





- Identify relevant statutes applicable to young drivers
- Discuss the need for restrictive laws on young drivers
- Describe the penalties and effective sentencing options for these laws

Texas Transportation Code License Restrictions

- Ch. 521 governs the issuance of licenses
- Secs. 521.022, 521.023 and 521.024 **prohibit issuance** of license for the operation of a school bus, junior college bus, common carrier or taxi to a person **Under 18**
- A commercial license (CDL) May Not be issued to a person Under 18

Instruction (Learner's) Permit 521.222 TC

- At least 15 years old
 - ✓ Approved driver training school or instructor ✓ DPS
 - Passed the written exam and other exams required under Sec. 521.161
- DPS can issue to a person Over 18 who has passed all parts of the written exam without a driving test



Phase I - GDL

MUST hold learner's permit for 6 months

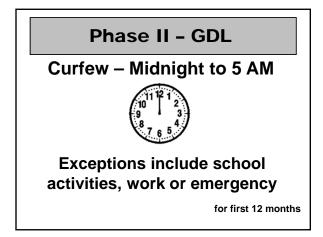
- **MUST** be accompanied by someone who is at least 21
- **MUST** maintain a valid learner's permit
- **MUST** be an enrolled student



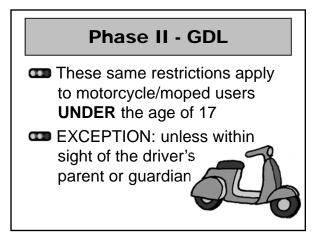
Phase II - GDL

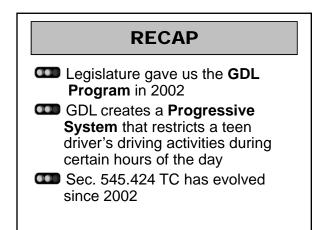
Not more than 1 additional person under the age of 21 who is NOT a family member











OTHER LAWS UNIQUE TO YOUNG DRIVERS	

PRIVILEGE VS. RIGHT

a Rite of Passage doesn't make it a Right

'DRIVE' IT HOME

WHO IS MOST AT RISK?

- The risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among 16 – 19 year olds than among ANY OTHER age group
- Per mile driven, teen drivers ages 16-19 are FOUR TIMES more likely than older drivers of <u>ALL ages</u> to crash

CONSIDER THIS

Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 killer of U.S. teens accounting for more than **1 in 3 deaths** in this age group

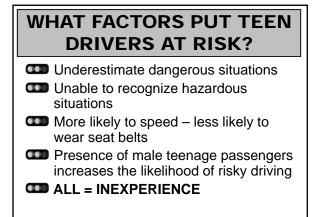
In 2009, 8 teens from ages 16 -19 died every day from motor vehicle injuries

WHY?

Teen Males: the motor vehicle death rate is almost 2 times that of females

Teens Driving With Teen Passengers: increases the crash risk of unsupervised teen drivers and this increases with the number of teen passengers

Newly Licensed Teens: crash risk is particularly high during that 1st year



INEXPERIENCE MAGNIFIED BY Alcohol Teen Passengers Driving at Night Fatigue Distractions, such as music and cell phone Peer Pressure

YOUNG DRIVERS -THE HIGH RISK YEARS

Video Provided By: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

http://www.iihs.org/videos/default.html

Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 45.0215 Appearance and Disposition

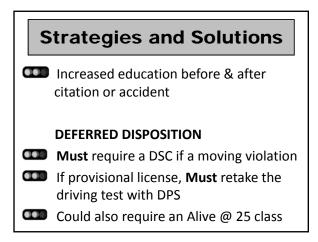
Requires that a defendant under 17:

- Appear in open court
- With a parent or legal guardian
- Purpose:
 - ✓ Accountability & Responsibility

THE BASICS

- DL Restrictions Sec. 521.221 TC
 ✓ Fine up to \$200
- Use of Cell Phone Sec. 545.425 TC √Fine up to \$200

- Alcohol Offenses √Suspend or deny DL 30 - 60 days
 - $\checkmark\ensuremath{\mathsf{Fail}}$ to complete CS up to 1 year
- Fail to Attend Tobacco Class ✓ Suspend or deny DL up to 180 days
- Failure to Attend School
 ✓ Suspend or deny DL up to 365 days
- Fail to Appear, Fail to Pay, Contempt
 ✓ Suspend or deny DL until court order is satisfied



Strategies and Solutions

DEFERRED DISPOSITION - Continued

Rehabilitate with ANY other reasonable condition Art. 45.051(a)(10) CCP

Creative punishments http://www.cityoflakeway.com/index.aspx?NID=260

Teen Court Dismissal

- Under Art. 45.052 CCP may have traffic offense dismissed
- Must be under 18 years of age, enrolled in school AND not completed a teen court program within previous 2 years
- Minimal fees