Use of methamphetamines among high school students was steady at 4% from 2007 to 2011 and then decreased to 3% in 2013.8

#### Prescription and over-thecounter (OTC) drugs

While illicit drug use has declined among high school students, rates of non-medical use of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs remain high. Prescription medications most

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ALCOHOL AND ITS EFFECTS

**Question:** What is a standard drink in the United States?

**Answer:** A standard drink is equal to 13.7 grams (0.6 ounces) of pure alcohol. Generally, this amount of pure alcohol is found in

- 12-ounces of beer.
- 8-ounces of malt liquor.
- 5-ounces of wine.
- 1.5-ounces, or a "shot", of 80-proof distilled spirits or liquor (e.g., gin, rum, vodka, or whiskey).

**Question:** What about other medications or drugs?

**Answer:** Medications or drugs will not change your BAC. However, if you drink alcohol while taking certain medications, you may become more impaired, which can affect your ability to perform driving-related tasks.

**Question:** What is considered heavy drinking?

**Answer:** For men, heavy drinking is typically defined as consuming an average of more than 2 drinks per day. For women, heavy drinking is typically defined as consuming an average of more than 1 drink per day.

**Question:** How do I know if I have a drinking problem?

Answer: Drinking is a problem if it causes trouble in your relationships, in school, in social activities, or in how you think and feel. If you are concerned that either you or someone in your family might have a drinking problem, consult your personal health care provider.

**Question:** Is it safe to drink alcohol and drive?

**Answer:** No. Alcohol use slows reaction time and impairs judgment and coordination, which are all skills needed to drive a car safely. The more alcohol consumed, the greater the impairment.

**Question:** Why do some people react differently to alcohol than others?

**Answer:** Individual reactions to alcohol vary, and are influenced by many factors; such as:

- Age.
- · Gender.
- Amount of food consumed before drinking.
- How quickly the alcohol was consumed.
- Use of drugs or prescription medicines.
- Family history of alcohol problems.

commonly abused by youth include pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and depressants. In 2013, 18% of high school students reported taking a prescription drug, such as Oxycontin, Percocet, Vicodin, Codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax without a doctor's prescription. Prescription and OTC medications are widely available, free or inexpensive, and falsely believed to be safer than illicit drugs. Misuse of prescription and OTC medications can cause serious health effects, addiction, and death.

#### **Designer and Synthetic Drugs**

Within the past couple of years, the State of Georgia has enacted strict laws targeting the sale and possession of designer and synthetic drugs, which have the same physiological effects on the body as other controlled substances. House Bills 199 and 1309 (2010) outlaw the sale and possession of "bath salts" and K2, a substance more commonly referred to as "synthetic marijuana," and marketed as incense. Senate Bill 370 (2012) bans all forms of synthetic marijuana in the State of Georgia.

#### **Drugs and Driving Privileges**

In Georgia, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §40-5-75, the driver's license of any person convicted of driving or being in actual physical control of any moving vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance or marijuana shall be suspended by operation of law.

#### **First Suspension**

Your driver's license or driving privileges will be suspended for a period of 180 days. You will not be eligible for any type of limited driving permit.

#### **Second Suspension**

Your driver's license or driving privileges will be suspended for a minimum period of 3 years. Pursuant to House Bill 349 (2013), you may apply for reinstatement of your driver's license by submitting proof of completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program after 1 year from the conviction date.







## **Summary and Discussion**

O.C.G.A. §40-5-22(a) requires that any person under 18 years of age complete the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP) in order to obtain a Georgia driver's license.

#### Chapter 1: Teenage and Adult Driver Resposibility Act (TADRA)

- TADRA is an acronym for Georgia's Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens, accounting for more than one in three deaths in this age group. Seven teens ages 16 to 19 died every day from motor vehicle injuries.
- Since January 1, 2007, pursuant to SB 226
   ("Joshua's Law"), in order to obtain a Provisional License (Class D) at 16 years of age, proof is required of having completed an approved driver training course consisting of at least 30 hours of theoretical instruction (classroom or virtual) and 6 hours of practical behind-the-wheel instruction (instructor or parent taught).
- During the first 6 months following issuance of a Provisional License (Class D), only immediate family members may ride in the vehicle.
- The term "immediate family member" includes, "the license holder's parents and step-parents, grandparents, siblings and step-siblings, children, and any other person who resides at the license holder's residence."
- In Georgia, persons under 21 years of age are presumed to be DUI, in violation of O.C.G.A. 40-6-391(k)(1), if they are operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .02 or greater.
- Refusal to submit to state-administered chemical tests of your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances for the purpose of determining if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs will result in the suspension of your Georgia driver's license or privilege to drive on the highways of this state for a minimum period of 1 year for each refusal.

#### Chapter 2: Traffic Laws and Safe Driving

- Safety belts have proven to be the most effective occupant protection in all types of vehicle crashes.
- O.C.G.A. §40-8-76.1 requires that each occupant of the front seat of a passenger vehicle, while such passenger vehicle is being operated on a public road, street, or highway of this state, be restrained by a seat safety belt.
- In Georgia, the term "passenger vehicle" means every motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, pickup trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles designed to carry 10 passengers or fewer and used for the transportation of persons.
- The fatal crash rate of teenage drivers 16-19 years of age is about four times as high at night.

- Two or more peer passengers more than triples the risk of a fatal crash with a teen behind the wheel.
- Maintaining at least a 3-second space margin between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you not only provides you with visibility, time, and space to help avoid rear-end crashes, but also allows you to steer or brake out of danger at moderate speeds.
- Total Cell Phone Ban for Teens (O.C.G.A. §40-6-241.1): Georgia law prohibits anyone under the age of 18 who holds a learner's permit or Class D license from talking or texting on any wireless device while driving.
- Adult Texting Ban (O.C.G.A. §40-6-241.2): Georgia law prohibits anyone age 18 or over who holds a class C license from reading, writing, or sending a text message while driving.

#### **Chapter 3:** Alcohol and Drug Awareness

- Alcohol is one of the most widely used drugs in the world. It is used by young people in the United States more often than tobacco or illicit drugs.
- The minimum legal drinking age in Georgia is 21.
- According to the CDC, marijuana use among high school students increased from 21% in 2009 to 23% in 2013. Marijuana continues to be the most commonly used illicit drug among youth in the United States.
- House Bills 199 and 1309 (2010) outlaw the sale and possession of "bath salts" and K2, a substance more commonly referred to as "synthetic marijuana," and marketed as incense. Senate Bill 370 (2012) bans all forms of synthetic marijuana in the State of Georgia.
- In Georgia, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §40-5-75, the driver's license of any person convicted of driving or being in actual physical control of any moving vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance or marijuana shall be suspended by operation of law.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS)

http://www.gahighwaysafety.org/

Department of Driver Services (DDS) http://www.dds.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Education http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) http://www.nhtsa.gov/

The Council on Alcohol and Drugs www.livedrugfree.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)

http://www.iihs.org/

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

http://www.nida.nih.gov/nidahome.html

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

http://www.samhsa.gov/



#### GRADUATED DRIVING LICENSE PROCESS

### There are three steps in the Graduated Driving Process



Step Two: CLASS The Provisional License

**Step Three:** CLASS The Class C License





### ALCOHOL AND DRUG AWARENESS

## **General Signs and Symptoms of Drug Use**

- Dropping grades
- Borrowing or stealing money
- or mouthwash
- Unusual mood swings





## 

l,	, will drive carefully and cautiously and will be
courteous to other drivers, bicyclists, motorcyclists,	and pedestrians at all times.
<ul> <li>I will always wear a seat belt and make all my passengers buckle up as well.</li> <li>I will obey all traffic lights, stop signs, other street signs, and road markings.</li> <li>I promise that I will make sure that I stay focused on driv</li> </ul>	I will obey the speed limit and drive safely.  I will never use the car to race or to try to impress others.  ing.
<ul> <li>I will drive with both hands on the wheel.</li> <li>I will never eat, drink, or use a cell phone to talk or send or receive text messages while driving.</li> <li>I will drive only when I am alert and in control of my emotions.</li> <li>I promise that I will respect laws about the use of drugs and the control of my emotions.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>I will call my parents for a ride home if I am impaired in any way tha interferes with my ability to drive safely.</li> <li>I will never use earphones to listen to a mp3 player or other electronic devices while I drive.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>I will drive only when I am alcohol and drug free.</li> <li>I will never allow any alcohol or illegal drugs in the car.</li> </ul> I promise that I will be a responsible driver.	I will be a passenger only with drivers who are alcohol and drug free
guardians will impose the penalties indicated below,	<ul> <li>During the period I hold my Provisional License (Class D), I will not drive between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m. under any circumstance.</li> <li>During the first 6 months after obtaining my Provisional License (Class D), I will only allow immediate family members to ride as passengers in the vehicle I am driving.</li> <li>During the second 6 months after obtaining my Provisional License (Class D), I will only allow 1 unrelated passenger under 21 years of age to ride in the vehicle I am driving.</li> <li>Following the first and second 6-month periods after obtaining my Provisional License (Class D), I will only allow a maximum of 3 unrelated passengers under 21 years of age to ride in the vehicle I am driving.</li> <li>ed in this agreement. I understand that my parents or including removal of my driving privileges, if I violate II allow me greater driving privileges as I become more as afe and responsible driver.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>No driving for months if I drive after using alcohol or drugs.</li> <li>No driving for months if I receive a traffic ticket for any moving traffic violation.</li> <li>No driving for months if I violate the nighttime driving restrictions associated with my Provisional License (Class D).</li> <li>Signatures</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No driving for months if I violate the passenger restrictions associated with my Provisional License (Class D).</li> <li>No driving for months if I fail to adhere to requirements set forth by Georgia law related to the use of safety belts.</li> </ul>
Driver:	
Parent (or guardian):	
Parent (or guardian):	Date:

#### **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE**



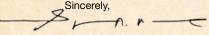
#### Dear Teens,

At this time in life, most of you see the ability to drive as an important goal or achievement. In learning what to do to become good drivers, it is necessary to also learn what to avoid. Impaired driving is a contributing but preventable factor in many traffic crashes. It is our goal to emphasize the importance of crash prevention and encourage you to become a safe, sober, and dependable driver.

DDS has prepared Alcohol Drug Awareness Program (ADAP) Student Manual to provide the tools you will need to be a safe driver. Georgia requires all teens under the age of 18 to complete the ADAP course in order to obtain a Class D license. I trust that you have read the manual carefully, taken the distraction-free driving pledge, and signed the Parent/Teen Driving Agreement. We've added a few new videos that will raise awareness of the importance of safe driving.

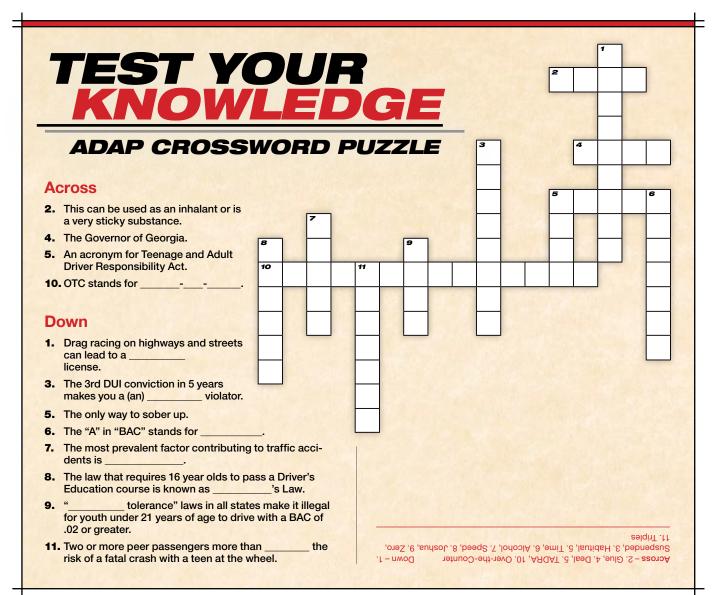
If you have specific questions about information included in the ADAP Student Manual, please visit the DDS website at www.dds.ga.gov, or visit and submit your questions via the "Ask Teen Driver" email.

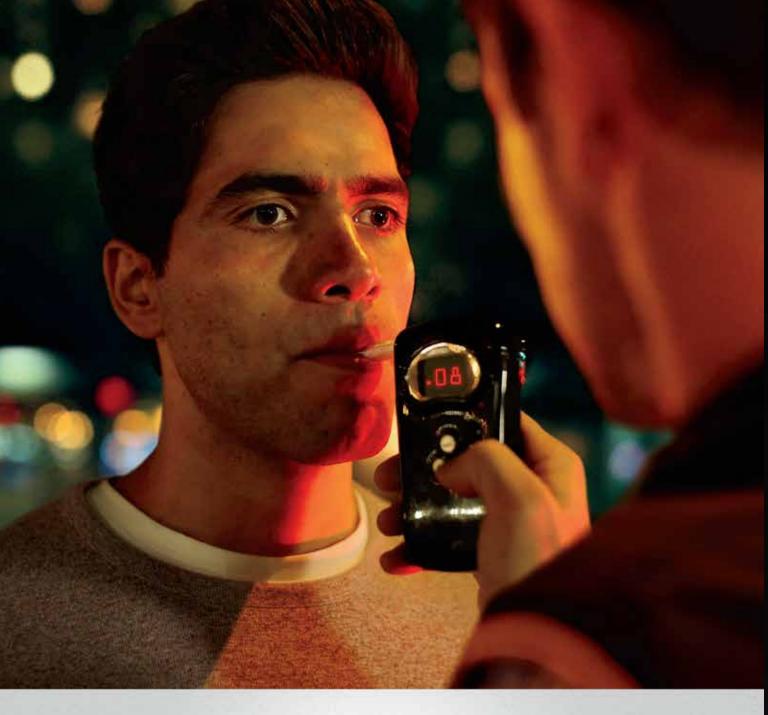
Safe driving!



Spencer R. Moore
Deputy Commissioner







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# HAZARD LIGHTS







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