

Teaching Your Teen to Drive



A Class for Parents of New Drivers

Why are we here?

- **Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers**
- Parents asked for this class
- Help our children to be safer
- Empower parents
 - Parents influence teen driving behavior
 - Teen brain not yet fully developed
- Community effort



Topics

- Risks of teen driving
- Understand Teen Driving Law (GDL)
- Resources available to you
- Tips on teaching your teen to drive
- Setting realistic expectations for your teenager
- Concerns/Questions



Risks of Teen Driving

- Inexperience
- Failure to wear a seat belt
- Inattentiveness
- Excessive Speed
- Fatigue
- Driving at night
- Driving with other teens
- Alcohol/Drug Use



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your guide**

Risks of Teen Driving

What Parents Can Do

- Seat Belt Use
 - Establish a policy, talk about the dangers
- Nighttime Driving
 - Visibility is reduced, Practice!!!
- Delay Licensure as long as possible
- Choosing a Car
 - Wait before buying your teen their own vehicle
- Drowsy Driving
 - Limit -- Especially on the drive to school
- Lead by example

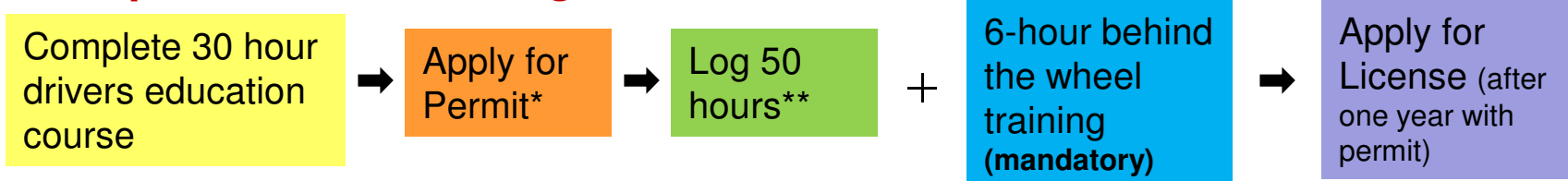
Graduated Drivers License (Teen Driving Law)

- What is it?
- What is the purpose?
- How can parents help?
- Is it enough?
- Where to go if you need more information

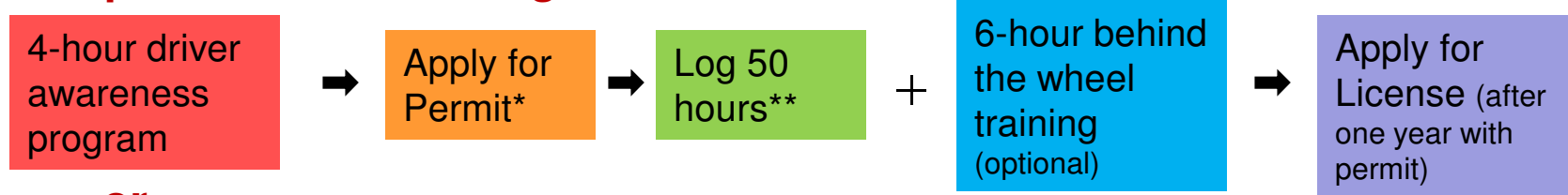


STEPS TO OBTAINING A LICENSE

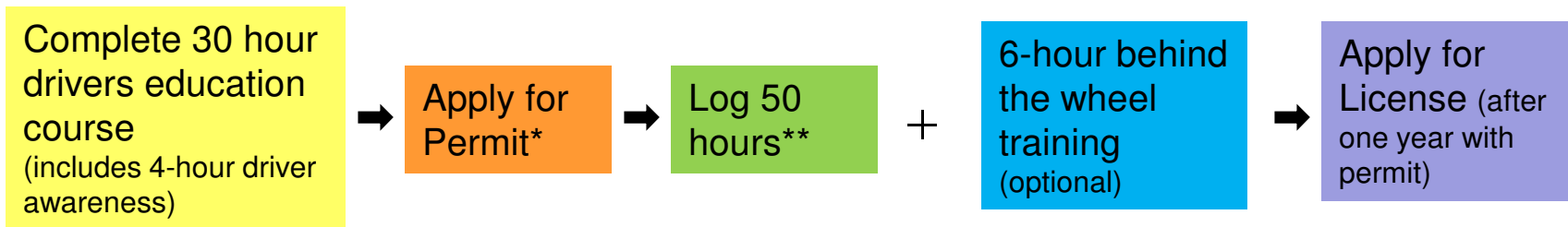
GDL process started at age 15 – 15 ½



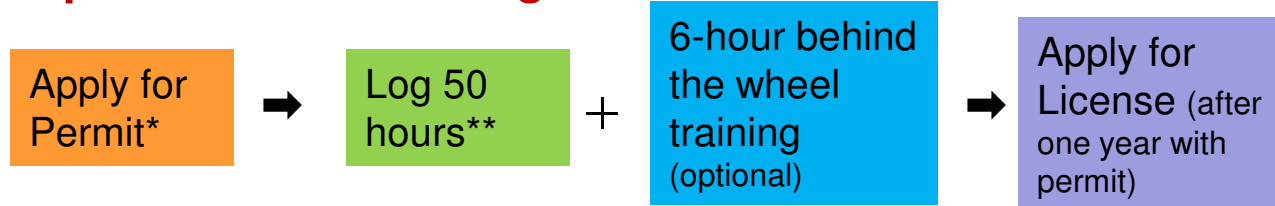
GDL process started at age 15 ½ – 16



or



GDL process started at age 16 – 17



No cell phones, must wear seat belt

GDL process started at age 15 –

Complete 30 hour
drivers education
course



Apply for
Permit*



Log
hours

GDL process started at age 15 1/2

4-hour driver
awareness
program



Apply for
Permit*



Log
hours

or

Complete 30 hour
drivers education
course
(includes 4-hour driver
awareness)



Apply for
Permit*



Log
hours

GDL process started at age 16 –

Apply for
Permit*



Log 50
hours**



6-
the wheel
training
(optional)



License (after
one year with
permit)

Learner's Permit

(Driver's Education/Awareness Permit)

- ✓ All new drivers under age 18 require a parent/legal guardian's signed Affidavit of Liability and Guardianship to get a permit. Whoever signs the affidavit is responsible for the supervision of the minor's driving and for any financial liability
- ✓ Can only drive with a licensed, sober driver in the front passenger seat
- ✓ Must hold permit for an entire year before eligible for license

No cell phones, must wear seat belt

GDL process started at age 15 – 15 ½

Complete 30 hour
drivers education
course

Apply for

Log 50

6-hour behind
the wheel

Apply for
License (after
one year with
permit)

GDL process

4-hour driver
awareness
program

or

Complete 30
drivers education
course
(includes 4-hour
awareness)

Restricted License
(Minor Instruction Permit)

- ✓ No passengers for the first 6 months.
- ✓ One passenger only for the second 6 months
- ✓ No driving between midnight and 5 a.m.

6-hour behind

Apply for
License (after
one year with
permit)

6-hour behind

Apply for
License (after
one year with
permit)

GDL process started at age 16 – 17

Apply for
Permit*

Log 50
hours**

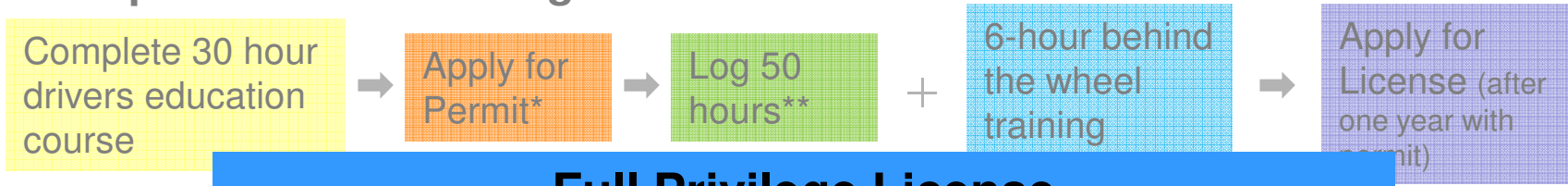
+

6-hour behind
the wheel
training
(optional)

Apply for
License (after
one year with
permit)

No cell phones, must wear seat belt

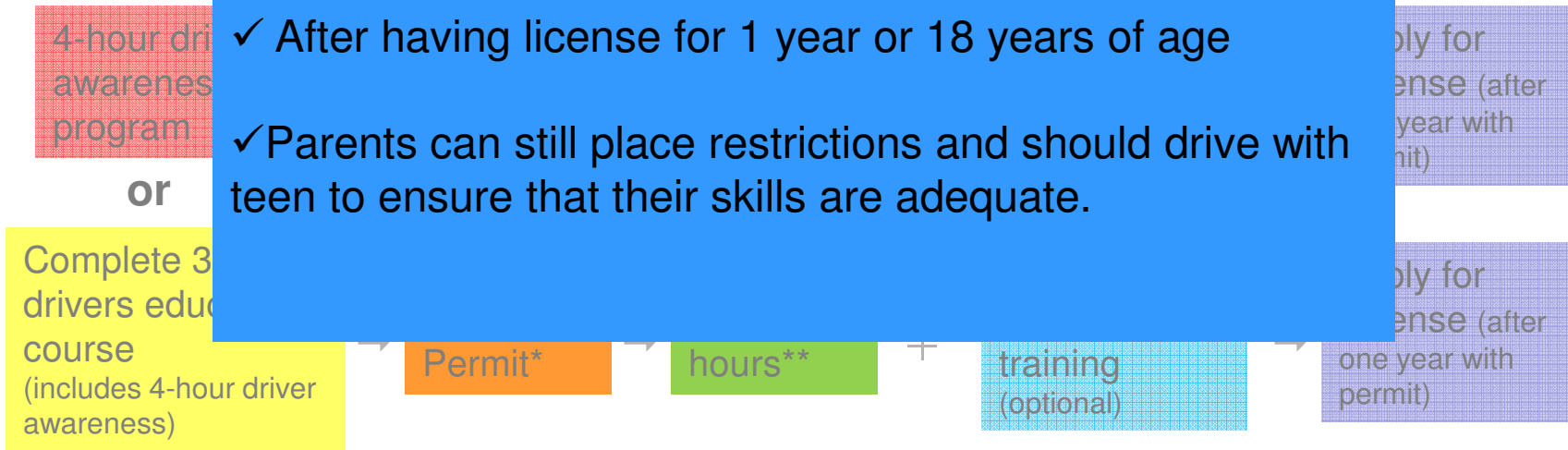
GDL process started at age 15 – 15 ½



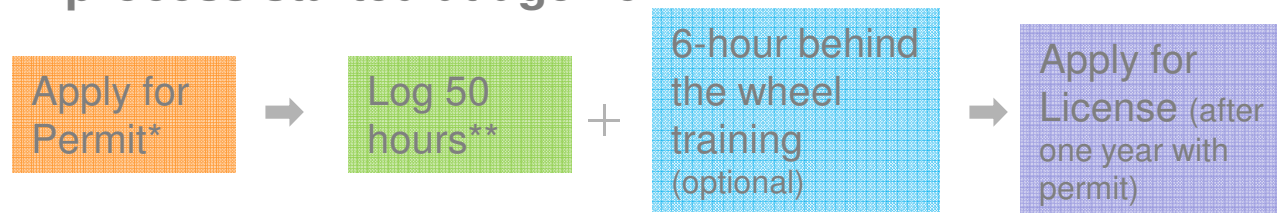
Full Privilege License

- ✓ After having license for 1 year or 18 years of age
- ✓ Parents can still place restrictions and should drive with teen to ensure that their skills are adequate.

GDL process



GDL process started at age 16 – 17



Keeping Track

- ✓ 30-hour driver's education course
 - ✓ A-1 Driving School
 - ✓ Drive Quest
 - ✓ Western Slope Driving Institute
- ✓ Log 50 hours, 10 at night
 - ✓ must be with an authorized, licensed parent, legal guardian or alternate permit supervisor appointed by the parent/guardian)
- ✓ 4-hour driver awareness program
- ✓ 6-hour behind-the-wheel training

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your guide**

Recent Changes to Law

During the 2009 Colorado legislative session, a new law was passed regarding cell phone use:

- ✓ No driver under the age of 18 may use a cellular device while operating a motor vehicle – came into effect 12/1/09 (also... FYI... those 18 and older cannot text message* under this new law)

GDL – What can Parents do?

- In Colorado, it is legal for parents to revoke their teen's license until they are 18 years of age
- Be involved! (i.e. - How many teens are in the car on the way to lunch?)
- Parent-Teen Driving Agreement



Available Resources

- Driver Education
 - Private Schools
 - Alive at 25
 - CD ROM's, Internet Resources
- Education for Parents
 - Mesa County 50 hour guide
 - Internet resources -
www.coteedriver.com
- Community Resources
 - Law Enforcement
 - DMV
 - Insurance Agencies

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your guide**

Tips for the Road

Lead by Example

Rules of the Road

Variety of Experience

Structure

Talking to your teen

Play the “What if?” game

**Page 6 in
your guide**

Setting Realistic Expectations

- Parent/Teen Driving Agreement
- How to design
- Updating
- When it works/When it doesn't
- Rewards/Consequences

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your guide**



Feedback

Please take a moment to give us your opinions and suggestions for this class. We want this to be a valuable experience and will strive for excellence...

Please fill out our survey and
Thank You!!

Contact Us

Colorado Department of Transportation

<http://www.coteedriver.com/>

Grand Junction Police Department

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Mesa County Health Department

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