

House Bill 343, effective on 04/05/2007

This bill made significant changes to the law governing the operation of a motor vehicle by drivers under the age of 18.

1. Hours of Driving:
 - a. Drivers between 17 and 18 years of age may not drive between the hours of 1:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M.
 - b. Drivers between 16 and 17, or those under 18 who have a learner's permit, may not drive between midnight and 6:00 A.M.
 - c. Exceptions exist when driving with a parent or when traveling to, or from, work. In order for the work privileges to apply, a written statement from your employer needs to be with you in the vehicle for verification.

PLEASE NOTE: A local curfew ordinance or court order may further restrain a juvenile's right to drive during certain hours.

2. Passengers Restrictions:
 - a. Drivers under the age of 17 may not have more than one unrelated person in the vehicle with them unless they are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
3. Penalties for moving violations:
 - a. If a juvenile is adjudicated or found guilty of a moving violation during the first six months after the issuance of their driver's license, then the Court must impose a license suspension for the duration of either six months or until the person reaches the age of 17, whichever is shorter. **During the license suspension the juvenile shall only be permitted to drive with a parent or legal guardian.**
4. Child Restraints:
 - a. Requires all children between the ages of 4 and 15 to be in an approved child restraint system or a seat belt when in a motor vehicle.
 - b. Removes the previous exemption for out of state residents in the child restraint law.
 - c. Establishes a fine of \$25.00 for a first violation of the child restraint law.

Keep in mind that the termination of a court ordered license suspension does not mean that a BMV license suspension/restriction or reinstatement of license issues are taken care of. You can view your BMV record at www.ohioBMV.com, or call the public number at 614-752-7500.