

# Driver and Passenger Safety Laws and Statutes



## Teen Drivers

Topic	Wisconsin law	Statute
Instruction Permit	At least 15-1/2 years old; if under 18 a qualified adult* must be in the front passenger seat; only passengers allowed are immediate family.	343.07 Failure to comply with Instruction Permit requirements
Probationary license passenger restrictions	For the first 9 months or until age 18, only passengers allowed are immediate family, one non-family member, and one qualified adult.*	343.085(2m) Violation of Probationary License restrictions
Probationary license nighttime restrictions	For the first 9 months or until age 18, between midnight to 5am only, travel between home, work, and school is allowed unless a qualified adult* occupies front passenger seat.	343.085(2m)(a)(2) Violation of Probationary License restrictions
Cell phone use	Instruction Permit and Probationary License holders may not use a cellular or other wireless phone, except to report an emergency.	346.89(4)(a) Using a cell phone with an Instruction Permit or Probationary License

\*Qualified adult: a person with two years of driving experience who holds a valid, regular license and sits in the front seat. If this person is an instructor, parent/legal guardian or spouse, they must be at least 19 years of age; other adults must be 21 years of age.

## All Drivers / Passengers

Topic	Wisconsin law	Statute
Seat belt use	All vehicle occupants must be properly restrained.	347.48(2m) Failure to wear a seat belt
Inattentive driving	Driver may not engage with an activity that interferes or reasonably appears to interfere with the person's ability to drive safely.	346.89(1) Inattentive driving
Texting	Driver may not compose or send a text message or email message while driving, except for voice operated/hands-free technology.	346.89(3)(a) Texting/emailing while driving

Teen driving safety information and resources including Graduated Driver Licensing can be found on **[crossroadsteendriving.org](http://crossroadsteendriving.org)**.

**Email:** [crossroadsteendriving@chw.org](mailto:crossroadsteendriving@chw.org)



Children's  
Hospital of Wisconsin