



# 10-4

A weekly Q&A  
with local  
law enforcement

Submit your question to [news@owatonna.com](mailto:news@owatonna.com) or 444-2379

## **Q: What is a provisional driver's license and what restrictions come along with it?**

A: A provisional driver's license is issued to any juvenile who is applying for their driver's license in the State of Minnesota.

A provisional driver's license does come with a few stipulations that are outlined in Minnesota State Statute 171.055 Subdivision 2. One rule of the road for new driver's is that everyone in their vehicle under the age of 18 (eighteen) must be wearing a proper seat belt and young children must be seated in the appropriate child restraint seat. A violation of this rule will cost a new driver \$25.

Second, anyone with a provisional driver's license cannot operate a vehicle while talking on a cell phone or using the phone to text message. Even if the phone is equipped with a hands free device, it is still a violation of the provisional license to drive and talk on the phone.

Lastly, a provisional driver's license may be revoked at anytime if the license holder is convicted of any driving while intoxicated or open bottle law. Furthermore any conviction for a moving violation related to a traffic accident, or two or more convictions for a moving violation non-crash related will mean a provisional driver's license will be cancelled and not re-issued for one year or until the individual reaches the age of 18, whichever comes first.

Also, some changes are coming in August of 2008 for all drivers with or without provisional driver's licenses. A bill has just been passed making it illegal for any person in traffic (moving or stopped) to utilize text messaging (sending and receiving), e-mail, and internet browsers. This law is a secondary offense, just like not wearing a seat belt. Since the law is a secondary offense, it means a law enforcement officer cannot pull you over for violating this law alone, there must be another traffic violation first.

It is important for all drivers on provisional or non-provisional driver's licenses to remember; driving is a privilege, not a right, please do not abuse the privilege. Drive safe.

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