



## Upstate NY

All Counties Excluding  
NYC and Long Island

# Graduated Driver License Pocket Guide

A Law Enforcement  
Guide to  
Class DJ and MJ  
Licenses and  
Permits

“As a parent and a law enforcement officer of nearly 30 years, I understand both the importance and difficulty of enforcing the graduated driver licensing (GDL) law. Good driving habits start young – safer teen drivers make for safer adult drivers. The GDL law is complicated, but it is proven to keep teen drivers safe as they gain experience. That’s why I encourage you to use this guide to become familiar with the GDL law. If you pull over a teen driver, write the ticket. You could prevent a crash and save a life.”

Lieutenant Paul A. Yacono,  
Town of Tonawanda  
Police Department

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for 16 and 17 year-olds. As a police officer, how often have you been at the scene of a fatal crash involving a teenager or young driver?

The Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) law is designed to provide time for young people to gain critical experience in various traffic scenarios in a safe and somewhat controlled manner. Each provision of the GDL is scientifically-based to reduce injury and death among young drivers and their passengers. While discretion is the hallmark of policing, issuing a warning to a young driver, instead of a traffic infraction, circumvents the GDL safeguards and reduces the intent and safety benefit of this statute.

This GDL pocket guide is an easy reference of restricted activities and violations for DJ and MJ permits and licenses. Please keep it handy and use it while on patrol to enforce the GDL law.

# Class DJ & MJ PERMIT

Allowed Activity = ✓      Restricted Activity = X

|   | Day<br>5am-9pm | Night<br>9pm-5am | Additional Restrictions   | VTL<br>Reference               | VTL<br>UTT |
|---|----------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Junior permit holders may drive only under supervision</b>   | ✓              | ✓                | <b>Day (5am-9pm):</b> Must be under supervision of a 21+, NYS license holder.<br><br><b>Night (9pm-5am):</b> Must be under supervision of 21+, NYS license holder who is parent, guardian, driver education teacher/driving school instructor, or person designated <i>in loco parentis</i> . | 501(5)                         | 509(3)     |
| <b>Junior permit holders may not drive without supervision</b>  |                |                  |   |                                |            |
| <b>Additional Restrictions (applies at all times):</b>  |                |                  |   |                                |            |
| • No front seat occupant except supervising driver.   |                |                  |   | 501-b(1)(a)                    | 509(3)     |
| • Every occupant must be properly restrained by safety belt or child safety seat.   |                |                  |   | 501-b(1)(b)                    |            |
| • <b>With parent/guardian as supervising driver:</b> no restrictions on number of back seat passengers.   |                |                  |   | 501-b(1)(c)                    |            |
| • <b>Without parent/guardian as supervising driver (daytime only):</b> only one passenger under 21 allowed, unless passengers are immediate family.   |                |                  |   |                                |            |
| • May not drive on the Cross County, Hutchinson River, Saw Mill River, or Taconic State parkways, on any street within a park in NYC, on any bridge or tunnel under the jurisdiction of the Tri-borough Bridge and Tunnel Authority. Must not operate vehicle in any park, on any play street, or along any block in which there is an entrance to a public playground or park. |                |                  |   | NYC Traffic Rules § 4-07(f)(1) |            |
| • Learner's Permit for class M or MJ license: supervising driver need exercise only general supervision and control over the learner when operating a motorcycle. No passenger unless that passenger possesses a valid Class M license.   |                |                  |   | 501(5)(c)                      |            |

# Class DJ & MJ LICENSE

Allowed Activity = ✓      Restricted Activity = X

**Junior license holders  
may drive without  
supervision to:**

|   | Day 5am-9pm | Night 9pm-5am,<br>directly to and from home: | VTL<br>Reference | VTL<br>UTT |
|---|-------------|--|------------------|------------|
| School Courses  | ✓           | ✓  | 501(3)           | 509(3)     |
| Work  | ✓           | ✓  |                  |            |
| All other activities<br>including school<br>extracurriculars, sports,<br>and social events  | ✓           | X  |                  |            |
| <b>Additional Restrictions (applies at all times):</b>  |             |  |                  |            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every occupant must be properly restrained by safety belt or child safety seat.</li> </ul>   |             |  | 501-b(2)(a)      | 509(3)     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Without supervising driver:</b> only one passenger under 21 allowed, unless passengers are immediate family.</li> <li><b>With supervising driver:</b> no restrictions on number of passengers.</li> </ul>           |             |  | 501-b(2)(b)      |            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class MJ license: supervising driver need exercise only general supervision and control over the learner when operating a motorcycle. No passenger unless that passenger possesses a valid Class M license.</li> </ul> |             |  | 501(5)(c)        |            |

**Definitions:**

“School Course” means instruction, education or training that is licensed or approved by a state agency or department, or training conducted by the U.S. Armed Forces. The term “school course” does NOT include extracurricular activities, sports or social events for which no scholastic credits are given.

Supervising Driver = A 21+, NYS license holder who is the parent, guardian, driver education teacher/driving school instructor, or a person designated *in loco parentis*.

**For questions about this publication  
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For more information about the  
Graduated Driver Licensing Law, visit  
the New York State Department of  
Motor Vehicles website:

[www.dmv.ny.gov/youngerdriver](http://www.dmv.ny.gov/youngerdriver)



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