



Connecticut Driver's Manual Supplement

New Laws Effective 10/1/09

ALL DRIVERS

"Blocking the Box"

During heavy traffic, drivers are prohibited from entering any intersection unless there is sufficient space on the opposite side of the intersection to accommodate their vehicle without obstructing the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians. This is commonly known as "blocking the box" or causing "gridlock".

"Move Over Law"

When an emergency vehicle is pulled over on any part of a highway or road, drivers must:

- SLOW DOWN (below the posted speed limit)
and
- Move their vehicle over one lane whenever it is safe to do so.

This is required for vehicles with activated flashing lights including ambulances, fire trucks, police cars, tow trucks and road maintenance vehicles.

TEEN DRIVERS

2nd Knowledge Test – "TEEN FINAL EXAM"

All 16- and 17-year-old applicants applying for a Connecticut drivers license will be required to take and pass a second knowledge test. This Teen Final Exam will be administered by DMV after successful completion of the on-the-road skills test. Any failed test requires a seven day wait and payment of \$40 test fee.

Exemptions from Passenger and Hour (curfew) Restrictions

16-and 17-year-old licensed drivers are exempt from the passenger and hour restriction law when participating in a Safe Ride program sponsored by the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America or other national public service organizations.

Alcohol and Drivers Under 21 Years of Age

Teen drivers under 21 must not operate a vehicle while the ratio of alcohol in the blood is two-hundredths (.02%) of one percent or more of alcohol. This teen alcohol limitation applies to vehicles operated on private property as well.

Leaner Permit and Operating Without a License

All individuals who do not have a driver license and teens with learner permits convicted of one of the following violations are subject to the loss of their privilege to obtain an operator's license in addition to having to pay \$125.00 restoration fee:

§14-219 Speeding (more than 20 mph over speed limit)

- 1st violation: 60 day suspension of privilege
- 2nd violation: 90 day
- 3rd violation: 6 month

§14-222 Reckless Driving

- 1st offense: 6 month
- 2nd offense: 1 year
- 3rd offense: 1 year

§14-224: Street Racing

- 1st offense: 6 month
- 2nd offense: 1 year
- 3rd offense: 1 year

§14-296aa Cell Phone/Text Messaging

- 1st offense: 30 day
- 2nd offense: 90 day
- 3rd offense: 6 month