



**NORTHERN  
TERRITORY**  
GOVERNMENT

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRY (MVR)

Your guide to basic driving procedures in the Northern Territory

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# Learner Drivers' Guide



**Learner Drivers' Guide –  
Your guide to basic driving procedures  
in the Northern Territory**

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# disclaimer

This guide is not intended to be used as a legal document. It is intended as a guide only, and its aim is to set out, in simple form, the main legal requirements a driver is required to observe in everyday driving in the Northern Territory, as well as other useful information for drivers.

This guide is not the law, but is a guide to some of the laws relating to driving in the Northern Territory. Be aware that:

- The statements in this guide are not precise legal interpretations of the road traffic laws.
- Any diagrams, pictures or examples are included for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to be definitive.
- Not every law is covered in this document.
- Laws are subject to change from time to time. The information in this book is believed to be correct at the time of original publication but may not accurately reflect the current law.
- This document only covers the Northern Territory and while many laws and regulations are uniform across Australia, some laws are different in other places. When driving/riding interstate please familiarise yourself with other states' road rules and demerit point systems before you travel.

If you require a more detailed statement of the law, Northern Territory legislation can be found on the [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au) website.

The information in this publication is provided in good faith and is believed to be accurate at the time of publication. The Territory will not be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on this information.

## Other Publications

- Road User's Handbook
- Motorcycle Riders' Handbook
- Heavy Vehicle Drivers' Handbook

## Introduction

This Learner Drivers' Guide provides learner drivers with basic driving procedures and information to help them to progress to a provisional class C licence.

If you do not have your learner licence yet, there is information in this guide to help you get it. Please read 'how to obtain a class C learner licence' on page 1.

Once you have a learner licence you can take to the road with your supervising driver. Before you start on the huge task of learning how to drive you will need to decide who is going to teach you, and who will get into the car with you as you practice your skills between structured lessons. For younger learner drivers it might be your mother, father, big brother/sister or a professional driving instructor. For mature learner drivers it might be your husband or wife, a friend, or a professional driving instructor. The choice is entirely yours.

How you are taught to drive is extremely important. For that reason, some lessons with a professional driving instructor who is aware of modern driving practices and training techniques could be helpful. It is important that you find a driving instructor you are comfortable learning with. If for any reason you are not comfortable with your chosen driving instructor, you can change instructors.

If you choose to have lessons with an instructor you should also get as much practice as possible between professional lessons. Ask parents, relatives or friends who hold an open licence to take you out to practice each new driving skill. That way, you can maximise the benefits from each paid lesson and minimise the cost of getting your licence. For some people, learning entirely with relatives and friends may be an alternative to learning with a driving instructor.

The method of driving described in this Learner Drivers' Guide is considered the safest and most efficient way to drive a motor vehicle. It is called the 'system of vehicle control'. This Guide sets out all aspects of the system of vehicle control and can assist your supervising driver to help you to get it right.

Although there is no minimum number of supervised driving hours required before a learner can get their provisional licence in the Northern Territory, learners should try to get as much practice as they can before moving on to driving unsupervised.

Remember that learning to drive well takes lots of experience that will only come with time and lots of practice in different driving situations and conditions. Use every time you drive as an opportunity to learn, and try to practice with an experienced driver as often as you can.

Learner drivers with 100 or more hours of supervised driving practice reduce their risk of crashing once they are on their Ps by about one third.

Motor vehicle crashes in Australia cause thousands of families pain and suffering each year. Many crashes can be avoided by following the road rules and driving in a safe and responsible manner.

Remember, you must obey the road rules at all times. If you do not, you could lose your licence, or worse, crash.

Drive safely and enjoy travelling on Territory roads.

## How to use this guide

The Learner Drivers' Guide sets out basic driving processes in a step-by-step format to help you learn to drive a car.

Before you attempt to drive, make sure you have read the Road Users' Handbook carefully to help you understand your responsibilities and the Northern Territory road rules.

After attempting each driving process, take the time to make some notes in this guide. This will help you remember key points and work out what you need to practice more.

Contact information for MVR offices can be found at the back of this handbook.

This publication is also available for free on the NT Government website at [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au).

## The licensing system

The Northern Territory licensing system helps to make travel on our roads safer for all road users. It provides rules and conditions for licence holders and penalties for drivers who do not meet their responsibilities. The licensing system also ensures that licence holders have the required knowledge and skills to safely operate the vehicle they are licensed to drive or ride.

To drive on public roads in the NT you must be licensed and have the correct licence class for the type of vehicle you are driving.

### To legally drive on public roads in the NT:

- you must have the right class of licence for the vehicle
- you must hold a current NT licence if you are an NT resident
- you must hold a current interstate licence if you are visiting from interstate
- if you are visiting from overseas, you must hold a current licence from your country, and if your licence is not in English you must also carry an International Driving Permit or an official English translation of your overseas licence.

### You cannot drive on public roads in the NT if you have:

- a licence that is expired
- a licence that has been cancelled or suspended
- had your driving privileges withdrawn in the NT
- been disqualified from driving by a court of law in Australia or overseas.

Heavy penalties apply for driving a vehicle without a licence.

If you have been in the NT for more than three months and wish to continue to drive, you must apply for an NT licence.

Exclusion from insurance or benefits reductions may apply if you are deemed a resident of the territory and have not transferred your interstate or overseas licence.

## The C class graduated licensing system

The Northern Territory has a graduated licensing scheme for new drivers. The scheme helps to prepare inexperienced drivers for a lifetime of safe and efficient driving.

To be allowed to drive or ride you must hold the correct licence class for that vehicle.

A class C licence allows the licence holder to drive a vehicle that is no more than 4.5t Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM).

New drivers are required to pass both the learner and provisional licence stages before obtaining a full licence.

A new driver will progress through four stages to obtain a full licence.

**Stage 1**

Pass the driver knowledge test to obtain a learner licence.

**Stage 2**

Practice driving, with supervision, for a minimum of six consecutive months.

100 or more hours of supervised driving practice will reduce your risk of crashing once you are on your Ps by about one third compared to learners with only 40 hours of supervised driving experience.

**Stage 3**

Pass the driving test to obtain a provisional licence.

**Stage 4**

If you are under 25 years old, you will need to hold your provisional licence for at least two years before you can upgrade to a full licence. If you are 25 or older, your provisional licence needs to be held for at least one year.

If your licence is suspended or cancelled during your provisional period, you may need to spend a longer time with a provisional licence once your suspension is lifted, or you will need to start the provisional period again if your provisional licence is cancelled.

At the end of your provisional period you can apply for a full licence. Phone the MVR Contact Centre on 1300 654 628 or renew your licence online using MVR Quick Pay at [www.mvr.nt.gov.au](http://www.mvr.nt.gov.au).

Remember that learning to drive well takes lots of experience that will only come with time and lots of practice in different driving situations and conditions. Use every time you drive as an opportunity to learn, and continue practicing with an experienced driver as often as you can.