



Teen permit checklist

For a California teen under 18 getting a learner's permit at 15½ or later. From our guide, checked October 4, 2026: stalliondriversed.com/blog/permit-visit-checklist.html

STEP 1 Before the visit: online

- ☐ The teen creates their own MyDMV account with their name, email and personal details.
- ☐ The teen starts the driver's license application online.
- ☐ A parent or guardian approves it from their own MyDMV account. If both parents or guardians have custody, both must sign.
- ☐ The DMV prompts you to schedule the appointment and upload documents. Bring the same documents to the office.

STEP 2 Bring to the DMV office

- ☐ **Application**, started online and approved by a parent or guardian.
- ☐ **A parent or guardian**. The teen roadmap says a parent or guardian "will need to be with you" at the appointment.
- ☐ **Driver education certificate**: the DL 400C from the online course, or a Certificate of Enrollment from an integrated driver education and training program.
- ☐ **Proof of identity**, unless the teen already has a California ID card.
- ☐ **Proof of California residency**, unless the teen already has a California ID card. A REAL ID needs two residency documents.
- ☐ **Social Security number**, if the teen has one.
- ☐ **The application fee**. See the fee step below.

Knowledge tests are not given at DMV offices after 4:30 p.m. A late appointment can mean coming back another day for the test.

STEP 3 At the office

1. A DMV technician reviews the documents.
2. The teen pays the nonrefundable application fee. On October 4, 2026, the DMV fee table listed **\$46** for an original Class C driver's license application, which is the application a permit starts. The application and fee stay valid for 12 months.
3. The teen takes a vision exam.
4. The teen has a photo taken and gives a fingerprint.
5. The teen takes the knowledge test: multiple choice questions based on the California Driver's Handbook, with 80% needed to pass.

STEP 4 After the visit

The DMV's fact sheet says a minor's permit "is not valid until you begin driver training," and the instructor signs it to validate it. Book the first behind-the-wheel lesson before the permit visit.

- ☐ Book the first behind-the-wheel lesson with a DMV-licensed driving school; the instructor signs the permit to make it valid.
- ☐ Keep the original permit safe: the instructor needs it at every lesson.
- ☐ Log 50 hours of practice with a California-licensed driver who is 25 or older, 10 of them at night.
- ☐ Drive test: at 16 or older, after holding the permit for at least 6 months.