

## House Bill 343 effective on 04/05/07:

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:

Drivers between 17 and 18 years of age may not drive between the hours of 1:00 am and 5:00 am.

Drivers between 16 and 17 or those under 18 who have a learner's permit, may not drive between midnight and 6:00 am.

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.

### 2. Passenger restrictions:

Drivers under the age of 17 may not have more than one (1) unrelated person in the vehicle with them unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

### 3. Penalties for moving violations:

If a juvenile is adjudicated or found guilty of a moving violation during the first six (6) months after the issuance of their driver's license, then the Court **may** impose a license suspension for the duration of either six (6) 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. (this is discretionary as of July, 2015)**

### 4. Child restrains:

Requires all children between the ages of four (4) and fifteen (15) to be in an approved child restraint system or a seat belt when in a moving motor vehicle.

Removes the previous exemption for out of state residents in the child restraint law.

Establishes a fine of \$25.00 for a first violation of the child restraint law.

## Teens in Ohio Cannot Use Phones While Driving

Ohio Revised Code §4511.205 prohibits drivers under 18 from using cell phones while operating a vehicle. More specifically, any minor driving on a temporary permit or a probationary driver's license cannot drive while using an electronic wireless communications device, including cell phones, tablets, or laptops.

There are some exceptions. Teenagers can use a phone to contact the police or emergency services, through a hands-free device, or if their vehicle is parked outside the flow of traffic.

Keep in mind that at the end of a court suspension it does not mean the BMV suspension/restriction or reinstatement matter is taken care of. You can view your BMV at [www.ohiobm.com](http://www.ohiobm.com), or call the public phone number of (614) 752-5500.