

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 11: Older Youth Services Section 05: Driving Opportunities	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 6

POLICY OVERVIEW

This policy does not pertain to youth residing in in-home care.

Youth in out-of-home care can pursue a driver's license or permit if they want to. The youth needs support from their Child and Family Team (CFT) and the information explaining the steps to get it.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will not prohibit youth from taking driver's training or getting a driver's license. Court approval is required for youth under 18 years old to take a driver's training course before getting a driver's license.

DCS may fund driver's training. The first permit fee and first driver's license fee will be waived by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) if all requirements are met.

Note: The identification card fee will be waived for youth 16 years of age and older who do not have a valid Indiana driver's license.

Juvenile Delinquent/Juvenile Status (JD/JS) youth age 16 and older can take driver's training if an appropriate adult (not DCS staff) agrees to take financial liability.

DCS, resource parents, or service providers are not responsible for costs and damages from the youth's application for a driver's license or permit, or driving. The liability protection is waived if the foster parent or service provider signs a document agreeing to financial liability.

Per IC 9-24-9-4, the minor applicant must pay for their own car insurance and is responsible for any damages caused while driving.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 9-24-3-1: Issuance; conditions; fee](#)
- [IC 9-24-3-2.5: Age, experience, and examination requirements](#)
- [IC 9-24-7-4: Operating privileges](#)
- [IC 9-24-9-2: Information required by application for license or permit](#)
- [IC 9-24-9-3: Applications of minors; signing and swearing by parents, guardians, custodians, employers, or responsible individuals](#)
- [IC 9-24-9-4: Minor applicants; liability of signers; expiration of licenses and permits](#)
- [IC 9-24-9-4.1: Applicants who are homeless or under the supervision of the department of child services; financial liability](#)
- [IC 9-24-16-10: Adoption of rules; fees](#)

- [IC 27-1-22-20.1: Foster youth auto insurance availability; list of insurers; payment of costs of auto insurance](#)
- [IC 27-2-11.1-3: Individuals under the care and supervision of the department of child services; motor vehicle insurance](#)
- [IC 31-26-4.5-6: Financial liability](#)