

## Identification Requirements

You must provide your social security number and bring the following items with you when you apply for a beginner's permit or license of any type:

- Birth certificate
- Two proofs of address
- Insurance information

For additional information, please see the following forms on our website:

MV-93 for US citizens, and MV-94 for international customers.

## Special Requirements

If you are under 17, there are special requirements you must meet to apply for a Conditional or Special Restricted driver's license, you must:

- Have an individual listed on the Consent for Minor (SCDMV Form 447-CM) sign your application.
- Practice driving with a licensed individual listed on the Consent for Minor (SCDMV Form 447-CM) for at least 40 hours, including 10 hours during darkness.
- Complete a driver's education course.
- Hold a beginner's permit for at least 180 days.
- Be currently enrolled in school.
- Conform to SC attendance laws and regulations.
- Not be suspended or expelled from school.

## Driver License Suspension

If you are under 17 and accrue six or more points on your driving record before you have held your license for one year, your license will be suspended for six months. Also, if you are convicted of a traffic offense or involved in an at-fault collisions, the driving restrictions will not be removed from your license for one year from the last offense or until you reach 17 years of age.



**South Carolina  
Department of Motor Vehicles  
PO Box 1498  
Blythewood, SC 29016**

**SCDMV Contact Center  
(803) 896-5000**

**Visit our website  
for more information  
and online transactions:  
[dmv.sc.gov](http://dmv.sc.gov)**



# Ready for the Road?

**A Step by Step Guide to the  
Licensing Process for Teens  
in South Carolina**

DMVB-35 (Rev. 06-2021)

# Getting Your South Carolina Driver's License

## STEP 1 Beginners Permit

### Step 1 - Beginner's Permit

If you've never had a driver's license, you must begin with a beginner's permit.

- You must be at least 15 years old.
- You must pass the vision and knowledge test.
- You may drive from 6 a.m. to midnight if a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old with at least one year of driving experience is in the front seat with you. After midnight, you must be with a licensed individual listed on the Consent for Minor (SCDMV Form 447-CM).
- You must hold your beginner's permit for at least 180 days before you apply for any type of license. Application can be made on the 181st day or anytime there after.

## STEP 2 Conditional License

### Step 2 - Conditional Driver License

If you are 15 and have held your beginner's permit for 180 days, you may be eligible for a Conditional License after passing the vision and skills test. With this type of license:

- You may drive alone only during daylight hours, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. or to 8 p.m. during daylight savings time.
- After 6 p.m., or 8 p.m. during daylight saving time, until midnight you may drive if you are accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old.
- If you drive after midnight, you must be accompanied by a licensed individual listed on the Consent for Minor (SCDMV Form 447-CM).
- You cannot transport more than two passengers under the age of 21 unless you are with a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old. The only exception is if you are transporting family members or students to and from school.
- 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.
- See the **Special Requirements** section of this brochure for more information.

## STEP 3 Special Restricted License

### Step 3

#### Special Restricted Driver License

The same time and passenger restrictions that apply to a Conditional License also apply to a Special Restricted License. The difference, however, is that you can request a waiver for the restricted times if you provide proof from your parent or legal guardian, and your school official, employer, church official or sports official that the hours interfere with your school, work, church or sports activities. You must be 16 years old to request a waiver. See the **Special Requirements** section of this brochure for more information.

### Step 4

#### Regular Driver License

You will obtain full driving privileges when you are 16 if you have had your Conditional License or Special Restricted License (or a combination of the two) for one year and have had no traffic violations and have not been involved in any at-fault collisions. You will not have to visit a DMV office to get your full driving privileges because the DMV will mail you a special driver license sleeve that you must keep with you when you are driving.

## STEP 4 Regular License