

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

<b>1. THE DRIVER LICENSE</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.1 Persons Required to have a Driver License .....	3
1.2 Persons Who Cannot be Issued a Colorado Driver License .....	3
1.3 Obtaining a Colorado Driver License .....	3
1.4 Classes of Colorado Driver License .....	4
1.5 Parent Consent for Minor/Affidavit of Liability and Guardianship .....	4
<b>2. TYPES OF INSTRUCTION PERMITS AND LICENSE</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3. NEW RESIDENT/RENEWAL</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3.1 New Resident With a Valid License .....	5
3.2 Renewal of a Colorado Driver License or Instruction Permit .....	5
<b>4. DUPLICATE DRIVER LICENSE</b> .....	<b>6</b>
4.1 Lost, Stolen or Mutilated License or Permit .....	6
4.2 Change of Name and/or Address .....	6
<b>5. EXTENSION OF COLORADO DRIVER LICENSE</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>6. KEEPING YOUR LICENSE</b> .....	<b>6</b>
6.1 Re-Examination .....	7
6.2 Colorado Point System .....	7
6.3 Your Driving Privilege May be Suspended, Revoked or Canceled if you... ..	7
<b>7. UNDERSTANDING COLORADO'S MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS</b> .....	<b>7</b>
7.1 Motor Vehicle insurance Database Law .....	7
7.2 Financial Responsibility Law Compulsory Insurance .....	8
7.3 Colorado's Safety Belt Law .....	8
7.4 Colorado's Child Passenger Protection Law .....	8
7.5 Colorado's Graduated License Law .....	8
7.6 Occupants of Vehicles .....	8
7.7 License Plates .....	9
<b>8. DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE</b> .....	<b>9</b>
8.1 Alcohol and Driving .....	9
8.2 Drugs and Driving .....	9
8.3 Express Consent .....	10
8.4 Under Age 21 .....	10
<b>9. BEFORE YOU DRIVE</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>10. RULES OF THE ROAD</b> .....	<b>11</b>
10.1 Traffic Controls .....	11
10.1a Traffic Signals .....	11
10.1b Traffic Signs .....	12
10.1c Pavement Markings .....	14
10.1d Lane Controls .....	14
10.2 Right of Way .....	15
10.3 Speed .....	16
10.4 Turning .....	17
10.5 Parking .....	18
<b>11. SAFE DRIVING TIPS</b> .....	<b>18</b>
11.1 Steering .....	18
11.2 Scanning .....	18
11.3 Following Another Vehicle .....	19
11.4 Adjusting to Traffic .....	19
11.5 Trouble Spots .....	19
11.6 Entering the Freeway .....	19
11.6a Freeway Driving .....	19
11.6b Leaving the Freeway .....	20
11.7 Changing Lanes .....	20
11.8 Passing .....	20
11.9 Hills and Curves .....	20
11.10 Night Driving .....	20
11.11 Bad Weather .....	21
11.11a Snow and Ice .....	21
11.12 Mountain Driving .....	21
11.13 Rural Driving .....	22
<b>12. SHARING THE ROAD</b> .....	<b>22</b>
12.1 Large Trucks and Buses .....	22
12.2 Railroad Crossings .....	22
12.3 Light Rail .....	23
12.4 Bicycles and Motorcycles .....	24
12.5 Careless/Reckless Driving .....	24
12.6 Aggressive Driving .....	24
<b>13. THE DRIVE TEST</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>14. EMERGENCIES</b> .....	<b>26</b>
14.1 Avoiding Collisions .....	26
14.2 Vehicle Emergencies .....	26
14.2a Brake Failure .....	27
14.2b Tire Blowout .....	27
14.2c Power Failure .....	27
14.2d Headlight Failure .....	27
14.2e Jammed Gas Pedal .....	27
14.2f Driving off the Pavement .....	27
14.3 Animals .....	27
14.4 Accidents .....	27
14.5 First Aid .....	27
<b>15. PEDESTRIANS</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>16. BICYCLES</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>17. ORGAN DONATION</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>18. SERVICE CENTER GUIDE</b> .....	<b>29</b>
18.1 Driver License .....	29
18.1a Services .....	29
18.1b Office Locations .....	31
18.2 County Offices ( Vehicle License Plates) .....	33
<b>19. DRIVE TIME LOG SHEETS</b> .....	<b>35</b>

# 2 SECONDS FOR SAFETY



Take, *"TWO Seconds for Safety!"*

Take two-seconds to fasten your seat belt.

Take two deep breaths to become centered.

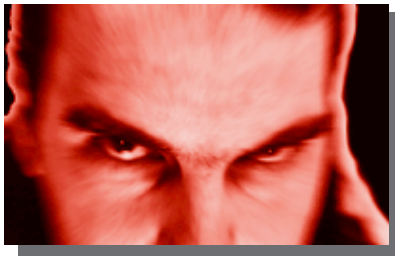
Take two-seconds to be mindful of how unacceptable driving behavior can affect your life and others. On the highway, keep a two-second interval between you and the vehicle in front of you.



Use the Colorado State Patrol's *"TWO Seconds for Safety"* salute to remind yourself and others to be civil on our highways. When confronted by an aggressive driver, ignore them and get out of their way. Avoid eye contact. Maintain a positive attitude when you drive!



Unacceptable aggressive driving behavior includes tailgating, weaving in and out of traffic, passing on the right or the shoulder of the highway, cutting people off, failure to allow others to merge or pass, obscene hand gestures, honking, yelling or flashing lights, exceeding the speed limit, bumping or ramming another vehicle or brandishing weapons.



**Start Taking an Active Role** – To report an aggressive driver, road hazards or request assistance, you can use your cell phone to make a free call directly to the Colorado State Patrol by dialing **STAR CSP (\*277)**.

Colorado State Patrol  
700 Kipling St.  
Denver, Colorado 80215  
Public Affairs: 303.239.4532

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Driver Handbook is to provide you with information on how to become a safe driver.

The Driver Handbook is a summary of the laws, rules and safe driving practices that apply to all persons who drive a vehicle in the state of Colorado. It is based on current laws, legislation and department policies and is subject to change. It is not a book of laws and should not be used as a basis for any legal claims or actions. **It is a book of information only and does not supersede Colorado Revised Statutes.** Traffic regulations in cities, towns, counties and federal territories may go beyond state laws, as long as they do not conflict with state law. For more information on Colorado motor vehicle laws refer to the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) Vehicles and Traffic, Title 42 Common Code book.

Don't discard this handbook after you have obtained your license; keep it as a reference or pass it on to another applicant.

## 1. THE DRIVER LICENSE

### 1.1 PERSONS REQUIRED TO HAVE A DRIVER LICENSE:

Any person who operates a motor vehicle, motor-driven cycle or moped on the public streets and highways in Colorado is required to be at least 16 years of age and have a valid driver license.

**RESIDENT:** Per C.R.S. 42-1-102 (81), any person who owns or operates a business in Colorado or who has resided within the state continuously for 90 days or who has obtained gainful employment within this state, whichever shall occur first, is considered a Colorado resident. (See New Resident §3)

### SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS C.R.S. 42-2-102 AND 24-60-1106

The following persons need not obtain a Colorado License provided they are 16 years of age or older and possess a valid license from their home state or state of last assignment.

**COLORADO RESIDENTS:** Any resident of this state who is employed in another state, where the laws of that state require licensing to drive in order to engage in a regular trade or profession, does not need a Colorado Driver License as long as such other license to drive is valid and the employment is not terminated. This special exemption applies only if the other state is a member of the Interstate Driver License Compact Agreement.

**MILITARY:** Anyone who is serving as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty; this also includes the spouse and children of such members.

**FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL:** On duty or assigned to temporary duty with the United States Armed Forces; this also includes the spouse and children of such members.

**STUDENTS:** Any nonresident who is temporarily residing in Colorado for the PRINCIPAL purpose of furthering his/her education and is considered a nonresident for tuition purposes.

**NON-RESIDENT ALIENS:** Foreign tourists, instructors, and business persons may drive any private (noncommercial) vehicle with their personal Driver License.

### 1.2 PERSONS WHO CANNOT BE ISSUED A COLORADO DRIVER LICENSE

- Any person who does not submit proof of age, proof of identity, or both, as required by the department.
- Any person unable to pass the Driver License examination.
- Any person with a license from another state that does not surrender that license. (C.R.S. 24-60-1106)
- Any person under suspension, revocation, or denial of driving privileges in this or any other state.
- Any person whose presence in the United States is in violation of federal immigration laws.
- Any person adjudicated to be mentally incompetent, an alcoholic, or an habitual user of narcotic drugs.
- Emancipated minors without an Affidavit of Liability. (DR 2460)
- Any person who has unpaid fines or outstanding judgments for traffic violations.
- Any person under 16 years of age can not be issued a driver license.

### 1.3 OBTAINING A COLORADO DRIVER LICENSE

Applications and written testing are on a first come, first served basis. You should allow yourself ample time before closing to complete the process. No appointment is needed for the written test, however, to allow sufficient time to complete the test and any processing, no written test will be given after 4:15 p.m. at those offices with 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. hours of operation. Drive tests are by appointment only. To allow sufficient time to complete the test and any processing, the last appointment for a drive test is 4:00 p.m. at those offices with 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. hours of operation.

Try to arrive at the office as early as possible. Generally, Mondays, Fridays and days after holidays are the busiest. Check the list of offices in the Service Center Guide, in the back of this handbook, for locations, services provided, and hours of operation.

### TO APPLY FOR A LICENSE OR INSTRUCTION PERMIT YOU MUST...

1. Submit two forms of identification such as: *(Photocopies or notarized copies are not accepted)*
  - Certified State or County Birth Certificate.
  - United States Certificate of Birth Abroad.
  - Previous License or Identification Card expired less than 1 year.

- Valid Passport.
  - Valid Military Identification Card.
  - Native American Tribal Identification Card.
  - Resident Alien Identification Card.
  - Naturalization Certificate.
  - Valid Foreign Passport with Immigration Visa/I-94. (No Border Crossing Cards or a Visa status of B1, B2, W/T, W/B, C/P or N/C)
2. Provide your Social Security Number.
  3. Supply a Colorado residence address.
  4. Pass all required examinations: (physical, vision, written, driving test).

**DRIVING RECORD ANALYSIS:** The Motor Vehicle Division examines your driving record and present license status to determine eligibility before issuing a new license.

**PHYSICAL APTITUDE ANALYSIS:** This is a determination, by the driver license employee, of any physical ailment or disability which may have an effect on your driving. A Confidential Medical Examination Report is required for many physical ailments or disabilities such as epilepsy or paralysis.

**VISION SCREENING:** Your vision will be tested to determine if you can see well enough to drive safely. If the test discloses that you need corrective lenses to meet the minimum visual standards, your license will show this restriction. Failure to meet established vision standards will result in initial rejection and referral to a vision specialist for correction and recommendations at the applicant's expense. The minimum vision standard is 20/40.

**BASIC WRITTEN TEST:** This covers various aspects of driving knowledge and safety. The test questions will cover the contents of this handbook including road signs, driving under the influence, as well as other driving rules, safety rules and legal items.

**DRIVING TEST:** This is the most important part of the examination because it provides you with the opportunity to demonstrate that you can drive safely. (See Drive Test §13)

5. Pay the required fee. A separate fee is required for the Instruction Permit and for the Driver License. A surcharge will be added for any motorcycle endorsement, license, or extension.
6. Be fingerprinted (C.R.S. 42-2-107) and photographed. (C.R.S. 42-2-114.)

#### 1.4 CLASSES OF COLORADO DRIVER LICENSES

Colorado Driver Licenses are issued in various classes according to your age group and the type of vehicle for which you qualify.

All classes of licenses are valid for chauffeur purposes and are also valid for motorized bicycles (MOPEDS). Chauffeur is defined as: Operator of a motor vehicle while in use as a public or common carrier of persons.

**CLASS R (Basic License)** Any motor vehicle which is not

considered a motorcycle or commercial vehicle as described below. (Formerly Class C)

**CLASS A, B and C (Commercial Driver License - CDL)** A driver must have a Commercial Driver License to operate the following types of vehicles:

- Any motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or combination vehicle weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more.
- Any vehicle that transports quantities of hazardous materials that require warning placards under the Department of Transportation regulations.
- Any vehicle that is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
- The GVWR or GCWR of the vehicle(s) is not the weight of the vehicle(s), but the weight rating that the manufacturer assigned to the vehicle(s).

For further information including requirements, qualifications, endorsements and restrictions on the Commercial Driver License, please obtain a Commercial Driver Manual at any driver licensing office in the state, or at any Port of Entry office.

#### 1.5 PARENT CONSENT FOR MINORS/AFFIDAVIT OF LIABILITY AND GUARDIANSHIP

If you are under 18, an Affidavit of Liability (DR 2460) must be signed by a parent, stepparent, legal guardian or spouse 18 years of age or older. If the signer is a legal guardian, original court documents showing guardianship, custody or adoption must be presented. Spouses must show the marriage certificate.

*The affidavit must be signed in front of the examiner or a notary public.*

Whoever signs the Affidavit agrees to take legal responsibility for your actions as a driver. If the signer decides later not to accept responsibility for your driving, that person may withdraw their signature and your permit/license will be canceled.

## 2. TYPES OF INSTRUCTION PERMITS AND LICENSES

**INSTRUCTION PERMITS:** An Instruction Permit allows limited driving privileges for people learning to drive. Regardless of age you must be accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age and is riding in the passenger seat beside you.

**AGE GROUPS:** See the following categories for specific requirements and restrictions other than those listed previously.

**MINOR AGE GROUP** - 15 years to 21 years of age

**DRIVER EDUCATION PERMIT** - available to customers 15 years to 15 years, 6 months.

- Expires 3 years after issuance.
- Must present a completed Affidavit of Liability and

Guardianship (DR2460) and a completed Affidavit of Enrollment in Driver Education.

- While holding this type of permit, you may only drive with your driver education instructor or the person(s) who signed the Affidavit of Liability (DR2460) until you are 15 years, 6 months. At 15 years, 6 months, you may drive only with the person(s) who signed the affidavit of Liability (DR 2460) until you are 16. This restriction is automatically lifted when you reach 16 years of age.

**DRIVER AWARENESS PERMIT** - available to customers 15 years, 6 months to 16 years of age.

- Expires 3 years after issuance.
- Must present a completed Affidavit of Liability and Guardianship (DR2460) and documentation indicating completion of an approved Driver Awareness Program.
- While holding this type of permit you may only drive with the person(s) who signed the Affidavit of Liability (DR 2460). This restriction is automatically lifted when you reach 16 years of age.

**MINOR INSTRUCTION PERMIT** - available to customers 16 years to 21 years of age.

- Expires 3 years after issuance.
- Minors under 18 must present a completed Affidavit of Liability and Guardianship (DR2460).

**MINOR LICENSE** - Expires 20 days after the 21st birthday.

- Minors under the age of 18 must hold an instruction permit for at least TWELVE MONTHS and be at least 16 years of age before obtaining a Driver License.
- Minors under 18 must present a completed and signed Drive Time Log sheet when applying for their Driver License.
- Minors 18 and older do not have to hold an instruction permit for any required amount of time but do have to first purchase an instruction permit before taking a drive test.

**ADULT AGE GROUP**- 21 years of age and over

**INSTRUCTION PERMIT** - expires 3 years after issuance. Adults do not have to hold an instruction permit for any required amount of time but do have to first purchase an instruction permit before taking a drive test.

**ADULT LICENSE** - expires on the birthday 10 years from the year of issue. Licenses for adults 61 years of age and older expire on the birthday 5 years from the year issue.

**TEMPORARY DOCUMENTS:** Driver License offices no longer have instant photo equipment. Driver License offices will issue a paper temporary license, permit or ID card, which is valid for 30 days, while your photo is processed. Because you will receive your photo document in the mail, it is important that your address is correct. If you do not receive your photo document in the mail after 30 days, you should report it to the office where you originally applied.

**MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENT:** See the Motorcycle Handbook.

**IDENTIFICATION CARDS:** Any Colorado resident not holding a valid license may apply for a Colorado Identification Card. See Resident, § 1.1.) Per C.R.S. 42-2-114 and 42-2-302, Colorado law prohibits a person from holding both a valid driver license and an identification card.

- You must present at least two (2) documents of identification. (See proof of identity listed under Obtaining a Colorado Driver License § 1.3)
- If you are 60 or older, there is no charge for the ID card.
- Expiration:
  - Minor ID cards expire on the 21st birthday.
  - Adult ID cards expire on the birthday, 10 years from the year of issue.

### 3. NEW RESIDENT / RENEWAL

Some offices in the metro area are limited service offices. If you do not have to take any tests, you may be able to save time by going to one of these offices. Check the list of offices in the Service Center Guide in the back of this handbook for locations, services provided, and hours of operation.

#### 3.1 NEW RESIDENT WITH A VALID LICENSE

If you are 16 years of age or older and have a valid license in your possession which was issued by another U.S. state, territory or possession, you will normally not be required to take the written test or the drive test.

The driver license employee has a responsibility to require a drive test, even if you turn in a valid license, if there is a problem with your physical aptitude analysis or vision screening.

You must surrender your valid out-of-state driver license (C.R.S. 24-60-1106) and present identification showing proof of lawful presence in the U.S. along with your surrendered out-of-state driver license.

If you are under the age of 18, an Affidavit of Liability must be signed. (See Parent Consent for Minors, §1.5)

#### 3.2 RENEWAL OF A COLORADO DRIVER LICENSE OR INSTRUCTION PERMIT

To renew a Colorado driver license or instruction permit, you will need to present your old license or permit, pass a vision test, pay the required fee and be fingerprinted and photographed.

Once you obtain a Colorado Driver License or Instruction Permit, you will not normally have to repeat the written or driving test unless:

- You apply for a different class of license or add an endorsement.
- You receive traffic tickets which result in suspension.
- The license or permit is canceled, revoked or denied.
- You let the license or permit expire for more than one year.

You may renew an Adult Colorado Driver License at any time prior to the expiration date. Minor licenses cannot be renewed before the day of the 21st birthday.

If you are eligible to renew your driver license by mail, you will automatically receive a renew-by-mail application 90 days prior to the expiration of your driver license. Complete the form, include all required information and the correct fee and return the form prior to the expiration of your driver license. Please be sure that your address is correct.

## 4. DUPLICATE DRIVER LICENSE

### 4.1 LOST, STOLEN, OR MUTILATED LICENSE OR PERMIT

If your driver license is lost, stolen or mutilated and you are 21 years of age or older, you will be required to renew the license for the standard renewal fee (C.R.S. 42-2-117 (1.5)). Duplicates are only available to minor drivers and all instruction permit holders. To replace or renew a lost, stolen or mutilated driver license or instruction permit, you must appear in person at any driver license office, present acceptable identification and pay the required fee. See Section 1.3, Obtaining a Colorado Driver License, for the list of acceptable identification.

### 4.2 CHANGE OF NAME AND/OR ADDRESS

Colorado law 42-2-119 (1)(a) requires that you notify the Motor Vehicle Division in writing within 10 days of a name change or a change of address.

**CHANGE OF NAME:** If you are changing your name, you must appear at a driver license office in person, with legal, original, or certified documentation. (i.e. recorded marriage certificate, divorce decree, court order)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** For emergency notification purposes, to receive a renew-by-mail application or to receive your license in the mail, it is important to keep the Motor Vehicle Division informed of your current address. You can change your address at any driver license office or by mailing our self-service change of address postcard, available at any driver license office or on our Website.

## 5. EXTENSION OF A COLORADO DRIVER LICENSE

The Motor Vehicle Division examines your driving record, driver license status and the type of license you have before issuing an extension. Please include your full name, date of birth and license number on any extension requests. For non-CDL licenses:

**MILITARY:** Only one three-year extension is given for Colorado residents and their dependents on active duty outside the state. You may request an extension card prior to the expiration date of the license. The request must include a copy of your valid Military Identification Card.

**CIVILIAN:** The charge for a one-year extension is \$3.00. Add \$1.00 if you have a motorcycle endorsement.

- If you are out-of-state when your license will expire, you may obtain a one-year extension.
- If you are out of the country when your license will expire, you may obtain up to 2 one-year extensions.
- If you are unable to renew your license due to a medical condition, you may obtain a one-year extension. The request must include a statement from your doctor.

Mail all extension requests and required information to:

<i>Regular Mailing Address:</i>	<i>Overnight requests:</i>
Motor Vehicle Division	Motor Vehicle Division
Driver Services	1881 Pierce St.
Denver, CO 80261-0016	Denver, CO 80214

For CDL licenses: Due to medical and testing requirements for CDL drivers, only a 30-day extension is available. Please contact either of the above addresses.

## 6. KEEPING YOUR LICENSE

**LICENSE/DRIVING PRIVILEGE STATUS:** Having a driver license is a privilege. Protect that privilege by driving with care and consideration for others.

**VALID DRIVING PRIVILEGE:** The individual may apply for or hold a Colorado Driver License. There are no restraint actions against that privilege.

**VALID DRIVER LICENSE:** The Driver License is considered legally in force and authorizes the individual to drive.

**CLEARANCE:** A formal indication from a state, on letterhead, or an official state form, that the applicant has valid driving privileges and is clear to apply for a Colorado Driver License.

**REINSTATEMENT:** A procedure to restore an individual's driving privilege. Reinstatement of driving privileges does not always reinstate the Driver License.

Reinstatement of the driving privilege may be processed even with outstanding tickets, however, a new permit or license may not be issued until the individual can show clearance of any such tickets.

The following are actions that affect your driving privilege or driver license. These actions may be for a specific amount of time and/or until certain conditions are satisfied. You may NOT drive while under any of these actions.

**CANCELLATION:** An action to void a valid Driver License. This action does not require reinstatement.

**DENIAL:** A restraint action taken when an individual does not have a Colorado Driver License. This action may require reinstatement.

**SUSPENSION:** A restraint action that temporarily invalidates the Driver License and withdraws the driving privilege. *This action requires reinstatement.*

The following actions require the individual to reinstate their driving privilege, pass the written test, purchase an Instruction Permit, pass the driving test, and purchase a new Driver License.

**CANCELLATION AND DENIAL:** A restraint action to cancel the Driver License and withdraw the driving privilege.

**REVOCAION:** A restraint action that invalidates the Driver License and revokes the driving privilege.

### 6.1 RE-EXAMINATION

A reexamination (vision, written and driving) will be required for one or more of the following reasons:

- Involvement in 2 accidents within 3 years.
- Involvement in a fatal accident.
- Incident report from any law enforcement agency.
- Medical report from a doctor.
- A family member submitting a written request.

The notice of re-exam allows you 20 days to complete the re-exam (pass or fail). Failure to complete the re-exam within 20 days will result in cancellation and denial of your driving privilege.

After you have taken the examination, your license may be returned, you may be issued a license or permit with restrictions, or your driving privilege could be canceled and denied depending on the results of the examination.

### 6.2 COLORADO POINT SYSTEM

As a driver, you start out with a clean record, no points against you. If you accumulate too many points against your driving record within a certain period of time, you will lose your driver license through a point suspension. Each time you are convicted of a traffic violation, the court notifies the Motor Vehicle Division. A conviction occurs when you plead guilty, pay the ticket, or accept a plea bargain. Each type of conviction causes a certain number of points to be placed on your traffic record. Points assessed against your record are not erased when you get a new license or get reinstated.

The number of point accumulations for suspension are:

#### MINOR DRIVER UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE:

- 6 points in any 12 consecutive months.
- 7 or more points for the period of the license.

#### MINOR DRIVER BETWEEN 18 AND 21:

- 9 points in any 12 consecutive months.
- 12 points in any 24 consecutive months.
- 14 points in the period of the license.

#### ADULT DRIVER:

- 12 points in any 12 consecutive months.
- 18 points in any 24 consecutive months.

#### CHAUFFEUR POINTS:

- 16 points in any 12 consecutive months.
- 24 points in any 24 consecutive months.
- 28 points in any 48 consecutive months.

All chauffeur violations must have been received in a motor vehicle in use as a public or common carrier of persons or property.

### 6.3 YOUR DRIVING PRIVILEGE MAY BE SUSPENDED, REVOKED OR CANCELED IF YOU:

- Meet or exceed the minimum point accumulation for suspension. (See Colorado Point System §6.2)
- Are convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Refuse to be tested for alcohol or drug content.
- Are convicted of failing to report an accident or leaving the scene of an accident without stopping, exchanging information, and rendering aid.
- Fail to report an accident to the Colorado Motor Vehicle division according to the Financial Responsibility Law.
- Give false information on your driver license application.
- Fail to settle a judgment against you as a result of an accident while operating a vehicle.
- Lend your license to someone else or misuse it in any way.
- Alter or deface your license.
- Fail to appear for a reexamination requested by the Motor Vehicle Division.
- Are convicted of manslaughter as a result of a motor vehicle accident.
- Fail to pay a fine for a traffic violation from this or any other state.
- Fail to register, in Colorado, all vehicles owned within 30 days of becoming a resident.
- Are convicted of defacing public or private property.
- Fail to pay ordered child support.
- Fail to provide valid evidence of insurance when requested by a law enforcement officer.

If you are convicted of driving *while under restraint*, your driving privilege will be suspended again effective for **ONE YEAR** from the date you would have been reinstated.

## 7. UNDERSTANDING COLORADO'S MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS

### 7.1 MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE DATA BASE LAW (C.R.S. 10-4-615 AND 42-7-604)

Effective January 1, 1999, a statewide database was established to track compliance and noncompliance, within Colorado, of motor vehicle insurance requirements. Vehicle insurance companies are required to submit, on a monthly basis, information on policies issued during the previous month. Vehicle registration offices also submit information to the database on vehicles registered. Should you be stopped by a police officer, if you do not have evidence of insurance in your vehicle and you are not listed in the database as having insurance, your license is subject to confiscation and suspension. Per C.R.S. 42-2-127.7, you may request a hearing or present evidence of insurance,

that was valid at the time you were stopped, at a driver license office or at 1881 Pierce St. in Lakewood.

**EVIDENCE OF INSURANCE:** Evidence of insurance includes the insurance company, policy number, date of expiration and vehicle covered, and must be in your motor vehicle while in operation.

### **7.2 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAW / COMPULSORY INSURANCE (C.R.S. 42-4-1409)**

*“No owner of a motor vehicle required to be registered in this state shall operate the vehicle or permit it to be operated on the public highways of this state when the owner has failed to have a complying policy or certificate of self-insurance in full force and effect as required by law.”*

The minimum insurance you must have in addition to personal injury protection is:

- \$25,000 for bodily injury or death to one person in any one accident.
- \$50,000 for bodily injury or death to two or more persons in any one accident.
- \$15,000 property damage coverage.

In the event of an accident, evidence of insurance must be shown for all vehicles involved even if...

1. The driver was not at fault in the accident.
2. The vehicle was parked.
3. There was no injury or damage to any other party.
4. The accident results in damages that are **less** than \$1,000.00.

The Motor Vehicle Division is allowed to accept the insurance information noted on the Traffic Officer's accident report or on counter reports filed with law enforcement agencies. The Motor Vehicle Division continues to have the authority to send notice for additional information to the driver if the insurance information is incomplete on the officer's report or if the report indicates there was no insurance at the time of the accident.

### **7.3 COLORADO'S SAFETY BELT LAW (C.R.S. 42-4-237)**

Colorado's Safety Belt Law requires that a fastened safety belt must be worn in all motor vehicles, that were factory equipped with a safety belt system, while in operation on public roadways by...

- The driver.
- Every front seat passenger.
- Every child between the ages of 4 and 16 and/or over 40 pounds seated anywhere in the vehicle.

For children, see Colorado's Child Passenger Protection Law.

The only exceptions are:

- Emergency personnel.
- Passenger buses and school buses.
- Farm equipment.

- Motorcycles.
- Driver of delivery vans on the job.
- Anyone carrying a written medical statement from a physician stating why s/he is not physically or psychologically required to wear the safety belts.

Always wear both shoulder and lap safety belts low and tight.

### **7.4 COLORADO'S CHILD PASSENGER PROTECTION LAW (C.R.S. 42-4-236)**

Children are required, by law, to be properly fastened into an appropriate child restraint system. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that each child is properly fastened into one of the following:

Children less than one year of age, and less than 20 pounds, in a rear-facing child restraint system.

Children one year of age or older, but less than 4 years of age and less than 40 pounds, in a forward-facing child restraint system.

Children at least 4 years of age, but less than 6 years of age and less than 55 inches tall, in a child booster seat or with a child safety belt-positioning device unless the child is being transported in a vehicle equipped with only a two-point-lap-belt-only system. The child must then be properly restrained with the lap belt.

Children at least 6 years of age, or older, or is 55 inches tall or more may use the motor vehicle's safety belt.

According to the National Safety Council:

- Never place an infant in a rear-facing child safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger side air bag.
- Children should ride, in the appropriate child restraint system, in the back seat. This eliminates the possibility of airbag-related deaths or injuries and studies show that children are up to 29% safer in the back seat.

### **7.5 COLORADO'S GRADUATED LICENSE LAW (C.R.S. 42-2-104, 105, 105.5)**

Colorado law requires a minor applying for an instruction permit to hold that permit for at least 6 months and submit a log of their driving experience at the time they apply for their license. They must show 50 hours of driving experience; 10 of which must have been at night. Once a minor gets their license, the law also places restrictions on drivers under 17. See page 35 for the log sheet and detailed information on restrictions and requirements.

### **7.6 THE DUTIES OF OCCUPANTS OF VEHICLES INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN PERSONAL INJURY (C.R.S. 42-4-1607)**

If you are a passenger in a vehicle involved in an accident where the driver is physically incapable of reporting the accident, you are required to report the accident and, if directed by police, to remain at the scene of the accident until police arrive. Failure to do so is a Class 2 misdemeanor traffic offence.