



Homeless Child or Youth Driver License Fact Sheet

July 2020

A homeless child or youth, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a, may obtain a Texas identification card (ID):

- At no cost if funding is available in the Identification Fee Exemption Account
- Without meeting the standard Texas residency requirements to obtain an ID
- Without the signature, presence of, or permission from a parent or guardian of the child or youth

Under 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a the term “homeless children and youths” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

- (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- (ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- (iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this part because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii) above.

An individual can be certified as a homeless child or youth by:

- A designated district liaison with the school district where the child/youth listed above is enrolled
- The director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funding by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
- The director of a basic center for runaway and homeless youth or
- The director of a transitional living program

All Original Driver License (DL) Applicants Must:

- Apply in person at a Texas DL office.
- Present documents that verify the applicant’s [identity](#).
- Present documents that verify the applicant is a [U.S. citizenship or has lawful presence](#). All information on each document must match. Additional documentation may be required to verify conflicting information, incomplete names, and/or date of birth.
- Surrender any other DL or identification card (ID) issued by any other state or country, including Texas.
- Present proof of [social security number](#) (SSN). If the applicant does not have a SSN, a Social Security Affidavit form is available at the DL office.
- Present proof of Texas vehicle registration and liability insurance on all vehicles the applicant owns.
 - If the applicant does not own a vehicle, this will be affirmed on the application and registration and insurance information is not required.
- Complete the application for a driver license for minor ([DL-14B](#)) or adult ([DL-14A](#)).
- Present proof of [Texas residency](#).
 - Eligible homeless youth will present the *Certification of Homeless Status for Texas Birth Certificate and Texas Identification Card and Driver’s License* or letter with equivalent information (sample form available at texasfosteryouth.org/legal-resources/legal-resources-for-youth/legal-documents/) as required by Texas Transportation Code §521.1015.

- Present proof of the appropriate [Impact Texas Driver \(ITD\) course](#).
 - ITD is an online video available through the DPS website. All applicants who are required to complete a skills test must complete the course appropriate for their age no more than 90 days before taking the skills test.
- Consent to be photographed, fingerprinted, and provide a signature at the time of application.
 - See requirements for homeless youth under age 18 for notarization requirements
- Pass the written, driving (skills), and vision examinations.
- Provide a vehicle for the driving exam and present current liability insurance and Texas vehicle registration for the vehicle.
 - The vehicle insurance must not exclude the applicant, so named driver and similar policies that have exclusions and restrictions may not be acceptable.

Additionally Homeless Youth Under Age 18 Must:

- Complete all requirements for an original DL applicant.
- Be between 15 and 18 years of age and have an authorizing adult to sign the application.
 - If the authorizing adult accompanies the youth to the DL office, signatures will be required at that time. If another adult, such as an advocacy organization representative, accompanies the homeless youth, they must ensure the adult’s signature is notarized before the youth goes to the DL office.
 - NOTE: The adult who signs the application is the only person eligible to withdraw authorization for the license.
- Present the driver education completion certificate with application. All applicants who are applying for a [learner license](#) or a [provisional](#) DL must also submit their driver education completion certificate.
- Submit a high school diploma, its equivalent (GED), a Verification of Enrollment and Attendance (VOE) ([DL-104](#)) form, or a letter from the school administrator as a substitute for the VOE form with the application. The letter must contain the same information as the VOE form.

NOTE: The VOE form verifies the applicant is enrolled in a public school, home school, private school or GED program. **The VOE form is required for original and renewal applicants under the age of 18.** The VOE form is valid for 30 days after issuance in the spring and fall semesters and for 90 days during the summer. If a VOE cannot be obtained during the summer, DPS will accept a final report card from the most recent semester if it includes the applicant’s attendance record and passing status.

Driver Education Requirements

There are three options for youth under the age of 18 to fulfill the driver education requirement – Commercial Schools, Parent Taught Driver Education and Public Schools. Regardless of the method of instruction, requirements include:

- 32 hours of classroom instruction; and
- 44 hours of in-car training consisting of 7 hours of behind the wheel driving, 7 hours of in-car observation and an additional 30 hours of behind the wheel driving – of which 10 hours must be done at night.
 - The additional 30 hours of driving may be monitored by the parent or an adult meeting the requirements listed in [Texas Transportation Code Section 521.222 \(d\)\(2\)](#) if the driver education course is completed at a Commercial School.

NOTE: A parent, step-grandparent, stepparent, foster parent, grandparent, or legal guardian or their qualified designee may teach the Parent Taught Driver Education (PTDE) Program. A legal guardian is defined as a guardian who has been legally appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

For additional information about driver education visit: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/driver.htm>

Graduated Driver License (GDL)

A GDL applies to a driver license applicant who is under 18 years of age. Acquiring a GDL is a two-phase process. Phase I applies to a learner license and Phase II applies to a provisional license.

To complete Phase I of GDL an applicant must:

- Be a minimum of 15 years of age;
- Complete at least 6 hours of the classroom training in a concurrent driver education program or 32 hours in a block mode of instruction;
- Pass the vision and written knowledge examination; and
- Provide verification of school enrollment.

Phase 1 restricts driving privileges for at least six months and requires the applicant to:

- Be accompanied by a person at least 21 years of age when operating a vehicle;
- Maintain a learner license for six months without suspension; and
- Not operate a vehicle while using a wireless communication device, except in case of an emergency (applies to all drivers under 18 years of age).

To complete Phase II of GDL an applicant must:

- Be at least 16 years of age and maintained a valid learner license for at least six months;
- Successfully complete a driver education course;
- Provide proof of completion of the [Impact Texas Teen Drivers \(ITTD\)](#) course;
 - All applicants who are required to complete a skills test must complete the course no more than 90 days prior to taking the skills test.
- Pass the road skills test at their local driver license office or through an [authorized third party](#) testing provider;
- Provide verification of school enrollment.

Phase II restricts driving privileges until the license holder's 18th birthday requiring the applicant to:

- Not operate a vehicle with more than one passenger in the vehicle under age 21 who is not a family member;
- Not operate a vehicle between midnight and 5:00 am unless necessary for employment, school-related activity or medical emergency; and
- Not operate a vehicle while using a wireless communication device, except in case of an emergency (applies to all drivers under 18 years of age).

A provisional license expires on the license holders' 18th birthday. The license can be renewed no more than 30 days prior to that date.

NOTE: GDL Phases do not apply to motorcycles.

Age 18-21 Requirements:

- Complete the requirements for all standard DL applicants (see Page 1).
- An 18-year-old applicant is not required to complete the GDL Phase I or Phase II (see information on page 3). However, they must complete a six-hour Adult Driver Education course and pass the vision and road skills test at their local DL Office or through an [authorized third party testing](#) provider.

For additional information about Adult Driver Education visit:

<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/driverfaq.htm#adult>