

Graduated Drivers' Licenses For Nevada Teens Is Double-Edged Sword

Parents and lawmakers have always tried to make driving safer for teenagers. That's why Nevada and other states have implemented what are called "graduated drivers' licenses" for teenagers. Whereas a generation ago young people could get a standard driver's license when they turned 16 years old, today's teens must wait until they are 18 to receive full driving privileges. But drivers who are 16 or 17 years of age can still drive today under certain conditions.

The idea behind graduated drivers' licenses is to reduce accidents and injuries caused by young, inexperienced drivers. However, recent studies have shown that this type of licensing approach is a double-edged sword for teens.

[Research published today](#) in the Journal of the American Medical Association reveals that between 1986 and 2007, [fatal automobile accidents](#) involving 16- and 17-year olds dropped sharply. However, fatal collisions jumped among those aged 18 and 19 during the same period. The researchers opined that many teens might be waiting until the age of 18 to get their drivers' licenses because of the restrictions placed on younger drivers.

The study indicates that the long-term unintended consequences of graduated drivers' license programs may not have been fully thought out. But it should be noted that a similar study recorded last year in the Traffic Safety Journal finds that fatal crashes involving kids aged 15 to 17 were 30% lower in states with "tougher" graduated license programs than in those with "weaker" provisions - but there was no difference in crash rates among 18- or 19-year olds.

[In Nevada](#), a 16-year old can obtain an "intermediate stage" driver's license but cannot driver unsupervised at night, nor can he or she have a passenger under the age of 18 in the car for the first six months of being licensed. Intermediate stage licensees must log at least 50 hours of supervised driving practice (10 of which must be at night) before becoming eligible for full licensure.

If your teenager has been hurt or killed in an automobile accident, you should contact a qualified [auto accident attorney](#) as soon as possible.