

# **LAWS PARENTS AND STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW**

**NOTE:** *This article is NOT intended as legal advice, and should not be relied upon as such. Each individual should consult with their own attorney regarding their rights and obligations under these and any other laws.*

**NIGHTTIME DRIVING RESTRICTIONS:** Nighttime driving restrictions are in place for all drivers under the age of 18. Driving is prohibited between 10PM and 6AM Sunday thru Thursday and between 11PM and 6AM on Fridays and Saturdays. **IMPORTANT:** YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE IS NOT VALID DURING THE RESTRICTED TIMES. There are limited exceptions for travel to and from work and school related events.

**ILLEGAL CONSUMPTION, POSSESSION AND/OR TRANSFER OF ALCOHOL BY A MINOR:** This has always been illegal in the City of Washington and throughout the State. Effective 01/01/08, both convictions and dispositions of court supervision on offenses will be reported to the Secretary of State.

**NO "SECOND CHANCE" FOR ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS:** The city's Second Chance Program will not be available to individuals receiving tickets for illegal consumption, possession and/or transfer of alcohol.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT TO SUPERVISION:** Effective 01/01/08, a person under the age of 18 may not receive Court Supervision unless the person appears in court with their parent or legal guardian, and the parent or legal guardian signs a written consent in front of the judge, consenting to the Court Supervision.

**COURT SUPERVISION NOT AVAILABLE FOR:** Speeding in school zone.-No valid license.-Passing a school bus.-Leaving scene of an accident (vehicle or property).-Illegal transportation of alcohol.-Driving without a license.-Failure to exchange information after accident involving injury or death.-Speeding more than 30 MPH over the limit.-Passing in a no passing zone.-Reckless driving.-Failure to yield to pedestrians.-Failure to obey railroad crossing warnings.-If defendant has been on court supervision 2 other times in preceding 12 months.

**STREET RACING:** Effective 01/01/08, driving privileges will be revoked for any person convicted of street racing, and law enforcement may impound the vehicle for up to 5 days.

**PARENTAL ACCESS TO TEEN DRIVING RECORDS:** Effective 01/01/08, Parents may view their teen's (under age 18) driving record free through the Secretary of State Website. Go to SOS Website and click on ***Parental Access to Teen Driving Records.***

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:** Effective July 2007, unmarried persons under age 18 may have their driver's licenses cancelled or be refused a driver's license or permit by the Secretary of State for failing to maintain school attendance.

**SAFETY BELTS AND CHILD SAFETY SEATS:** Effective 01/01/12, Illinois law requires all passengers, regardless of age or location in the vehicle, will be required to be secured in a seat belt or an appropriately approved child restraint system. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that all passengers obey the safety belt law and Child Passenger Protection Act. Anyone found guilty of disobeying this law is subject to fines and court costs.

**CHILD PASSENGER PROTECTION ACT:** The Child Passenger Protection Act requires the use of an appropriate safety restraint system for all passengers under age 16, regardless of their location in the vehicle. Children under age 8 must be properly secured in an approved child restraint system, which may include a booster seat. A child weighing more than 40 pounds may be transported in the back seat of a vehicle while wearing only a lap belt if the back seat is not equipped with a combination lap and shoulder belt.

**CELL PHONE USE PROHIBITED:** Cell phone use while driving is prohibited for anyone under the age of 19 (except in the case of an emergency, and then only to call law enforcement, health care provider or emergency services). Texting while driving is prohibited.

**PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS:** For the first year of licensing, or until the driver is age 18, the number of passengers is limited to 1 unrelated person under age 20. Both the driver and passengers may be ticketed.

**CROSSWALK:** Effective July 22, 2010, this law requires motorists to stop and yield (rather than slow down or stop if need be) to pedestrians in a crosswalk where there are no traffic signals.

**SCHOOL AND CONSTRUCTION ZONES:** No cell phone use in school zones and construction zones.

**FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAW:** Driver must be able to show proof of insurance (liability) and have it filed with the state.

**YOU MAY NOT:** Drive on a sidewalk – Back up on the shoulder of a controlled access highway – Wear a headset while driving – Operate a sound system at a volume that can be heard 75 feet or more from the vehicle being driven – Use a wireless phone under the age of 18, except in an emergency - Park in front of a public or private driveway, within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, within 20 feet of a fire station driveway or crosswalk at an intersection or within 30 feet of a stop sign, yield sign or traffic control signal, bridge or overpass.