Georgia Joshua’s Law Requirements

Teen drivers in Georgia have a very specific set of requirements to fulfill in order to start driving. Below you'll find everything you need to know to start down the road toward earning your license to drive.

What is Joshua’s Law?

In an effort to create more informed teen drivers, Georgia passed Joshua’s Law in 2007. Named after Georgia teen Joshua Brown, who was killed in a single-car accident due to a lack of basic driver’s education, the Georgia Department of Driver Safety (DDS) adopted a graduated driver’s license program, providing teen drivers valuable tools they need to drive safely.

Joshua’s Law requires teens to follow a 3-step process:

1. Pass a state-approved driver’s education course and obtain a Class CP instructional permit.
2. Complete 40 hours of driving practice and earn a Class D provisional driver’s license.
3. Obtain a Class C non-commercial driver’s license after age 18.
The first step toward earning a driver’s license starts by completing a Joshua’s Law Online Course.

**Eligibility & Requirements for Joshua’s Law**

Teens age 15-17 who are currently enrolled in school can start their path to earning their driver’s license quickly and easily. Taking a GA Joshua’s Law Online Driver’s Ed course is the most efficient way to meet your state requirement.

In addition to completing 30 hours of safe driving education, teen drivers under the age of 18 are also required to put in 40 hours of in-car driving practice with a licensed adult. Fulfilling these 2 requirements will allow you to take your permit test at the DDS to earn your Class CP learner’s permit.

**Why Is State Approval Important?**

In order to fulfill the Joshua’s Law requirement for Driver’s Ed and obtain a driver’s permit, a student must complete a course that is approved by the Georgia DDS. I DRIVE SAFELY offers a Georgia Driver’s Ed Online course that’s completely state-approved, so you can meet your requirements in a fast and convenient way.

To find out more about state requirements and course approvals, you can check out our Georgia Driver’s Permit page.

**What’s Covered in a Joshua’s Law Course?**

According to Georgia regulations, a Joshua’s Law driver’s education course must meet a 30-hour minimum length. This course covers valuable driving rules, regulations, and skills — all of which will prepare you for your learner’s permit and driving tests.
Topics covered include:

- Road signs and traffic signals
- Driver responsibilities and requirements
- Basics of vehicle operation
- Safe driving and accident avoidance
- Emergency vehicles and procedures

Tax Credit for Parents

Aside from the peace of mind that comes with knowing a teen has received a quality safe driving education, parents of teen drivers can also benefit financially when their teen takes a Joshua’s Law course.

The parents or legal guardians of a student who completes a Joshua’s Law Online Driver’s Ed course are eligible to earn a credit of up to $150 on their taxes. To earn this credit, the parents of the dependent must have both a copy of the certificate of completion as well as proof that all fees were paid in full.

It’s important to note that if a student takes driver’s education at their high school, public or private, parents are not eligible for this credit.
Information and Resources to keep teens safer on the road!

**Advantages of a Joshua’s Law Online Course**

With 30 hours of safe driving study ahead, teen drivers should have the flexibility to learn at a pace that suits their learning style. Taking a Joshua's Law Online Course, like the one offered by I DRIVE SAFELY, allows you the opportunity to fulfill your driver's education requirement from any computer with an Internet connection. This means you can study from home, from the library, or even on a laptop using a wireless connection.

In addition to giving you the freedom to log in and log out when your time permits, online courses offer unique teaching methods that you can't get in a classroom. With videos, 3-D graphics, and interesting animations, you'll really enjoy your driving lessons and increase your chances of actually remembering what you learned!

**Parent-Teen Driving Contract**

It’s important for both parents and teens to be on the same page when it comes to driving. Working together to create a Parent-Teen Driving Contract will help outline expectations, rules, and boundaries for the entire family. This contract can include everything from approved and unapproved driving routes, passenger limits, curfews, vehicle maintenance, and any other expectations that teens are required to meet. Consequences can be clearly outlined and both parents and teens should sign the agreement to ensure everyone is held accountable.

**Other Georgia Requirements**

Before you head to the DDS to take your permit test and obtain your Class CP license, remember that all Georgia teens are required to pass an Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP). You will be asked to present your ADAP card when applying for your learner’s permit. To learn more about other necessary forms you'll need to bring with you to the DDS, check out our complete list of DDS form and requirements for a learner’s permit.