

# YOUR TEEN AND GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING:



## Making sense of the New York State law

### Key provisions for Nassau & Suffolk new drivers under age 18

**Note: You cannot drive in NYS if you are under the age of 16.** If you have a learner permit or a driver license from another state, you are not exempt from this rule.

### Learner's Permit

- May be obtained at age 16
- Front seat occupants are limited to driver and supervising driver
- A supervising driver must be 21 years of age or older
- All vehicle occupants must be restrained by a safety belt.
- Learner's Permit holder may not operate a motor vehicle with more than two passengers who are under the age of 21 **and** who are not members of the holder's immediate family, unless accompanied by a licensed parent, guardian, person in a position of loco parentis, driver education teacher or driving school instructor
- 16- and 17- year-olds must hold their Learner's Permit 6 months and acquire a minimum of 20 hours of supervised driving experience (certified by parent or guardian) to be eligible to take a road test
- Time spent driving as part of a driver's education course or while with a driving school instructor may be counted towards the 20 hour requirement
- Learner's Permits will be suspended 60 days upon conviction of traffic violations that carry 3 points or more. Those violations include speeding 10 or more miles over the limit, traffic control signal violation, and failure to obey road signs and many others.
- No driving between 9 PM and 5 AM

### Junior License

- You cannot drive alone to High School with a Junior License.
- Junior drivers may not drive with more than 2 persons under 21 who are not family members (or others as above)
- Junior licenses will be suspended 60 days upon conviction of traffic violations that carry 3 points or more. Those violations include speeding 10 or more miles over the limit, traffic control signal violation, and failure to obey road signs and many others.
- All vehicle occupants must be restrained by a safety belt
- An unrestricted license can be obtained at age 17 upon successful completion of driver's education. A junior license automatically becomes a senior license at age 18
- A driver with a Junior License may drive:
  - Daytime 5 AM - 9 PM: alone **only** directly between your home and employment, a work-study program, a course at a college, university, or registered evening high school, a driver education course, or while engaged in farm employment. You may NOT drive during work or as part of your work duties, such as for deliveries
  - Nighttime 9 PM - 5 AM: alone **only** directly between your home and a work-study program, a course at a college, university, or registered evening high school, a driver education course, or while engaged in farm employment.