

# MINNESOTA DRIVER'S MANUAL



**Minnesota Department of Public Safety**  
**Driver and Vehicle Services Division**  
[drive.mn.gov](http://drive.mn.gov)

## **New Laws and Information**

### **No Show Fee**

Effective November 1, 2021, customers who do not show up for their scheduled road or skills test, or do not cancel their road or skills test within 24 hours of their appointment, will be assessed a \$20 no show fee.

### **Homebound ID**

Provides a photo variance for standard identification cards if a person is homebound. Individuals granted the variance will not have to appear in person to have a new photo taken. View the form on our [website](#).

### **Homeless Youth ID (Effective January 1, 2022)**

Provides a variance process for a standard identification card for homeless youth. Allows qualifying homeless youth to obtain a standard identification card for free.

### **DWI Knowledge Test**

The DWI knowledge test is no longer a requirement for license reinstatement if an individual has an alcohol offense.

### **Exam Office Locations**

To find an exam station near you, please check the office locations link on the DVS website at [drive.mn.gov](http://drive.mn.gov).



**HANDS-FREE**  
**MINNESOTA LAW**  
HandsFreeMN.org

Since August 1, 2019, drivers are no longer able to hold their cell phones in their hands. They are able to use their phones to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts and get directions, but only by voice commands or single touch activation without holding the phone.

Keep in mind, hands-free is not necessarily distraction-free. We want Minnesotans to stay safe and stay alive.

Visit the [HandsFreeMN](https://www.HandsFreeMN.org) website for more information.

## Completing the Pre-Application Makes Office Visits Quicker

The [pre-application](#) in the new driver's license system will allow you to enter a significant portion of your driver's license, instruction permit or identification card application online reducing the time spent at the counter when completing the application transaction.

The new feature, also available on mobile devices, includes the list of required documents for each license type so you can have all the necessary documents ready when you visit a driver's license office. Please be sure to bring your confirmation page and the documents listed on the confirmation letter.

All customers are encouraged to complete the [pre-application](#) prior to taking a knowledge test or prior to visiting a driver's license office to apply for a first time, duplicate or renewal of a Minnesota driver's license or identification card. Starting your application online using this pre-application feature, no more than 30 days before visiting the driver's license office, reduces the need to complete a paper application.

## **A Message from the Commissioner of Public Safety**

Dear Fellow Minnesotan,

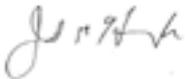
Whether you're an experienced driver who has been behind the wheel for decades or a teenager just getting the rules of the road for the first time, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services Division (DPS-DVS) is committed to ensuring that all persons with a driver's license are well informed about the laws and practices that lead to safe driving.

There are more than 4 million licensed drivers in Minnesota and our goal is for all of them, as well as the pedestrians, cyclists and scooter riders who we share the road with, to be able to navigate our state's streets and highways safely.

As Minnesotans renew or apply for a new driver's license this year they have new options with a federally compliant REAL ID or Enhanced Driver's License (EDL). A Minnesota REAL ID card or other federally compliant approved identification will be required to board all domestic flights beginning May 3, 2023. Our DVS website explains the benefits and requirements for both REAL ID and EDL including a list of the documents required to apply. We hope you will access these lists and that it will help you when you come to one of our offices to make application.

Remember that driving is a privilege and a responsibility. Please remember that hands-free driving is safe driving. Please buckle up, obey the speed laws, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Respect for traffic laws and respect for other drivers is what keeps us all safe on the road.

Sincerely,



John M. Harrington  
Commissioner of Public Safety

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*About This Manual:*

*This manual concerns Minnesota laws and requirements. For complete standards, consult Minnesota state statutes and rules. This document is not a proper legal authority to cite in court.*



*State of Minnesota Department of Public Safety.  
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*This information can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities. For assistance, call: 651-297-3298 or (TTY) 651-282-6555*

*Roundabout road illustrations provided by Local Road Research Board*

## Knowledge Test Checklist

**Do you have all the information you need for your knowledge test? Here is a checklist to help you prepare for your visit:**

- I have made a Class D knowledge test appointment.
- I have completed the online pre-application at [drive.mn.gov](https://drive.mn.gov), no more than 30 days before my appointment.
- I have the required identification (see pages 3-5).
- I know my Social Security Number.
- I have money with me (check, money order, or cash) to pay the instruction permit fee and the retesting fee, if applicable. Credit and debit cards are not accepted. There is a \$10 test fee for third or subsequent knowledge tests after failing the first two.

**If under 18 years of age:**

- I am at least 15 years old.
- I have my certificate of enrollment (“Blue Card”) proving that I completed classroom instruction and am signed up for behind-the-wheel instruction; OR I have my certificate of enrollment (“Pink Card”) proving that I am enrolled in a concurrent driver education course and have completed the first 15 classroom hours of the curriculum.
- My parent, court appointed guardian, county appointed foster parent or the director of the transitional living program I am residing in will sign and approve my application.
- If completed, I have the Supplemental Parental Curriculum completion certificate.

## Road Test Checklist

**Do you have all the information you need for your road test? Here is a checklist to help you prepare for your visit:**

- I have made a road test appointment.
- I have completed the online pre-application at [drive.mn.gov](https://drive.mn.gov), no more than 30 days before my appointment.
- I have my valid instruction permit to give to the examiner.
- I will provide a vehicle that is in safe working condition in which to take the test.
  - Doors must open from the inside and outside.

- Seat belts must work properly.
- Headlights, taillights, brake lights and turn signals must be in working order.
- Vehicle registration (license plates and stickers) must be current or the vehicle must display a 21-day permit.

- I have current proof of insurance for the vehicle I will use for the test. Acceptable proof of insurance includes: Original insurance card issued by company; Policy declaration page; E-Insurance printed from insurance company website or presented on an electronic device.
- I have money with me (check, money order, or cash) to pay the driver's license fee and the retesting fee, if applicable. Credit and debit cards are not accepted. There is a \$20 test fee for third or subsequent road tests after failing the first two.

**If under 18 years of age:**

- I am at least 16 years old.
- I have my certificate of course completion ("White Card") proving that I have completed driver education.
- I have held an instruction permit for the last six months without a conviction for a moving violation or an alcohol or controlled substance violation.
- If all or part of my six months of driving experience was in a state other than Minnesota, I have a certified driving record from that state to verify that I qualify for the provisional license.
- I have my Supervised Driving Log completed and signed by a parent or guardian.
- If completed, I have the Supplemental Parental Curriculum completion certificate.
- My parent, court appointed guardian, county appointed foster parent or the director of the transitional living program I am residing in will sign and approve my application.

**If 18 years of age:**

- I have had my instruction permit for at least six months.

**If 19 years of age or older:**

- I have had my instruction permit for at least three months.