

Ask the DMV.....

Experts Answer Common Teen Driver Questions

By Mike Marando, Communications Director

California Department of Motor Vehicles

SACRAMENTO - Are you a teen with questions about how to get your provisional driver permit or California driver license? Do you have questions about general driving related requirements like registration or insurance? The California Department of Motor Vehicles has answers. For more information, visit the DMV Web site for teens at www.DMV.ca.gov/teenweb.

Q: What documents do I need to bring with me on the day that I apply for a driver license?

A: If you're age 18 or over, remember to bring an original (or certified copy) of your Birth Certificate or Legal Presence document on the day you apply. You must also provide your social security number as well. If you are under the age of 18, the above requirements apply in addition to the requirement that your application be signed by your parents or guardian. If under the age of 17 ½ you must also provide your certificate of completion of driver's education. And remember to bring your proof of insurance card for your drive test - this is one of the more commonly forgotten documents and can save you from making an extra trip to the DMV. For additional information, go to this link on the department's web site: www.dmv.ca.gov/dl/dl_info.htm.

Q: I saw recently that practice written tests are available online at www.dmv.ca.gov <<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/>> . Can I take the real written test online, too? It would be a lot easier since I don't have my license yet and I only live with my mom, who is usually at work when I have free time.

A: Unfortunately, you can't take the written exams online. All DMV written tests must be taken on-site at a DMV field office. The practice tests are available online for you to better prepare yourself for taking the actual written test. For faster service, schedule your written test appointment online and you won't have to wait in any unnecessary lines when you arrive at your closest field office! Save time, go online!

Q: Is it true that minors are never allowed to use cell phones when driving, even with a hands-free device?

A: That is correct. It is against the law for a minor to use a cell phone while driving. They are only to use cell phones when the vehicle is safely stopped or parked. If a minor violates this law, he or she will be subject to fines. The only exceptions to this law are in the event that a minor must use a cell phone in an emergency situation to contact law enforcement, a health care provider, the fire department or another emergency entity.

The DMV is a department under the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner. The DMV licenses drivers, maintains driving records, registers and tracks official ownership of vehicles and vessels, investigates auto and identity-related fraud, and licenses car dealers, driving schools, and traffic violator schools. For more information about the DMV, visit www.dmv.ca.gov <<http://www.dmv.ca.gov>> .