

“I have the right to receive help applying for my driver permit or license when I am at least 16 years old...”

NYS OCFS Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in Foster Care

“Youth in foster care who have a learner permit or driver license are 70% more likely to earn a high school diploma or GED.”

Keys to Independence, Embracefamilies.org

“Learning to drive is an important rite of passage for many youth and also positions them for various employment opportunities.”

New York City Administration for Children’s Service

“Getting a driver’s license makes the adolescent feel more independent.”

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

“Families can benefit from teenage drivers who can transport themselves to jobs and school activities and run errands.”

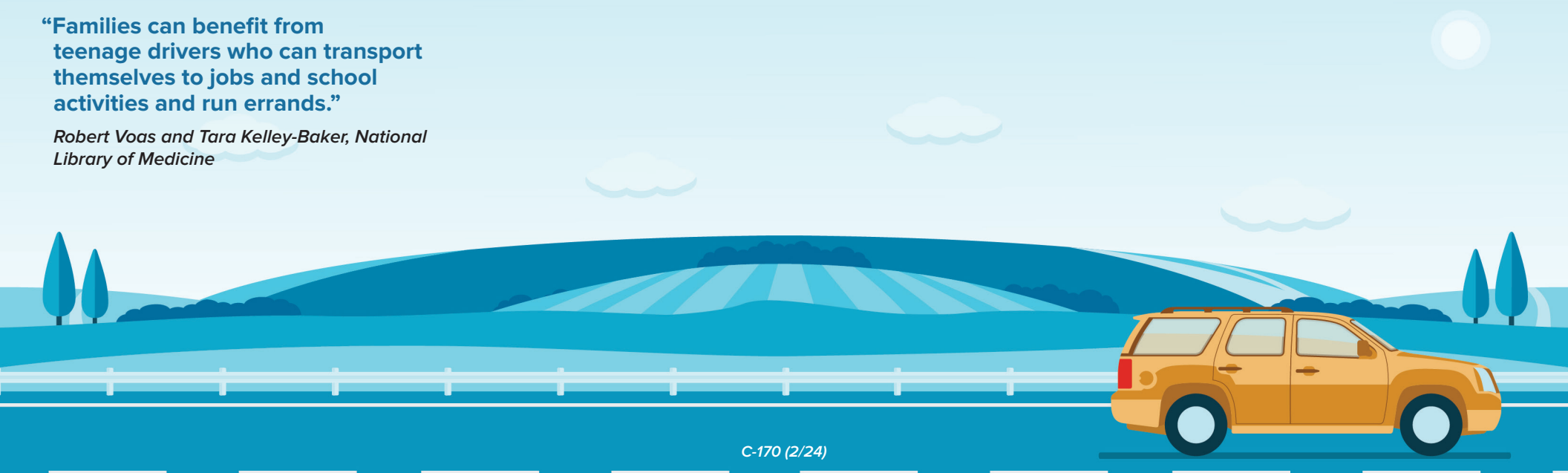
Robert Voas and Tara Kelley-Baker, National Library of Medicine

NEW YORK
Department of Motor Vehicles & Office of Children and Family Services

LICENSE TO DRIVE

KEYS TO SUCCESS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

A how-to guide to obtaining a driver license while in foster care in New York State.



What You Need

To apply for your learner permit at the New York State DMV, you will need:

Proof of Date of Birth

Examples:

- Birth Certificate
- Passport
- Certificate of Naturalization or Citizenship
**If you don't have a birth certificate, your caseworker can help you obtain a free copy.*

Social Security Card

If you don't have one, ask your caseworker for help or go to: ssa.gov/ssnumber/replace_your_card.html

Proof of where you live (Proof of Residency)

Examples:

- MV-45 (Parent or guardian is going to accompany you.)
- U.S. high school photo ID with report card
- Post-marked mail dated within one year of your office visit.
- MV-45A: Statement of Identity and/or Residence for Applicants Represented by Government (dmv.ny.gov/forms/mv45a.pdf)
**This form is specifically for youth in foster care.*

For more information, please see the ID-44 for acceptable proofs. (dmv.ny.gov/files/id44pdf)

Taking the Permit Test

Review the New York State Driver's Manual and take practice tests at dmv.ny.gov/dmanual.

Youth in foster care who are at least 16 years of age can take the written test through the NYS DMV Online Knowledge Test Application (OKTA) program. The test is given at participating high schools. Those who pass the test online will receive a receipt and instructions on how to get your permit.

The test can also be taken online through the NYS DMV website at dmv.ny.gov or at any NYS DMV office.

Getting Your Permit

Once you have passed your permit test, you are able to receive your learner permit by going to the NYS DMV. A youth in foster care who is 16 or 17 years of age must be accompanied by a foster parent, guardian or case worker when visiting the DMV. Remember to bring proof of passing the test (if taken prior to visiting), proof of date of birth, your Social Security card and proof of where you live (proof of residency). The foster parent, guardian or case worker will need to show their driver license or NYS Agency ID card with a letter from the county or agency.

Where and When You Can Practice Driving

Please visit dmv.ny.gov/forms/mv500h.pdf to become familiar with the rules and guidelines of having a learner permit. There may be restrictions and conditions on where and when you may drive depending on where you live. For example, in New York City and on Long Island a person with a DJ (Junior Operator) or MJ (Junior Motorcycle) permit is prohibited from driving between the hours of 9pm-5am.

Certificate of Supervised Driving

Applicants with a junior learner permit (class DJ or MJ) will need to complete 50 hours of supervised driving that includes at least 15 hours of driving after sunset before they can take a road test. Visit dmv.ny.gov/forms/mv262.pdf for the certificate of supervised driving that must be signed by a foster parent, guardian or case worker. During practice driving, the permit holder must be accompanied by any licensed driver 21 years of age or older.

5 Hour Course and Driver Education

You will need to complete a five-hour pre-licensing course. Search dmv.ny.gov/nys-driving-schools or visit dmv.ny.gov/opl-courses for a list of course providers who offer the course online.

Professional driving programs may be used but are not required. Visit dmv.ny.gov/nys-driving-schools to find a licensed driving school near you. Additionally, some high schools or colleges offer driver education programs that include both a classroom and in-car driving component. Check with high schools and colleges in your area.

Fees and Available Funding

The fee for your learner permit depends on your age when you apply and where you live. Visit dmv.ny.gov/id-card/fees-refunds for more information. Check with your county or foster care agency for any funding that may be available for some of the cost associated with getting your permit or license. If you receive temporary public assistance, such as Medicaid, you are eligible for a free non-driver ID.

Road Test

Once you have completed your supervised driving and driving course, you can take your road test. If you are under 18 years of age you cannot schedule a road test until you have had your permit for six months. You will need:

- An inspected and registered vehicle as well as be accompanied by a licensed driver who is 21 years of age or older at the road test.
- Your photo learner permit
- Your original (not copies) of either pre-licensing course certificate (MV-278) or student certificate of completion (MV-285).
- Certification of supervised driving (MV-262). Visit dmv.ny.gov/roadtest for more information.

