

Welcome to your new home!

As a new resident of Pennsylvania, you may find the information on driver's licenses, vehicle registrations and rules of the road in this brief guide helpful. I encourage you to call my office to assist you with any issues you or your family may encounter with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), or with any other state-related issue. We can provide you with forms and information, as well as other services you may find helpful in your new community.

I wish you all the best in your new home.

KNOW PENNSYLVANIA'S RULES OF THE ROAD

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

- Operators on a learner's permit must wear a helmet approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Individuals who meet the following criteria may choose whether to wear a motorcycle helmet:
 - A person age 21 or older who has been licensed to operate a motorcycle for at least two years.
 - A person age 21 or older who has completed an approved motorcycle rider safety course.
- The passenger of person who is exempt, if the passenger is age 21 or older.
- Eye protection is required.
- Operators on a learner's permit may not carry passengers.

BICYCLE SAFETY

Bicyclists are subject to the same rules of the road as other vehicle drivers. You must obey all traffic signals, yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, use the right side of a two-way road and signal all turns. Motorists are required to pass to the left of a bicyclist within not less than four feet at a careful rate of speed. Children under age 12 must wear approved safety helmets when riding a bike or riding in an attached restraining seat or trailer. Contact my office for more information on the helmet law and other bicycle safety rules.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Stopping for school buses is required when approaching a bus with flashing red signal lights from any direction. The exception is when traveling in the opposite direction from a bus on a separate roadway on the opposite side of a divided highway. Separate or divided roadways are those divided by physical barriers such as guiderails, concrete median barriers, concrete curbs or natural grass/shrub/rock strips. It is important to note that motorists must stop no less than 10 feet from a school bus. The penalty for failure to stop for a bus loading or unloading children is a \$285 fine, five points on your driving record and a 60-day suspension of your driver's license. If a bus is equipped with a side stop signal arm enforcement system (stop arm camera) for the purpose of enforcing a violation of not stopping for a school bus, the penalty for violating is a \$300 fine which is the only financial penalty and no points are added to your driving record.

PEDESTRIANS

Motorists must stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks. Where there are no sidewalks, pedestrians should walk on the left side of the road facing traffic. State law prohibits standing in the road to solicit rides. Federal law prohibits hitchhiking on interstates.

SPEEDING

The maximum speed limit in Pennsylvania is 70 miles per hour on certain portions of interstate highways and the Pennsylvania Turnpike where posted.

RIGHT TURNS ON RED

Right turns on red are permitted unless otherwise posted. Left turns on red from a one-way street onto another one-way street are also permitted. Use caution and yield the right-of-way.

MOVE OVER

If you come upon an emergency response area, you are required by law to move over to the far, nonadjacent lane to pass the area safely or reduce your speed of no more than 20 miles per hour under the posted speed limit if unable to move over.

OBEY ALL WARNING AND CLOSURE SIGNS AND DEVICES

It is illegal to drive around or through any signs or traffic control devices that close a road or highway due to hazardous conditions.

HANDS-FREE DRIVING

- Drivers of all ages are prohibited from using interactive wireless communication devices for the purpose of reading, writing or sending text messages or emails while operating a motor vehicle.
- All motorists are prohibited by law from using an interactive mobile device (handheld wireless device, phone or computer capable of voice communication, texting, emailing, internet browsing, messaging, playing games, recording images/video, accessing social media or otherwise sending or receiving electronic data) while operating a vehicle. A driver may not use a device while driving a vehicle except for communicating with law enforcement or emergency services to prevent injury to persons or property.
- A driver may use a device if it is a hands-free device or system.

FINES, THE POINT SYSTEM

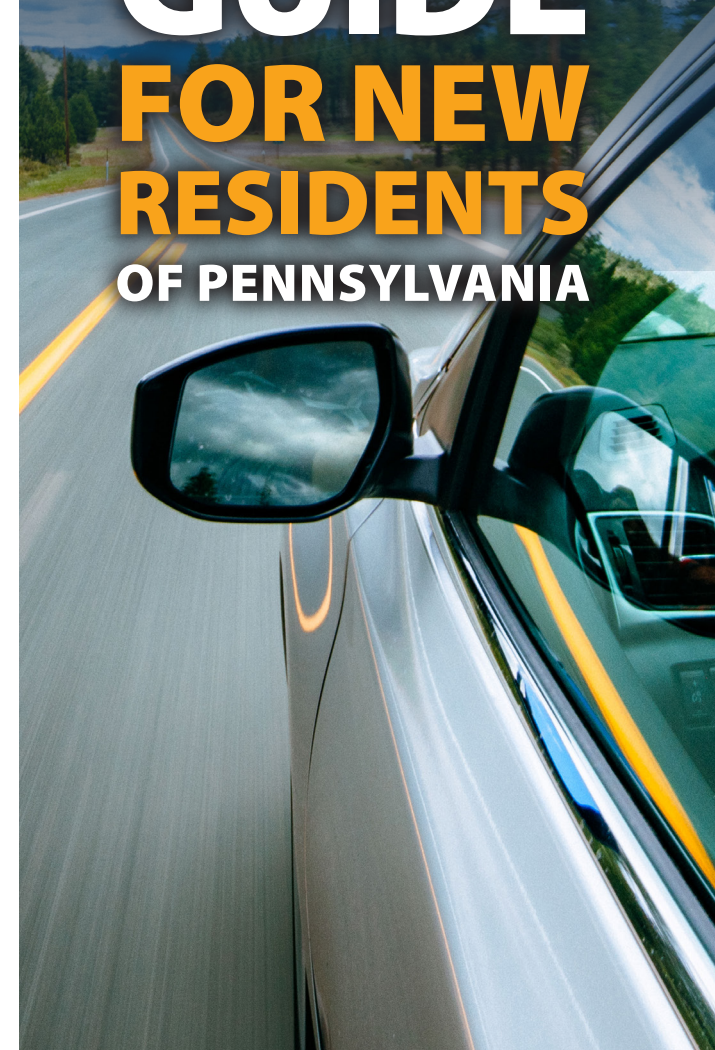
- Pennsylvania levies stiff fines upon conviction for traffic violations. Surcharges range from \$30 to \$300 depending on the level of the offense.
- In addition to fines for traffic violations, Pennsylvania has a point system that makes assessments (called "points") against your driving record. Accumulation of points will result in suspension of your driving privileges, require you to attend a driver improvement school or take a special examination.

HEADLIGHT USE

The use of headlights is required between sunset and sunrise, in construction zones, in unfavorable atmospheric conditions (i.e., rain, snow, sleet, hail, fog, smoke, smog), when conditions prevent clear visibility at a distance of 1,000 feet, and when you cannot see due to insufficient light on gray days or in heavy traffic when your vehicle may seem to blend in with surroundings. Additionally, you must turn on your headlights any time your vehicle's wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to weather conditions (running lights are not enough and your tail lights must be illuminated as well).



ADriver's GUIDE FOR NEW RESIDENTS OF PENNSYLVANIA



ACCIDENT REPORTING

The driver of a vehicle involved in an accident must immediately notify police if the accident causes any injury, death or damage to a vehicle that requires it to be towed.

SAFETY INSPECTION

- An annual valid safety inspection sticker is required on all vehicles registered in Pennsylvania. Inspections are performed at official inspection stations, usually a repair garage or service station with a repair shop. Safety inspections cover lights, brakes, horn, tires, safety belts, exhaust system, mirrors, tag mounting, suspension, signals, steering, windshield glass, wipers and other major parts.
- Vehicles newly registered in Pennsylvania must be inspected within 10 days of the registration date.

AUTO EMISSIONS INSPECTION

In some areas of Pennsylvania where tested air quality does not meet federal standards, gasoline-powered vehicles are required to undergo an emissions inspection, performed at official emission inspection stations (this is part of the mandated federal Emission Inspection Maintenance Program). Your vehicle registration card will indicate if you are required to have the emissions test done.

AUTO INSURANCE

All motor vehicles registered in Pennsylvania must be covered by a standard motor vehicle liability insurance policy from an insurance company licensed to do business

in Pennsylvania or by an approved program of self-insurance. Minimum coverages are \$15,000 for bodily injury or death of one person, \$30,000 for injury or death of two or more persons and \$5,000 property damage. Proof of insurance is required to maintain vehicle registration. If you cancel your policy, you must get another one or surrender your registration plate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Consult the PA Driver's Manual or call PennDOT's toll-free Telephone Information Center at 1-800-932-4600 for more information on Pennsylvania's rules of the road. Additional information is also available at PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website, pa.gov/agencies/dmv.

DRIVER'S LICENSES

- New residents of Pennsylvania who hold a valid driver's license from another state must get a Pennsylvania driver's license within 60 days after moving to the Commonwealth and surrender their out-of-state license and/or identification card.
- New residents, age 18 and older, must provide one form of identification (such as a birth certificate or valid U.S. passport), two proofs of residency (such as current utility bills, tax records, or lease/mortgage documents), your Social Security card, and your out-of-state driver's license and/or identification card. Please note, if the name on your original document differs from your current name, you must provide an original marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order document.
- New residents, age 16½ or 17, must provide one form of identification (such as a birth certificate or valid U.S. passport), your Social Security Card and your out-of-state driver's license and/or identification card.
- If you are a new resident of Pennsylvania and your prior state's driver's license has been expired for more than six months, or you do not possess your prior state's driver's license, you will be required to apply for a Pennsylvania learner's permit and take the vision, knowledge and road tests.

- New residents who hold a valid driver's license from Puerto Rico or a U.S. territory may transfer their valid driver's license to a Pennsylvania non-commercial driver's license.
- New residents who hold a valid commercial driver's license (CDL) from another state may transfer their CDL to a Pennsylvania CDL. (CDLs from Puerto Rico or a U.S. territory cannot be transferred).
- Motorcycle permits and Class M motorcycle licenses are available, or motorcycle drivers may carry a Class M endorsement on a valid driver's license. Free motorcycle safety programs are offered throughout Pennsylvania for state residents with a valid PA motorcycle license or permit. For out-of-state residents, a fee is charged. Visit pa.gov/agencies/dmv/driver-services/motorcyclists/pennsylvania-motorcycle-safety-program or call 1-800-845-9533 for more information about the Motorcycle Safety Program.

OBTAINING A LEARNER'S PERMIT

- Out-of-state learner's permits may not be transferred to Pennsylvania. When you are at least 16 years old, you may go to a Driver Service Center to take a vision screening and a signs and knowledge test. You should obtain a free copy of the Pennsylvania Driver's Manual and study it. You can get a manual from driver education teachers, a Driver License Center, or pa.gov/agencies/dmv.
- When you go to the Driver License Center, please bring one form of identification (such as a birth certificate or valid U.S. passport), two proofs of residency if you are over the age of 18, your Social Security card, and your completed learner's permit application. Be sure to have your physician complete the back of the learner's permit application. If you are under 18, you also need a completed parent or guardian consent form.
- Upon successful completion of the vision and signs and knowledge tests, the examiner at the Driver Service Center will issue you your learner's permit, which is valid for one year. Your permit allows you to practice driving under the supervision of an adult 21 years of age or older (or a parent, official guardian, person officially designated in loco parentis or spouse who is at least 18 years of age).

- If you are under 18, you will need to practice a minimum of six months and complete at least 65 hours of adult-supervised, behind-the-wheel experience before you can take the skills test. Ten of those practice hours must include nighttime driving and five hours must be in inclement weather. For permit holders under 18, the earliest date you are eligible for the skills test is printed on your permit. All Driver License Centers require you to make an appointment for the driving portion of the test. Call 1-800-423-5542 or visit pa.gov/agencies/dmv.

PHOTO ID CARDS

Non-driver photo identification cards are available from the exam centers for persons who do not drive, but wish to have an acceptable means of ID. You must be at least 10 years of age and provide proof of identity and residency (if over age 18).

TITLES AND REGISTRATIONS

- To obtain a PA title and registration for your vehicle, you must provide a valid title from your previous state of residence in your name or properly assigned to you. One PennDOT form (MV-1) allows you to apply for title and vehicle registration simultaneously. A tracing or verification of the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is required and the form must be notarized. Proof of insurance is required. MV-1 forms are only available for completion by a contracted agent or the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.
- You must apply for Pennsylvania title and registration within 20 days of establishing residency.
- If you hold the title to your vehicle in another state and have owned the vehicle for at least six months before moving to Pennsylvania, no sales or use tax is assessed when you register your vehicle in Pennsylvania. If the vehicle was purchased less than six months prior to moving to Pennsylvania, you pay tax on the vehicle's purchase price, less trade-in, based on the difference between Pennsylvania's six percent sales tax and any tax you paid in the other state, unless the other state's tax was greater.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The law requires that PennDOT be notified of any change in address within 15 days. One form (MV-63) is used to change your address on both driver's license and registration. Contact my office to obtain the form.

STUDENTS, MILITARY

Full or part-time out-of-state students, as well as individuals in the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Pennsylvania, or their dependents age 16 or older living with them, who hold a valid license and registration from their home state need not obtain a Pennsylvania driver's license or registration, although they may do so if they choose, as explained above.

VANITY PLATES

Personalized vehicle license plates (so-called "vanity plates") can be obtained to display a personal message on a passenger vehicle, a truck up to 14,000 pounds, motorcycle, trailer or motorhome. Contact my office or visit pa.gov/agencies/dmv for form MV-904.

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