**To get your Beginner Permit**

**(all info can be found online at the SC Department of Motor Vehicles web site:**

<http://www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/default.aspx?n=home>

**Class D - Passenger Vehicle Beginner Permit**

A regular passenger vehicle beginner's permit allows you to practice driving a vehicle while you are accompanied by an experienced licensed driver.

**To get a Class D Beginner's Permit:**

* You must be at least 15 years old.
* You must bring your birth certificate, social security card, and proof of residency. Review our [Accepted Forms of Identification](http://www.scdmvonline.com/dmvnew/default.aspx?n=accepted_forms_of_identification) for more information.
* If you are under 18 years of age, you must bring your parent or legally appointed guardian with you to sign your application.
* You must pass the vision and knowledge tests.

**Restrictions:**

* You may drive from 6 a.m. to midnight if a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old and has at least one year of driving experience accompanies you in the front seat.
* From midnight to 6 a.m., you may drive if a licensed parent or legally appointed guardian accompanies you in the front seat.

**Things to remember:**

* Keep a driving log while you have your permit**\*\***
* If you are 15 years old and have held a beginner's permit for at least 180 days, you are eligible for a conditional license. Check the SCDMV website for details
* It is illegal for a driver to talk on their cell phone or text while driving.
* Everyone in the car must be buckled. If a driver or passenger is unbuckled, the driver receives the ticket.
* Read the handbook to familiarize yourself with provisional license laws before you get your license.
* **The # 1 killer of teens is automobile crashes. Pay attention to the driving task, do not speed, do not tailgate, and yield the right-of-way when necessary.**

**Types of Beginner Permits**

* Beginner’s permits are issued in five classes according to the type of vehicle.

Class D - Regular Passenger Vehicle  
Class E - Single Unit Non-Commercial Vehicles more than 26,000 GVW  
Class F - Combination Unit Non-Commercial Vehicles more than 26,000 GVW  
Class G - Moped  
Class M - Motorcycle

**Driver License Testing practice test online:**

<http://www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/default.aspx?n=driver_license_testing>

**Conditional License for 15 Year Old Drivers**

If you are 15 years old and have held a beginner's permit for at least 180 days, you are eligible for a conditional license. Application may be made on the 181st day for a Conditional License.

**To get a Conditional License:**

* Bring your parent or legally appointed guardian with you to sign your application.
* Bring your beginner's permit.
* Submit Form PDLA pursuant to SC Code of Law [56-1-176](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t56c001.php)that certifies you have:
  + Completed a driver's education course
  + Are currently enrolled in school (not suspended or expelled) and have satisfactory school attendance
  + Practiced driving with your licensed parent or legally appointed guardian for 40 hours, including 10 hours of driving practice at night.

Form PDLA allows you to submit all three of these certifications. This form will be provided to you by your high school driving instructor or your driver training school instructor when you successfully complete a driver's education course.

* You must pass the vision and road skills tests. You must wait two weeks to re-test if you fail the skills test on the 1st or 2nd attempt to pass.
* You must wait 60 days if you fail on the 3rd or subsequent attempt before being re-tested.

**Driving Restrictions:**

* You may drive alone during daylight hours from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. (or 8 p.m. during daylight savings time).
* From 6 p.m. (or 8 p.m. during daylight savings time) until midnight, you may drive if a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age accompanies you.
* Between midnight and 6 a.m., you may drive if your licensed parent or legally appointed guardian accompanies you.
* You cannot transport more than two passengers under the age of 21 unless you are accompanied by a licensed adult who is at least 21 years old. The only exception is if you are transporting family members or students to and from school.
* You will obtain full driving privileges when you are 16 if you have had your license for one year and have no traffic offenses or been involved in any at-fault accidents. If you are under the age of 17 and accrue six or more points on your record before you have held your license for one year, your license will be suspended for six months.

DMV Brochure "Ready for the Road?" [(DMVB-35)](http://www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/forms/DMVB-35.pdf) outlines the above information step by step.  For more information about driver license testing, [click here](http://www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/default.aspx?n=driver_license_testing).

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**Special Restricted License for 16 Year Old Drivers**

If you are 16 years old and have held your beginner's permit for at least 180 days and passed the vision and skills tests, or have a conditional license, you are eligible for a special restricted license.

To get a Special Restricted License you must:

* Bring your parent or legally appointed guardian with you to sign your application.
* Bring your beginner's permit.
* Submit DMV Form PDLA, pursuant to SC Code of Law [56-1-176](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t56c001.php)that certifies you:
  + Completed a driver's education course
  + Are currently enrolled in school (not suspended or expelled) and have had satisfactory school attendance
  + Practiced driving with your licensed parent or legally appointed guardian for 40 hours, including 10 hours of driving practice at night.

Form PDLA allows you to submit all of these certifications. This forms will be provided to you upon successful completion of a driver's education course from your high school driving instructor or driver training school instructor.

* You must pass the vision and road skills tests.
* You must wait two-weeks to retest if you fail the skills test on the 1st or 2nd attempt to pass.
* You must wait 60 days if you fail on the 3rd or subsequent attempt before being retested.

Driving Restrictions:

* You may drive alone during daylight hours from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. (or 8 p.m. during daylight savings time).
* From 6 p.m. (or 8 p.m. during daylight savings time) until midnight, you may drive if a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age accompanies.
* Between midnight and 6 a.m., you may drive if your licensed parent or legally appointed guardian accompanies you.
* You cannot transport more than two passengers under the age of 21 unless you are accompanied by a licensed adult who is at least 21 years old. The only exception is if you are transporting family members or students to and from school.

You will obtain full driving privileges when you are 17 if you have had your special restricted license for one year and have no traffic offenses or been involved in any at-fault accidents. If you are under the age of 17 and accrue six or more points on your record before you have held your license for one year, your license will be suspended for six months.

Waiver of Time Restrictions:

If the time limitations for a special restricted driver license cause problems for you at your job, school, church or sports activity they can be waived. You must prove to the department that they interfere with your job, education, church, sports or travel between home, school, vocational training, church, sports or employment opportunities by submitting two separate statements:

1. A statement of the purpose for the waiver from your parent or legally appointed guardian
2. A statement of the purpose for the waiver on letterhead from your employer, school official, church official or sports official.

Both statements must give the reason for the waiver.  The fee for the waiver is $12.50.

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**Regular Driver License for Drivers 17 Years Old and Older**

If you are at least 17 years old and have held a beginner's permit for 180 days, you are eligible for a regular SC Driver's License.  To get a Regular Driver's License:

* If you are under 18 years of age and have never been licensed, you must bring your parent or legally appointed guardian with you to sign your application.
* If you are 18 years old or older, you do not need the signature of your parent or legal guardian.
* You must bring your beginner's permit.
* You must pass the vision and road skills tests.

DMV Brochure "Ready for the Road?" [(DMVB-35)](http://www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/forms/DMVB-35.pdf) outlines the above information step by step.