

CHAPTER ONE

OBTAINING A NEW CREDENTIAL

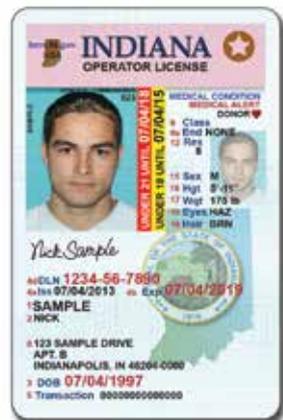
The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) issues three types of credentials. The first category of credential is driver's licenses, which include an operator's license and commercial driver's license (CDL). The second category of credential is learner's permits, which include an operator learner's permit (herein referred to as learner's permit), motorcycle learner's permit, and a commercial learner's permit. The third category of credential is an identification card, which is available to all residents of Indiana, and is issued at no cost to voting-age Indiana residents. More details on the BMV's credentials appear later in this chapter.

Credentials issued to Indiana residents who are under 21 years of age have a vertical format, with the dates the card-holder turns 18 and 21 years of age designated in yellow and red (as illustrated below). A gold-star marker appears in the upper right-hand corner to indicate that the credential is compliant with the Real ID Act and may be used as identification for federal purposes, such as boarding commercial flights or entering military bases.

Driver's licenses are identified with a rose header and a gold state of Indiana seal in the upper left-hand corner. Learner's permits are identified with a purple state of Indiana seal in the upper left-hand corner, while CDLs have a red state of Indiana seal. Identification cards have a green header and a green state of Indiana seal in the upper left-hand corner.



**Real ID driver's license:
Over 21 years of age**



**Real ID driver's license:
Under 21 years of age**

Indiana credentials have embedded security features that allow law enforcement to determine their authenticity. All applications for credentials are processed through intensive security checks to help prevent identity theft and fraud. If, during verification, the BMV discovers that another credential has been issued to an applicant in another state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, that applicant will be required to surrender the out-of-state credential before the BMV will process an application for an Indiana credential. However, applicants are not required to physically turn over their out-of-state credential if this process is completed electronically.

Real ID

The Real ID Act of 2005 established minimum standards for state-issued credentials (driver's license, permits, and identification cards). State-

issued credentials that meet these standards can be accepted for federal identification, including boarding commercial flights and entering military-run facilities. The purpose of these standards is to set uniform documentation and image-capture requirements, prevent fraud, and generate credentials for printing and mailing from a secure centralized facility. Indiana has been compliant with the Real ID Act requirements since January 1, 2010, so federal enforcement has not affected our citizens who have since been issued a Real ID-compliant credential.



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) have established October 1, 2020 as the deadline for when they will begin requiring those boarding an aircraft using a driver's license or identification card to have a Real ID-compliant credential. The Indiana BMV recommends that all citizens apply for a Real ID during their next renewal or before if their current credential expires after the October 1, 2020 deadline. To upgrade to a Real ID-compliant credential when renewing, amending, or replacing a current Indiana credential, you must provide original versions or certified copies of your identity, lawful status, Social Security number, and proof of Indiana residency documents during a visit to a BMV branch.

To see if your credential is Real ID-compliant, check to see if it has a star inside of a circle in its upper right-hand corner (like those found on page 1 of this manual). For a complete list of documents required to obtain a Real ID-compliant credential, see **Appendix A** of this manual or visit REALID.IN.gov. If you have questions about collecting your documents, you can call the Indiana BMV toll-free at 888-692-6841 to speak with a customer service representative, or visit any branch for assistance.

Receiving Your Credential by Mail

Your permanent credential will be mailed to you from a secure central location after you apply for a new, renewed, amended, or replacement credential. Your credential will be sent to the mailing address on file with the Indiana BMV and will arrive at your mailing address within 14 calendar days. If you have temporarily or permanently changed your mailing address with the United States Postal Service, you will not receive your credential unless the address is updated with the Indiana BMV online at myBMV.com or during your branch visit.

Indiana Residency Requirements

You must be a legal resident of Indiana to obtain an Indiana credential. Evidence of residency in Indiana includes:

- Maintaining a residential address in Indiana and not claiming residency in another state
- Being a registered voter in Indiana
- Holding lawful stewardship of a juvenile who is enrolled in an elementary or secondary school located in Indiana
- Having more than one-half of your gross income derived from sources in Indiana

For the purposes of obtaining a credential, the following persons living in Indiana solely for any of the following reasons, and without the intent to make Indiana their permanent home, are not considered Indiana residents:

- Students enrolled at a post-secondary educational institution
- Active duty military personnel in the Armed Forces
- Temporary employees

New Indiana Residents

When you become a resident of Indiana, you have 60 days to obtain a new Indiana driver's license.

If you have never held a valid driver's license from another state, you must hold an Indiana learner's permit before you can apply for an Indiana driver's license.

If your out-of-state driver's license has been expired for not more than three years, and you have held an unrevoked out-of-state driver's license for at

least one year, you must pass a standard vision screening and a knowledge exam to obtain an Indiana driver's license.

If your out-of-state driver's license has been expired for three or more years, or you have held an unrevoked out-of-state driver's license less than one year, you must pass a standard vision screening, knowledge exam, and a driving skills exam to obtain an Indiana driver's license.

This chapter will provide you with more detailed requirements for making a credential application. Regardless of which credential you choose, you will need to provide proof of your identity, lawful status in the United States, residency in Indiana, and your Social Security number (unless you are claiming an exemption or you are a foreign national, both of which require alternative documentation). A full list of acceptable documentation can be found in **Appendix A** of this manual or at myBMV.com.

Identification Cards

Identification cards may be issued to an Indiana resident of any age who does not have a driver's license. Indiana residents cannot hold more than one credential at the same time, even if one of the credentials was issued by another state. Therefore, you must surrender any other credential to the Indiana BMV in order to complete an application for an identification card.

Identification cards may also provide privileges to operate a Motor Driven Cycle – Class B (MDC – Class B) as long as you are at least 15 years of age and pass an MDC – Class B knowledge exam. If both requirements are met, an MDC – Class B endorsement will be placed on your identification card to signify your operating authority.

To apply for an identification card, you must visit a license branch and present documents described in **Appendix A** proving your identity, lawful status, Social Security number (unless you are claiming an exemption or you are a foreign national, both of which require alternative documentation), and Indiana residency.

Identification Card Validity

- An identification card and an MDC – Class B endorsement are valid for six years
- Identification cards issued to lawful temporary residents may not reflect standard periods of validity

Beyond identification cards, in which an MDC – Class B endorsement can be added to authorize some driving privileges, most people need to apply for

a learner's permit and ultimately graduate to an operator driver's license. To make this transition, you first need to pass a vision screening and knowledge exam and apply for a learner's permit. If you are younger than 18 years of age, you may also need to provide the BMV with proof of financial liability. While applying for a BMV-issued credential, you can also register to vote and add an indicator signifying your preference for organ donation.

Vision Screening

All Indiana learner's permit or driver's license applicants are required to pass a vision screening, even if the applicant is renewing an existing learner's permit or driver's license, unless the applicant is eligible for online renewal.

If you normally wear glasses or contacts while driving, you should inform the license branch personnel and wear them during the vision screening. If your visual ability does not meet state standards, you will be required to visit an eye doctor for an examination. If you return to the license branch with a statement from an eye doctor affirming that your vision has been corrected to meet the state standard, you may continue the driver's license application process, which will include a vision screening at the license branch.

Knowledge Exam

The operator's knowledge exam is a multiple-choice exam based on Indiana law, defensive driving practices, and information contained in this driver's manual. Passing the operator's knowledge exam is one step in the process of obtaining driving privileges in Indiana. To pass the knowledge exam, you must demonstrate a basic understanding of Indiana traffic laws and safe driving techniques. You must also be able to read and understand regulatory, warning, and traffic signs and signals.

The operator's knowledge exam is required for the following:

- Learner's permit applicants
- A new Indiana resident who holds an out-of-state driver's license of any type and is applying for an Indiana learner's permit or driver's license
- A new Indiana resident who holds an out-of-country driver's license
- A driver whose Indiana driver's license has been expired for more than 180 days
- A driver who has six or more active points on an Indiana driving record and is renewing a driver's license

- Active duty military personnel and his or her spouse and/or dependents, if applicable, whose Indiana driver's license has been expired for more than 180 days and who has returned from deployment more than 90 days prior to the date of renewal
- Out-of-state active duty military personnel applying for a new Indiana driver's license

The Indiana BMV also offers knowledge exams for CDL applicants who choose to add operational-specific endorsements, and applicants who wish to operate motorcycles, MDC – Class B vehicles, and in a for-hire capacity.

If you fail the knowledge exam, you must wait until the next business day to retake it.

Organ Donation

If you choose to be an organ donor, a small red heart will be printed on the front of your credential.

Under Indiana's Donor Choice Law, individuals 18 years of age and older may declare their intention to be organ donors and their family members cannot override their intention at the time of death. Individuals younger than 18 years of age may declare their intention with the permission of a parent or legal guardian, who must provide consent for donation at the time of a minor's death.

Active Duty and Veteran Military Indicator

If you are on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, you may choose to have an active duty military indicator placed on your credential. To obtain the indicator, you must visit a BMV license branch to provide your current Common Access Card (CAC) during your new issuance or renewal application.

If you are a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, you may choose to have a veteran indicator placed on your credential (provided you were not dishonorably discharged). To obtain the indicator, you must provide a DD214 or other documentation issued by the United States Department of Defense verifying your discharge. If you are the surviving spouse of a veteran, you may choose to have an indicator placed on your credential.

Financial Liability for Injury or Damage

Applicants for a learner's permit or probationary operator's license who are less than 18 years of age must have one of the following adults sign a sworn or affirmed statement of financial liability in person at a license branch. The lawful (IC 9-24-9-3) order of preference is:

1. The parent having custody of the minor applicant or a designee of the custodial parent specified by the custodial parent
2. The noncustodial parent (as defined in IC 31-9-2-83) of the minor applicant or a designee of the noncustodial parent specified by the noncustodial parent
3. The guardian having custody of the minor applicant
4. In the absence of a person described in one (1) through three (3), any other adult who is willing to assume the obligations imposed by the provisions of this chapter (IC 9-24-9).

An adult who co-signs for financial liability swears or affirms financial liability for a minor applicant, and agrees to be responsible jointly and severally with the minor applicant for all damage that may result from operating a motor vehicle. The adult who co-signs for financial liability must present a valid form of identification from the BMV's identity documentation list to the BMV while the minor is making application for a learner's permit or driver's license. If at any time, and for any reason, the adult who co-signs for financial liability wishes to withdraw financial liability for the minor, the adult can file State Form 55834 – Written Request to Cancel Financial Liability, which is available on the Indiana BMV's website. A written request to withdraw financial liability will cancel the minor's learner's permit or driver's license [IC 9-24-9-4(b)].

The signature of an adult on a minor's application for a driver's license or learner's permit is not required if the applicant is less than 18 years of age and can provide proof that he or she is under the care and supervision of the Department of Child Services (DCS). If the DCS applicant is applying for a driver's license or learner's permit, the applicant must also provide proof of a motor vehicle insurance policy that meets the minimum liability standards set forth in Indiana law. Chapter 3 of this manual covers insurance requirements and penalties for operating a motor vehicle without insurance in more detail.

Learner's Permits

A learner's permit allows an Indiana resident to practice driving before applying for a driver's license. You may apply for a learner's permit at any license branch.

If you are 16 years of age or older, you must meet the following requirements to obtain a learner's permit:

- Present documents described in **Appendix A** proving your identity, lawful status, Social Security number (unless you are a foreign national, which requires alternative documentation) and Indiana residency
- Pass a standard vision screening
- Pass a knowledge exam

If you are under 16 years of age, you must meet the following requirements to obtain a learner's permit:

- Be at least 15 years of age and show proof of your enrollment in a BMV-approved driver education program by presenting a Certificate of Driver Education Enrollment from the driver training school, dated no earlier than three weeks prior to the start of class. The online course certificate of completion is not an acceptable document.
- Present documents described in **Appendix A** proving your identity, lawful status, Social Security number (unless you are a foreign national, which requires alternative documentation), and Indiana residency
- Pass a standard vision screening
- Pass a knowledge exam

Practice Driving with Your Learner's Permit

If you are under 16 years of age and are enrolled in a driver education program:

- You may drive only when you are accompanied by a licensed driving instructor or a certified driver rehabilitation specialist, who is both recognized by the BMV and employed through a driver rehabilitation program. The instructor or rehabilitation specialist must be seated in the vehicle's front passenger seat.
- You may also practice driving with a licensed driver who has valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) driving privileges and is 25 years of age or older. The licensed driver must be related to you by blood, marriage, or legal status. You may also choose to practice driving with your spouse, who must be licensed and at least 21 years of age. The licensed driver must be seated in your vehicle's front passenger seat.

If you are under 18 years of age and you are not enrolled in a driver education program:

- You may practice driving with a licensed driver who has valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) driving privileges and is 25 years of age or older.

The licensed driver must be related to you by blood, marriage, or legal status. You may also choose to practice driving with your spouse, who must be licensed and at least 21 years of age. The licensed driver must be seated in your vehicle's front passenger seat.

- You may also practice driving with a learner's permit if accompanied by an individual licensed as a driver education instructor who is working under the direction of a driver training school, or a certified driver rehabilitation specialist who is recognized by the Indiana BMV and employed through a driver rehabilitation program. The instructor or rehabilitation specialist must be seated in your vehicle's front passenger seat.

If you are under 18 years of age and are under the care and supervision of the Department of Child Services:

- You may practice driving with a licensed driver who has valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) driving privileges and is 25 years of age or older. The licensed driver must be related to you by blood, marriage, or legal status. You may also choose to practice driving with a licensed driver who is 25 years of age or older and approved by the Department of Child Services. The licensed driver must be seated in your vehicle's front passenger seat.

If you are 18 years of age or older:

- You may practice driving with a learner's permit only when accompanied by a licensed driver with valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) driving privileges who is at least 25 years of age, or with your spouse provided he or she is licensed and at least 21 years of age or older.

Learner's Permit Validity

1. Learner's permits are valid for two years from the date of issuance
2. Learner's permits issued to lawful temporary residents may not reflect standard periods of validity
3. If you are visiting a license branch to renew your learner's permit and it has been more than 180 days since your last passed knowledge exam, you will need to retest

Driver Education Waiver for Skills Exam

If you have a learner's permit and attend a BMV-approved driver education school that participates in the BMV's waiver program, you may take the driving skills exam with the school after successful completion of the course, which includes 30 hours of classroom training and six hours of behind-the-wheel training. If you successfully complete a driving skills exam

administered by the driver education school, the results of your exam will remain valid until your learner's permit expires. A list of approved driver education schools is available at myBMV.com.

You must take the driving skills exam at a license branch if any of the following situations occur:

- Your learner's permit expires
- You receive a failing grade of 79 percent or lower in either classroom or behind-the-wheel training at your driver education school
- Your driver education school does not participate in the BMV's waiver program for the driving skills exam

If your learner's permit expires and it has been more than 180 days since your last knowledge exam, you will need to retake the knowledge exam to be issued a renewed learner's permit. The period of time you hold a valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) learner's permit will count toward the required 180-day holding period.

Driving Skills Exam

To schedule an appointment for a driving skills exam, visit myBMV.com or call the BMV Contact Center at (888) 692-6841. A driving skills exam may be scheduled no more than 14 days, and no less than 48 business hours, ahead of time. However, you may be able to schedule an appointment sooner by visiting a license branch. You must provide your own vehicle for the driving skills exam. There is no charge for the driving skills exam administered by the BMV.

A driving skills exam given by a BMV examiner is required for the following:

- Drivers with an Indiana learner's permit, unless that driver has successfully completed a BMV-approved driver education program and has a skills exam waiver
- New Indiana residents who hold an unrevoked out-of-state driver's license for less than one year or whose out-of-state driver's license has been expired for more than three years
- New Indiana residents who hold an out-of-country driver's license
- Indiana residents whose Indiana driver's license has been expired for more than three years
- Drivers who have a BMV restriction that requires testing
- Drivers who have a medical complaint on file with the BMV, and for whom the BMV has determined that a driving skills evaluation is needed

- When the BMV's medical board has recommended a skills evaluation, the BMV may require the driver to complete a driving skills exam
- Active duty military personnel and his or her spouse and/or dependent, if applicable, whose Indiana driver's license has been expired for more than three years, and who has been returned from deployment for more than 90 days prior to the renewal
- Discharged military personnel who hold an out-of-state driver's license whose expiration is beyond the 90-day extension, and which has been expired for more than three years

No one other than the BMV examiner(s) conducting the skills exam or other authorized BMV personnel is allowed in your vehicle when you take the driving skills exam. Your vehicle must be legally equipped, insured, and in a safe and clean condition. You must also provide the vehicle's current registration before taking the driving skills exam. Any interior cameras must be deactivated prior to the examination beginning.

It shall be within the discretion of the BMV examiner to reject a vehicle for the driving skills exam.

The BMV examiner will ask a few required questions before you begin your driving skills exam. The examiner's job is not to provide instruction, but to administer a fair and objective examination based on what he or she observes. The BMV examiner will use a standardized form to evaluate your ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.

When taking the driving skills exam, you will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Driving in the proper lane by obeying the lane markings, looking carefully, and signaling properly before changing lanes
- Allowing enough distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead
- Reacting appropriately to being overtaken and passed by another vehicle by maintaining your speed and providing enough room to pass
- Controlling your speed according to posted speed limits and varying traffic conditions
- Observing good defensive driving habits
- Listening to instructions and observing general traffic flow
- Approaching an intersection at the proper speed, looking for other vehicles and coming to a complete stop when required
- Reversing skills and backing correctly out of a parking space
- Parallel parking ability

When taking the driving skills exam, the following actions could affect your final score or cause you to fail the driving skills exam:

- Failing to use the defroster or wipers when needed
- Failing to have both hands on the wheel
- Selecting the wrong gear
- Failing to signal
- Driving too slowly or stopping unnecessarily
- Overrunning a crosswalk, stop line, or stop sign
- Failing to turn into or from the correct lane
- Failing to check your blind spot
- Slowing speed when changing lanes
- Reversing too fast
- Leaving your turn signal on after a completed lane change
- Driving too closely to the vehicle ahead or to a parked vehicle

Any of the following actions shall result in the automatic failure of the driving skills exam:

- Disobeying a yield, stop, school zone, or no turn on red sign
- Disobeying a traffic signal
- Backing over a curb while parallel parking
- Driving into a parked vehicle while parallel parking
- Failure to follow instructions
- Failure to use a seat belt
- Failure to react to hazardous driving conditions
- Speeding
- Driving too fast for the conditions
- Turning into or using the wrong lane
- Passing in a no-passing zone or otherwise crossing a solid yellow line
- Driving left of the center of the street
- Straddling marked lanes
- Driving too close to pedestrians or bicycles
- Failure to pull over and stop for emergency vehicles or school buses
- Causing an accident during the driving skills exam

- Failure to yield the right of way
- Failure to obey required laws concerning RR crossings

It shall be within the discretion of the BMV examiner to continue after a driver has failed the driving skills exam.

If you fail a driving skills exam, you must wait 14 days before you can retake the exam. Upon failure of a third driving skills exam while holding a learner's permit, you must wait for two months from the date of the last failed driving skills exam before taking the exam again.

Applying for a Driver's License

There are two types of driver's license you may apply for: an operator's license or a commercial driver's license.

- If you are under the age of 21, then your operator's license is considered a "probationary" driver's license
- You must be at least 18 years old to apply for a CDL and 21 years old to apply for a CDL with passenger and/or hazardous material endorsements

A brief description of each type of driver's license and various requirements, endorsements, and restrictions follows. Each type is also covered in more detail later in this chapter.

Applying for an Operator's License

In general, you may apply for a driver's license at any license branch. To obtain a driver's license, you must meet the following requirements:

- Meet driver's license age requirements described later in this chapter
- Hold a valid Indiana learner's permit for a period of time described later in this chapter, unless you are currently licensed by another jurisdiction
- Present documents described in **Appendix A** proving your identity, lawful status, Social Security number (unless you are a foreign national, which requires alternative documentation), and Indiana residency
- Pass a standard vision screening
- Pass a knowledge exam for the driver's license you want to obtain
- Pass a driving skills exam with a BMV examiner, unless you qualify for a Driver Education waiver

Operator's License Age and Experience Requirements

In order to apply for an operator's license:

- You must be at least 16 years and 90 days of age with completion of a BMV-approved driver education program
- You must be at least 16 years and 270 days of age without completion of a BMV-approved driver education program
- You must hold a valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) Indiana learner's permit for at least 180 days, or
- You must be at least 18 years of age with a documented disability and have completed driver rehabilitation training provided by a certified driver rehabilitation specialist recognized by the BMV

If you are applying for a probationary driver's license and are under 18 years of age, you must complete at least 50 hours of supervised driving practice with:

- A licensed driver, with valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) driving privileges, who is at least 25 years of age and related to you by blood, marriage, or legal status
- Your spouse, with valid driving privileges, who is at least 21 years of age
- An individual with valid driving privileges who is licensed as a driver education instructor and working under the direction of a driver training school, or
- An individual certified as a driver rehabilitation specialist recognized by the BMV and employed through a driver rehabilitation program

If you are applying for a driver's license and you are at least 18 years of age, you must complete at least 50 hours of supervised driving practice with:

- A licensed driver, with valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) driving privileges who is at least 25 years of age, or
- Your spouse, with valid driving privileges, who is at least 21 years of age

In both cases, at least 10 hours of supervised driving practice must be completed at night, unless you have a daytime-only restriction (restriction G) on your learner's permit. If you do have a daytime-only restriction on your learner's permit, you must still complete 50 hours of supervised driving practice. At the time of application for a driver's license, you must submit a completed State Form 54706 – Log of Supervised Driving Practice, showing proof of the 50 hours of driving practice. Multiple logs may be used, if necessary, to log the required hours. The log must be signed by a parent or legal guardian if the applicant is under 18 years of age.

Probationary Driver's License Validity

If you are younger than 21 years of age when you obtain a driver's license, your driver's license is considered probationary until you turn 21 years of age.

Your probationary driver's license is valid until you are 21 years and 30 days of age.

You may not renew your probationary driver's license until you are 21 years and one day of age.

Probationary Driver's License Passenger Restrictions

You may not drive with any passengers for the first 180 days after obtaining your probationary driver's license unless one of the following individuals is seated in your vehicle's front passenger seat:

- A licensed individual with valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) driving privileges who is 25 years of age or older,
- Your spouse with valid driving privileges who is 21 years of age or older, or
- A certified driver education instructor

However, you may drive with your child, stepchild, sibling, step or half-sibling, or spouse without another accompanying individual during the first 180 days after obtaining your probationary driver's license.

Probationary Driver's License Time Restrictions

For the first 180 days after obtaining your probationary driver's license, you may not drive between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

After you have held a probationary driver's license for 180 days, you may not drive during the following hours:

- Sunday through Thursday after 11 p.m.
- Monday through Friday before 5 a.m.
- Saturday and Sunday between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.

You may drive during the periods described above if you are participating in, going to, or returning from:

- Lawful employment
- A school-sanctioned activity
- A religious event, or

- If you are accompanied by an individual with valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) driving privileges who is at least 25 years of age, or your spouse with valid driving privileges who is at least 21 years of age

Probationary Driver’s License Telecommunications Device Prohibition

Indiana law prohibits probationary driver’s license holders from operating a motor vehicle while using any form of telecommunications device, such as a wireless phone, personal digital assistant, pager, or text messaging device unless the device is being used to make a 911 emergency call.

Dropping Out, Being Suspended, or Being Expelled from School

Indiana law requires the BMV to suspend the driving privileges of a juvenile, upon notification from the juvenile’s principal or truancy administrator, for any of the following reasons:

- The juvenile is under an expulsion, exclusion, or second or subsequent suspension from school during one school year
- The juvenile has been determined to be a habitual truant, or
- The juvenile has withdrawn from school

Renewing a Probationary Driver’s License to an Unrestricted Operator’s License

When you renew your probationary driver’s license after turning 21 years of age, you will receive an unrestricted operator’s license. An unrestricted operator’s license removes the restrictions stated previously in this section that are imposed on probationary driver’s license holders. Holders of unrestricted operator’s licenses should always be aware of the following public safety restrictions and prohibitions that apply to all motor vehicle operators regardless of their license type.

Seat Belts

Indiana law requires all occupants of a motor vehicle equipped with a seat belt that is standard equipment installed by the manufacturer to wear the seat belt any time the motor vehicle is in motion.

Telecommunications Device Prohibition

For non-probationary license holders, a person may not use a telecommunications device to type, transmit, or read a text or an email message while operating a moving motor vehicle unless the device is used in conjunction with hands-free or voice-operated technology, or unless the device is used to make a 911 emergency call.

Indiana law defines a telecommunications device as an electronic or digital device, such as a wireless telephone, personal digital assistant, pager, or text messaging device. This definition does not include amateur radio equipment that is being operated by a person licensed as an amateur radio operator by the Federal Communications Commission or a communications system installed in a commercial motor vehicle weighing more than 10,000 pounds.

Operator's License Validity

An operator's license is valid for:

- Six years if you are younger than 75 years of age
- Three years if you are between 75 and 85 years of age
- Two years if you are at least 85 years of age

An operator's license may not reflect the standard periods of validity for:

- Lawful temporary residents
- Renewals for operator's licenses that expired in 2012

Special Needs Restrictions on a Credential

BMV examiners determine whether to issue a driver's license with restrictions to an individual with disabilities affecting his or her normal operation of a standard-equipped vehicle. A restricted driver's license may specify particular equipment that the driver needs while operating a vehicle, or other restrictions to accommodate the individual's specific needs.

Photo-Exempt Credentials

Photo-exempt learner's permits and driver's licenses are available for medical and religious reasons. Photo-exempt identification cards are available for religious reasons only. You may refer to myBMV.com for specific

documentation needed to obtain a photo-exempt credential that fits your needs. To remove the photo exemption, you must visit a license branch to have your photo taken for a renewed or amended credential.

Restrictions and Endorsements

Restrictions and endorsements may be placed on a credential for a variety of reasons. They appear in the lower left-hand corner of your credential and are described on the back of the credential.

The most common restrictions are the result of a vision screening.

Some of the common restrictions placed on learner's permits and driver's license due to vision include:

- **Restriction B:** Glasses or contact lenses required when driving
- **Restriction F:** Outside rearview mirrors required when driving
- **Restriction G:** Daylight driving only

Restrictions for Drivers Who Read without Glasses

- Both eyes are 20/20 to 20/40: **No restrictions**
- One eye is 20/20 to 20/40 and other eye is 20/50 to blind: **Restriction F**

Restrictions for Drivers Who Read with Glasses

- One eye is 20/20 to 20/40 and the other eye is 20/50 to blind: **Restrictions B and F**
- Both eyes are 20/50: **Restriction B**
- One eye is 20/50 and the other eye is 20/70 to blind: **Restrictions B, F, and G**
- Both eyes are 20/70: **Restrictions B, F, and G**

Credential Restrictions and Endorsements

Base Driver's License Restrictions

A – Motor Driven Cycle – Class A Only

B – Glasses or Contact Lenses

C – Mechanical Aid or Adaptive Device

D – Prosthetic Aid

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| F – Outside Rearview Mirror | 5 – Conditional: Operate Under Specific Conditions |
| G – Daylight Driving Only | 6 – Interlock Device |
| H – M/C Three Wheel Bike Only | 7 – Seat Belt Exempt |
| J – Specific Limitations | 8 – Medical Condition |
| S – M/C with Side Car Only | 9 – Lawful Temporary Resident |
| 2 – HTV Conditional | |
| 3 – Photo Exempt | |

Base Driver's License Endorsement

- L – Motorcycle 2 – For Hire – Non-CMV ID Endorsements
 B – Motor Driven Cycle - Class B

ID Restrictions

- 3 – Photo-Exempt 7 – Seat Belt Exempt

Motorcycle Learner's Permit

A motorcycle learner's permit allows Indiana residents to practice riding a motorcycle or Motor Driven Cycle – Class A (MDC – Class A) before applying for a motorcycle endorsement. You may apply for a motorcycle learner's permit at any license branch. To obtain a motorcycle learner's permit you must:

- Hold a valid Indiana driver's license
- Pass a knowledge exam based on the Motorcycle Operator's Manual

Motorcycle Learner's Permit Driving Privileges

If you hold a motorcycle learner's permit and choose to operate a motorcycle or MDC– Class A, you must wear a helmet when you operate the vehicle and may only ride without passengers during the period of one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset.

Motorcycle Learner's Permit Validity

A motorcycle learner's permit is valid for one year from the date of issuance. A motorcycle learner's permit may be renewed one time for a period of one year. If you do not obtain a motorcycle endorsement before the expiration of

the renewed permit, you must wait one year to reapply for a new motorcycle learner's permit, or you must successfully complete a Ride Safe Indiana-approved Motorcycle Operator Safety Education Course.

Motorcycle Endorsement

A motorcycle endorsement may be issued to Indiana residents who hold a valid Indiana driver's license. If you are obtaining your Indiana driver's license, you can get a motorcycle endorsement at the same time, provided you are 16 years and 90 days or older and have completed a motorcycle safety course.

To obtain a motorcycle endorsement, driver's of all ages must successfully complete a Ride Safe Indiana-approved Motorcycle Operator Safety Education Course or pass both the motorcycle knowledge and riding skills exams.

New Indiana residents who hold a valid motorcycle endorsement or motorcycle operator's license from another state may add a motorcycle endorsement to their valid Indiana driver's license after passing the motorcycle knowledge exam.

Your Indiana motorcycle endorsement is valid for the same period of time as your Indiana driver's license. You may renew your driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement at any Indiana BMV license branch or online up to two years before the license expires. If you currently hold an unexpired driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement, you will not be required to pay the fee for the endorsement when you renew your license.

The Indiana BMV strongly encourages you to participate in a Motorcycle Operator's Safety Education course. For more information on how to obtain your motorcycle endorsement and/or information regarding a Motorcycle Operator Safety Education Course or riding skills exams, please visit RideSafeIndiana.com.

Motor Driven Cycle (MDC)

There are two classes of Motor Driven Cycles (MDC): Class A and Class B

MDC – Class A Vehicle and Operation Description

Indiana law defines a vehicle as an MDC – Class A if:

- It has a seat or saddle for the use of the rider

- It is designed to travel on no more than three wheels on the ground
- It complies with applicable motor vehicle equipment requirements
- It is registered as an MDC – Class A

To operate an MDC – Class A on Indiana roads, you must carry a valid driver's license with a motorcycle learner's permit, or a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement or a motorcycle endorsement with an MDC – Class A restriction. The following operating restrictions also apply:

- Must wear a helmet if you are under 18 years of age
- Must wear protective glasses, goggles, or transparent face shields if you are under 18 years of age
- Must operate in a position astride (leg on each side of) the seat
- Passengers may ride with proper passenger seat
- Must have headlamps illuminated while operating
- Cannot carry package in hand
- Must operate near right-hand edge of roadway unless passing another vehicle or preparing for a left turn
- Must not operate on an interstate highway or sidewalk

MDC – Class B Vehicle and Operation Description

Indiana law defines a vehicle as an MDC – Class B if:

- It has a seat or saddle for the use of the rider
- It is designed to travel on no more than three wheels on the ground
- It complies with applicable motor vehicle equipment requirements
- It has cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimeters
- It is registered as an MDC – Class B

You may apply for an MDC – Class B endorsement on your identification card if you successfully complete the MDC – Class B knowledge exam. The MDC – Class B endorsement will be added to your identification card. You do not need an MDC – Class B endorsement if you hold a valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) Indiana driver's license.

The following restrictions apply to the operation of an MDC – Class B:

- Must be at least 15 years of age
- Must wear a helmet if under 18 years of age
- Must wear protective glasses, goggles, or transparent face shields if under 18 years of age

- Must operate in a position astride (legs on each side of) the seat
- Must have headlamps illuminated while operating
- Cannot carry package in hand
- Must operate near right-hand edge of roadway unless passing another vehicle or preparing for a left turn
- Must operate at no more than 35 miles per hour
- Must not carry passengers
- Must not operate on an interstate highway or sidewalk

Autocycles

Operating an Autocycle

Indiana law defines a vehicle as an autocycle if it is a three-wheeled motor vehicle in which the operator and passenger ride in a completely or partially enclosed seating area that is equipped with a roll cage or roll hoops, safety belts for each occupant, antilock brakes, and is designed to be controlled with a steering wheel and pedals.

You may operate an autocycle on Indiana roadways if you possess a valid (not expired, suspended, or revoked) Indiana driver's license. A motorcycle learner's permit or motorcycle endorsement is not required.

The following restrictions apply to the operation of an autocycle:

- Must operate in a position on a seat
- Cannot carry package in hand
- May not operate more than one autocycle in a single traffic lane
- Operator and each occupant must wear a seat belt
- May not be used for the purpose of a driving skills exam for an operator's license

For-Hire Endorsement

A for-hire endorsement provides the credential holder privileges to operate a motor vehicle that is:

- Registered as having a gross weight of at least 16,000 pounds, but not more than 26,000 pounds and operated for the purpose of transporting property for hire; or

- Designed to transport fewer than 16 passengers, including the driver, and operated for the purpose of transporting passengers for hire.

A for-hire endorsement does not allow the credential holder to operate a commercial motor vehicle. Indiana residents who hold a commercial driver's license (CDL) and wish to operate in a "for-hire" capacity (such as operating as a limo or cab driver) must pass a for-hire knowledge exam and apply for the for-hire endorsement.

A for-hire endorsement may be issued to Indiana residents who are at least 18 years of age and who have held a valid Indiana driver's license for at least one year. To obtain an operator's license with a for-hire endorsement, you must pass both an operator knowledge exam and the for-hire knowledge exam. If you currently hold an unexpired operator's license, you will only need to pass the for-hire exam.

New Indiana residents who are at least 18 years of age and who hold a valid operator's, chauffeur's, public passenger chauffeur's license, or CDL with a for-hire endorsement from another state may add a for-hire endorsement to their Indiana driver's license after passing the operator's and for-hire knowledge exams.

Effective January 1, 2017, all applicants who currently hold an unexpired Indiana public passenger chauffeur's or chauffeur's license will have their license type transferred to an operator's license with a for-hire endorsement during their next credential transaction. There are no examination requirements and the for-hire endorsement fee is waived during your transaction. If you do not currently hold an Indiana chauffeur's or public passenger chauffeur's license, all applicable exams and fees will apply.

Your Indiana for-hire endorsement is valid for the same period of time as your Indiana driver's license. You may renew your operator's license with a for-hire endorsement at any Indiana BMV license branch or online up to one year before the license expires.

The BMV does not require a medical examination report in order to issue an operator's license with the for-hire endorsement. If you have questions regarding whether the vehicle you are operating requires a completed medical examination report, contact the Indiana Department of Transportation.

A for-hire bus is defined as a bus used to carry passengers for hire, or operated for compensation.

The following are not considered transporting for hire:

- Operating a medical services vehicle

- Transporting a recreational vehicle before the first retail sale of the recreational vehicle when:
 - The gross weight of the recreational vehicle is not greater than 26,000 pounds, or
 - The gross combination weight of the recreational vehicle and towing vehicle is not greater than 26,000 pounds, including the gross weight of the towed recreational vehicle, and the weight of the towed recreational vehicle is not greater than 10,000 pounds
- Operating a motor vehicle that is registered as having a gross weight limit of less than 16,000 pounds and used to transport property for hire

Chauffeur's Licenses

Effective Jan. 1, 2017, the BMV no longer issues chauffeur's licenses. However, a chauffeur's license issued prior to Jan. 1, 2017 remains valid until the expiration date printed on the license. If you need to renew, replace, or amend information on your chauffeur's license, the BMV will change your license type to an operator's with a for-hire endorsement. See information about the for-hire endorsement earlier in this section.

Public Passenger Chauffeur's Licenses

Effective Jan. 1, 2017, the BMV will no longer issue a public passenger chauffeur's license. However, a public passenger chauffeur's license issued prior to Jan. 1, 2017 remains valid until the expiration date printed on the license. If you need to renew, replace, or amend information on your public passenger chauffeur's license, the BMV will change your license type to an operator's with a for-hire endorsement. See information about the for-hire endorsement earlier in this section.

Chauffeur's/Public Passenger Chauffeur's License Validity

Chauffeur's and public passenger chauffeur's license issued prior to Jan. 1, 2017 expire according to the following expiration schedule from the original issue date:

- A chauffeur's license is valid for six years if you were younger than 75 years of age when you obtained the license; three years if you were between 75 and 85 years of age when you obtained the license; or two years if you were at least 85 years of age when you obtained the license.

- A public passenger chauffeur's license is valid for four years if you were younger than 75 years of age when you obtained the license or for two years if you were at least 75 years of age when you obtained the license.
- Chauffeur's and public passenger chauffeur's license may not reflect the standard periods of validity for lawful temporary residents.

If you wish to maintain your Indiana chauffeur's or public passenger chauffeur's license after it expires or approaches expiration, you are required to apply for an operator's license with a for-hire endorsement. The chauffeur's or public passenger chauffeur's license may not be replaced, amended, or renewed online. You must visit a BMV branch to transfer to an operator's license with for-hire endorsement. Since you are required to visit a BMV branch to change license type(s), the BMV encourages you to upgrade to a Real ID-compliant credential during your visit. You can review the documentation requirements for a Real ID-compliant credential in **Appendix A**. There is no additional cost.

Commercial Learner's Permit and Commercial Driver's License

You must be at least 18 years of age to apply for a commercial learner's permit (CLP) or a commercial driver's license (CDL). Drivers under 21 years of age may operate a commercial motor vehicle for purposes of intrastate commerce only and are not eligible to apply for the passenger, school bus, or hazardous materials endorsements.

An Indiana commercial driver's license (CDL) allows the holder to operate commercial motor vehicles or combination of vehicles, such as semi-tractor trailers, with declared gross vehicle weight ratings in excess of 26,000 pounds; vehicles designed or used to transport 16 or more people, including the driver; and vehicles used to transport hazardous materials provided the holder has the appropriate endorsement on his or her license.

More information on obtaining a CLP or CDL can be found on myBMV.com, or by visiting any BMV branch.

Watercraft

Operating a Watercraft

Indiana law requires the operator of a watercraft with an engine that produces more than 10 horsepower to carry a valid driver's license.

If you are 15 years of age or older and do not have a driver's license, you may operate a watercraft only after successfully completing a boater education course approved by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. You must have a valid Indiana identification card in your possession at all times while operating a watercraft. Contact the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for more information about approved boater education courses.

If you are younger than 15 years of age, you may not operate a watercraft with an engine output of more than 10 horsepower.

If your driver's license is suspended, you may not operate a watercraft. If you operate your watercraft recklessly, while intoxicated, or break private watercraft laws, you may have points assessed against your driver record.

On Indiana boundary waters, Indiana residents operating a watercraft are required to carry an Indiana driver's license. Residents of other states are not required to carry a driver's license unless they are operating a watercraft in an embayment, river, or stream in Indiana.

Parking Placards

A parking placard allows the holder to use parking spaces designated for individuals with disabilities. The placard is available for individuals with a permanent or temporary disability. Also, any company empowered by the state or a political subdivision to operate programs, including the provision of transportation or facilities for persons with physical disabilities, may apply for a placard.

To apply for a parking placard, you must have a health care provider (e.g., a physician, physician's assistant, chiropractor, advanced practice nurse, optometrist or ophthalmologist, or podiatrist) complete the Application for Disability Parking Placard or Disability Plate – State Form 42070 affirming that you qualify for a parking placard. If you have a visual disability, a health care provider who is licensed to practice in Indiana may complete the form. After you have completed State Form 42070, you may get a parking placard at any license branch or by mailing it to the address on the form.

If you have a permanent disability, your parking placard does not expire unless your health care provider certifies that the disability is no longer considered permanent. There is no fee for a permanent parking placard.

If you have a temporary disability, your parking placard expires on the date indicated by the health care provider or one year after the date of issuance, whichever occurs first. There is a fee for a temporary parking placard. Refer to myBMV.com for more information.

A placard issued to a company expires on January 1 of the fourth year that follows the date the placard was issued, or the date the company ceases to operate programs or facilities for persons with disabilities, whichever is sooner.