



# CHAPTER 6

## Rules of the Road

**D**rivers belong to the society of roadway users. In a smoothly running society, members agree to follow the rules. It is important that you learn the rules of the road in order to be a responsible member of the roadway community.

### **LESSON ONE**

Each State Has Administrative Laws

### **LESSON TWO**

Right-of-Way Rules Are Essential

### **LESSON THREE**

Speed Limits Help in Reducing Risk

### **LESSON FOUR**

If You Are Involved in a Collision

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Identify the procedures that are regulated by administrative laws.
2. Describe how to comply with administrative laws.

**KEY TERMS**

administrative laws  
suspend  
revoke  
point system

# Each State Has Administrative Laws

Rules and laws are vital to society. Traffic laws and ordinances are important for a variety of reasons.

They provide rules for the behavior of drivers and help drivers predict what others on the road will do. They serve as a guide to police and courts, promote the orderly flow of traffic, and help prevent collisions.

## What Are Administrative Laws?

Each state has laws that enable state officials to control the operation of the state's highway transportation system. Among the laws are **administrative laws**, which establish the procedures for issuing driver's licenses and learner's permits and registering motor vehicles. Other procedures cover the financial responsibilities of vehicle drivers and owners and the minimum safety equipment and care of a vehicle.

## How Do You Comply with Administrative Laws?

To drive and own a vehicle, you must obey your state's motor vehicle laws—beginning with obtaining a license to drive.

### Getting a Driver's License

Granting a license to operate a motor vehicle is a function of state government. To obtain a license, you must pass a series of tests. Each state tests vision; knowledge of signs, signals, and markings; traffic laws; and safe driving practices. Tests may be verbal, written, or computerized.

In most states, the last test is a road or in-vehicle test. This test demonstrates your **basic vehicle control skills**. **If you pass these tests and** pay the necessary fees, you will receive your license. **If your state has a graduated driver licensing system,** you may need to take more **than one driving test**.

States also have the power to take licenses away. **States can suspend,** or take away, licenses for a specified period of time—usually for 30 to 90 days, but fewer than 365 days. States can also **revoke licenses**. This means states can take licenses away for a year or **more, after which** the person whose license has been revoked can apply for **another license**.

## Energy Tips

**Excessive speed causes crashes and can cost you points. Excessive speed also wastes fuel. Be responsible!**

## Violations and the Point System

How does a state decide when to take away a person's driver's license? Most states use a **point system**. Various traffic violations "cost" a number of points, depending on their seriousness. When a driver is ticketed for violating a traffic law and is convicted, a report is sent to the state's department of motor vehicles. The points are then put on the driver's record.

If a driver whose license has been suspended continues to get points when the suspension is lifted, the license can be revoked. Some violations are so serious that offenders can lose their licenses immediately upon conviction. These violations include driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, leaving the scene of a collision in which there has been an injury, and using a motor vehicle in the commission of a crime.

## Certificate of Title

States issue a certificate of title when you buy a motor vehicle. This proves that you own the vehicle. The state keeps a copy of this title. Anyone selling a motor vehicle must supply a certificate of title to the buyer. The certificate lists the name of the owner and the make, style, vehicle identification number (VIN), and engine number of the vehicle.

## Vehicle Registration

When purchasing a vehicle, you must register it with the state. You'll receive a registration form and license plate(s). If liability insurance is required, you must provide the name of your insurance company. Registration must be renewed every year or two. Keep your registration in the vehicle.

## Insurance

Part of driving is the ability to prove financial responsibility. You must show that you can pay for damages you may cause if you are in a crash that results in death, injury, or property damage to others. You will learn more about automobile insurance in Chapter 16.

## Lesson 1 Review

1. What administrative laws does every state have?
2. What do administrative laws require you to do?

**DMV** **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?** **CALIFORNIA**

REGISTRATION CARD VALID FROM 07/02/1999 TO: 07/02/2000

MAKE	YR MODEL	VLF CLASS	TYPE VEH	TYPE LIC	LICENSE NUMBER
MERC	1999	EH	120	11	7END861

BODY TYPE MODEL	M- G	MO DU	VEHICLE ID NUMBER
4D	G	DU	1MELM5349PG650930

TYPE VEHICLE USE	DATE ISSUED	CC/ALCO	DR FEE RECVD	PIC	STICKER ISSUED
AUTOMOBILE	07/02/99	30	07/02/99	9	24341352

REGISTERED OWNER: WALLEHOOZLE, ANTHONY G OR LATIRICIA P  
82366 S. HILDA ST.  
IRVINE CA 92614

AMOUNT PAID: \$225.00  
AMOUNT DUE: \$ 225.00  
AMOUNT RCVD: check: \$225.00

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**Where is a good place to keep your vehicle's registration?**

## LESSON TWO

### OBJECTIVES

1. Define the meaning of the term *right-of-way*.
2. Identify when you should yield the right-of-way.

### KEY TERM

right-of-way

# Right-of-Way Rules Are Essential

When you drive, sometimes one or more drivers or pedestrians will want to use the same roadway space at the same time that you do. How can you avoid a collision? You can determine who should go first and who should wait. To do so, you need to know the rules about right-of-way.

## What Is Right-of-Way?

As a good driver, you will sometimes have to yield the **right-of-way**, or let others go first. Never assume that you have the right-of-way. Right-of-way is *always given* by someone. Right-of-way laws are very clear in identifying who shall yield to whom in almost every situation. However, human beings make mistakes. The rule that you must yield the right-of-way in order to avoid a collision overrides all the other rules.

Right-of-way laws of all states are **based** on the Uniform Vehicle Code. Therefore, the laws about when drivers should yield the right-of-way are the same from state to state.

## When Should You Yield the Right-of-Way?

Here are three situations in which you must yield the right-of-way.

- You must yield to any emergency vehicle, such as an ambulance, that has its sirens on and its lights flashing. Move to the far right of the road and stop if you are on a two-way, two-lane roadway or on a multiple-lane highway going in the same direction as the emergency vehicle. If you are going in the opposite direction on a multiple-lane road, you do not have to stop, but you should move to the right.
- You must yield to people who are blind and are carrying a white cane or using a guide dog, no matter where they cross.
- You must yield to any pedestrians at crosswalks.

On the following pages, you will find some of the right-of-way situations that occur most often. In each picture, the red car is required to yield. In all these situations, drivers must yield to pedestrians who are crossing at crosswalks.

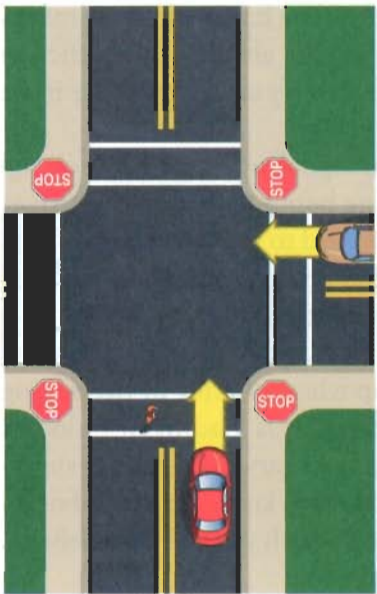




At intersections not controlled by traffic signs or signals, yield to vehicles already in the intersection. Drivers on the left must yield to those on their right.



At traffic lights, yield to vehicles still in the intersection when the light changes.



At four-way stops, yield to vehicles that arrive first. If you arrive at the same time, yield to a vehicle from the right.



When you are turning left at an intersection, yield to all oncoming vehicles until you have the time and space to make a turn.

## FYI

A majority of drivers fail to stop at stop signs. It is important to keep this in mind when you try to anticipate the actions of other drivers.

## SAFETY TIPS

When you are on a side street approaching a well-traveled road, stop at the intersection even if a stop sign is not present. Proceed when you are sure you have enough time and space to do so.

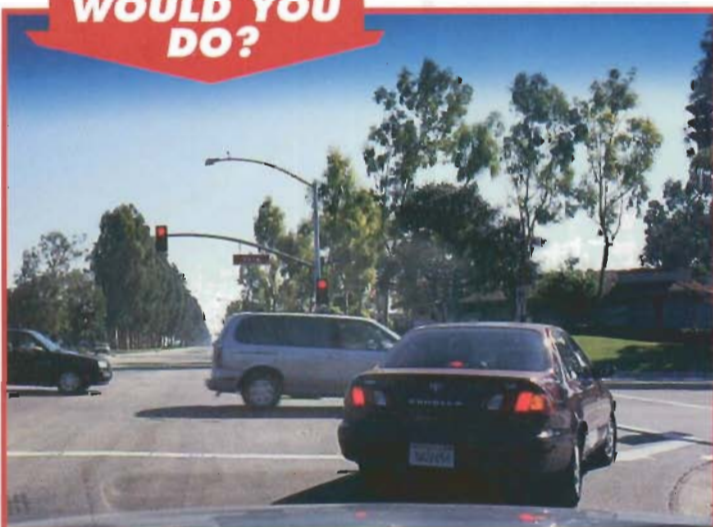


Coming out of a driveway or alley, yield to all vehicles in the roadway.

At all YIELD signs, yield to all vehicles on the cross street.

One of the most common violations in fatal collisions involving more than one car is a driver's failure to yield the right-of-way. Remember, just because you are on a major street or are on the right at a four-way stop, do not assume that others will yield to you. Be alert! Sometimes it is safer to yield even if the other driver is required by law to yield. To manage risk, you should remember that others will not always obey traffic signs and signals. Make yourself visible, and identify an escape route in case something goes wrong.

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



To whom would you yield? Why?

When signaling a move left or right into a lane being used by other drivers, you must yield to any vehicle that is passing or appears to be so close that it presents a danger.

On a **nondivided highway**, all drivers must stop when meeting or overtaking a school bus that is loading or unloading children. Laws vary from state to state, so it is important to know the school bus laws for states in which you will be traveling.

## Lesson 2 Review

1. What does right-of-way mean?
2. In which situations should you yield the right-of-way?

# Speed Limits Help in Reducing Risk

The most important requirements for safe driving are **visibility, time, and space**. Together they determine the speed at which you can travel safely. What is a safe speed? Posted maximum speed limits give guidelines to answer this question, but they only apply under ideal conditions.

Speed limits are chosen to protect you and other drivers. Traffic engineers study road conditions and evaluate the road surface, the average amount of traffic, and any hidden dangers. They also know **how many** collisions have happened at any given location. A speed limit is **decided** upon only after all these factors have been **taken into consideration**. Further studies may also be conducted to see if limits should be lowered as congestion increases.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Define the meaning of the following kinds of speed limits: fixed, advisory, and day and night.
2. Explain under what conditions posted speed limits do not apply.

## KEY TERMS

fixed speed limit  
advisory speed limit

## What Kinds of Speed Limits Are There?

All states post speed limits on their roadways. These speed limit signs reflect the *maximum* speed at which you can drive under the best of conditions. For example, you would not drive at the maximum allowable

## CONNECTIONS

### Social Studies



If you drive in Mexico or Canada, you will see signs in Spanish or French. In both countries, another “language” is used on signs as well. It is the “language” of the metric system of measurement.

Distances on destination signs in Mexico and Canada are given in kilometers rather than in miles. Similarly, speed limit signs refer not to *miles per hour* but to *kilometers per hour*. The speed limit sign you see here means 100 kilometers per hour (km/h), or about 65 miles per hour. You can figure out whether you are traveling

within the allowable speed limit by converting kilometers per hour to miles per hour. To make a rough estimate, take half of the posted speed limit and add a little more. Half of 100 is 50, and a little more is 60 or 65. For a closer estimate, take  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the posted speed limit. Then **check your** speedometer to see whether you are traveling between 60 and 65 miles per hour.

When you are driving in another country, make sure you know whether or not that country uses the metric system of measurement. To help you out, the speedometers in many vehicle models record speeds both in miles per hour and in kilometers per hour.





◆ Note the advisory speed limit sign. You should not exceed 15 mph on this curve.

speed in the middle of a snowstorm, but you might do so on a clear day.

Posted speed limits do not tell you at what speed to drive. They only say you cannot safely go faster or, in special cases, more slowly than the speed shown. All states also have basic speed limits that mean you cannot drive at speeds slower or faster than conditions safely permit. What does this mean to you as a driver?

### Fixed Speed Limit

A **fixed speed limit** is the maximum and minimum speed that a vehicle may be driven on a particular roadway. Drivers may never legally travel at a speed faster than the maximum posted speed. Drivers whose speed is greater than the posted maximum speed can be arrested and, if convicted, made to pay a fine.

Drivers can also be arrested and ticketed for driving too slowly. A vehicle traveling below the minimum posted speed limit can be dangerous to other drivers who must suddenly slow down when they approach this vehicle. Slow drivers can also make other drivers nervous or angry and in addition cause traffic tie-ups and congestion.

### Advisory Speed Limit

All roads are not straight and flat. There are hills, curves, and other changes in the roadway. Drivers need to adjust their speed for these changes. An **advisory speed limit** interrupts normal driving speed for a limited time. It provides guidelines for adjusting speed.

For example, a warning sign is usually posted before a sharp curve and before an exit ramp. If the curve is very sharp, a square yellow advisory speed sign may be posted beneath the warning sign to advise you of the maximum safe speed for that curve. In addition, chevron-shaped markings may be used to emphasize the risk. Like all speed limits, advisory limits are based on ideal road conditions.

### Day and Night Speed Limits

Some states have lower speed limits at night. Night driving is much more

#### TIPS

#### FOR NEW DRIVERS

#### Being Pulled Over

What should you do if you are pulled over by the police?

- Stay calm.
- Remain in your vehicle, keeping your hands visible.
- Produce requested documents quickly and efficiently.
- Be courteous. Do not argue with, insult, or touch the officer.
- Do not lie, cry, or make excuses.
- Never try to bribe the officer. Bribery is illegal!

dangerous because it is hard to see in the dark. Driving at a lower speed gives drivers more time to search for visual clues and to identify objects or conditions that could increase risk.

## What Are Basic Speed Laws?

No matter what speed limit is posted, all states have a basic speed rule in their traffic laws that says: Always drive at a speed that is reasonable and proper for existing conditions.

A safe speed at any particular time is determined by the type and condition of the road and by such factors as the traffic, weather, and light. Your ability to manage visibility, time, and space also determines what is a safe speed at any given time.

By law, drivers must go more slowly than the **minimum** posted speed if poor road or traffic conditions make that speed unsafe. In such cases, the arresting officer must show that the driver was going too fast for the weather, road, or traffic conditions at that time.

Driving faster than the posted speed limit is never safe or reasonable and is always illegal.

Take note of these facts about speed. The higher the speed:

- the less time the driver has to spot dangerous situations and **take action**.
- the greater the time and distance it takes to stop a vehicle.
- the greater the chance the vehicle will skid or roll over on a turn.
- the greater the force of impact will be in a collision.
- the greater the personal injuries and property damage will be in a collision.

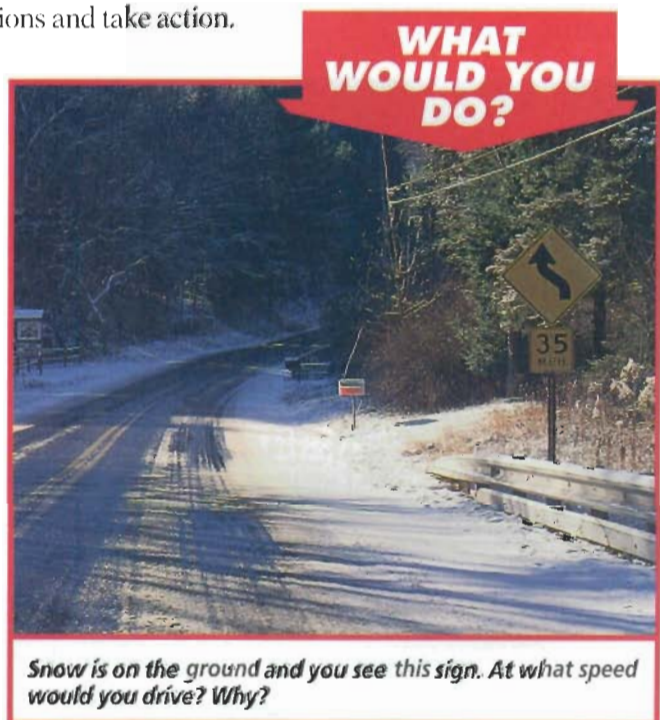
Drivers can also be arrested for driving too slowly. In these cases, the officer must show that the speed was so slow that it caused danger to other drivers going at a reasonable speed.

## Lesson 3 Review

1. What are the different kinds of speed limits?
2. What are the basic speed laws?



◆ A few interstate roads have speed limits as high as 75 mph. This speed may not be reasonable or proper in bad weather.



## OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the actions that you should take if you are involved in a collision.
2. Learn what the legal consequences of a collision might be.

# If You Are Involved in a Collision

No matter how good a driver you are, there is no guarantee that you can always avoid a collision. Human suffering, loss of time, legal problems, and great expense can result from a collision regardless of who is at fault.

## What Should You Do If You Are in a Collision?

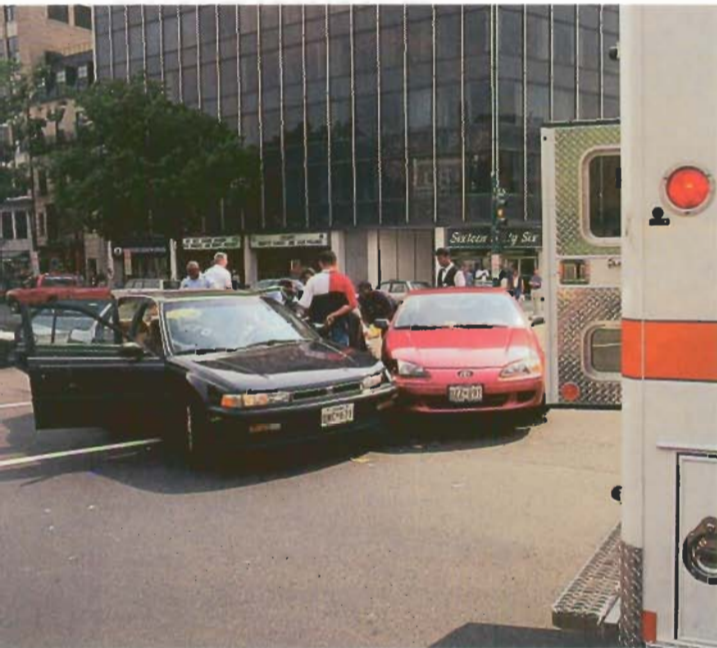
After a collision, some people may panic or react in strange ways. They may also be in a state of shock. If you are in a collision, you should try to remain calm. Remember that the collision scene is no place to begin arguing with the other driver or with the police. Do not accuse anyone of causing the collision and do not admit fault yourself. Sign only forms given to you by the police. Do not sign any other statements at the scene of the accident. You have the legal right to consult an attorney before making any statement.

If you are involved in a collision, you should do the following.

**Stop immediately.** Drivers who do not stop when involved in a collision are breaking the law. Unless someone was seriously injured or killed, and if you can still drive your vehicle, try to move it off the roadway and out of traffic. Turn off the ignition to prevent the risk of fire.

**Warn others if possible.** If you cannot move your vehicle out of traffic, you must do everything you can to notify other drivers that there is a problem ahead. Turn on your hazard flashers. If you have flares or reflecting triangles, set them up at least 100 feet ahead of and behind the collision scene. If you don't have them, ask someone, possibly another driver who offers to help, to stand at the side of the road out of traffic and wave a flashlight or light-colored cloth to warn oncoming traffic.

◆ Collisions are frightening, but knowing what to do if you are involved in one can help you to stay calm.



**Give aid to the injured.** Check for injured persons. Try to make them comfortable, but do not move them unless you know what you are doing. Moving an injured person can result in more serious injury. Do what you can to provide first aid. (You will learn more about first aid in Chapter 15.)

**Try to get medical help.** If you or someone who has stopped to help has a cellular phone or a CB (citizens-band radio), use it to call the police, who will ensure that other emergency services are also notified. Use 911 or other emergency numbers if available. Or try to flag down another driver to go for aid or to call the appropriate emergency services.

**Call the police.** By law, a collision resulting in injury, death, or property damage above a given dollar value must be reported to the police. A few states require that all collisions be reported no matter what the damages are.

**Exchange information.** Drivers involved in collisions should exchange information with the other driver and any passengers. You should exchange drivers' and passengers' names and addresses, driver's license information, names of insurance companies, and vehicle registration information. If you are involved in a collision with a parked car, you should try to locate the owner. If you cannot, leave a note under the windshield wiper blades containing the same information that you would exchange at any other collision scene. For your records, write down a description and the license number of the vehicle that was struck, plus the date, time, and place.

**Get names and addresses of witnesses.** You have already exchanged information with the other driver and passengers. If there are witnesses at the scene, write down their names and addresses too. You might need them to verify your account of the collision.

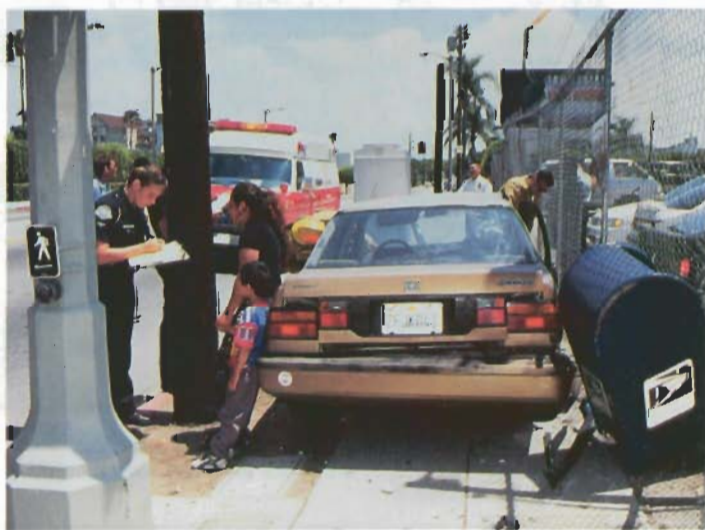
**Stay at the scene.** If you are uninjured, remain at the scene of the collision until your help is no longer needed. If people have been seriously injured or killed, remain at the scene until the police allow you to leave.

**Make accident reports.** Drivers involved in any collision that results in injury should make a written report to the police and to the department of motor vehicles. States have different laws about reporting property damage under certain amounts. Know what your state law requires. Check your state driver's manual or contact your motor vehicle department to get this information. If you do not file a report, your driver's license could be suspended

## FYI

Death rates are higher for occupants of small pickup trucks and small utility vehicles than for any other type of passenger vehicles, including the smallest cars.

◆ **Make a written accident report to the police, even if you have talked with them at the collision scene.**



## ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS



### William Coar

Traffic Safety Technician, AAA, National Office

*Driving is a risky business. Every year in the United States more than 40,000 people are killed and over 3 million are injured in motor vehicle crashes. Speeding is one of the biggest contributors to these crashes. Other factors include: inattention, failure to obey stop signs and signals, failure to yield the right-of-way, and driving under the influence.*

*To reduce risk, drivers must effectively manage visibility, time, and space. This can be accomplished by looking well ahead of your vehicle, maintaining a proper following distance, and controlling your speed.*

regardless of whether or not the collision was your fault. Of course, you should also inform your insurance company.

**See a doctor.** Even if you have been treated at the scene of the collision, be sure to see your own doctor. Some injuries do not appear right away. Be safe and get yourself checked out thoroughly.

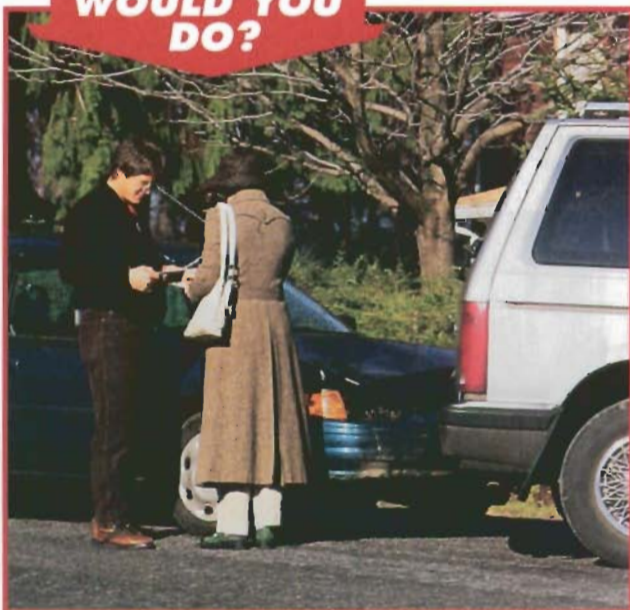
Legal consequences of a collision can be very serious. If a collision is the result of your having broken a traffic law, you may, depending on the severity of the crash:

- be fined and have to pay court costs.
- have your license suspended or revoked.
- be sent to jail.

If it is found that you were intoxicated or under the influence of other drugs at the time of a collision, the penalties are even more severe.

If you pass a collision scene and help appears needed, you should stop well off the roadway and offer whatever assistance that you can. However, if the situation appears under control, keep going. Stopping at the scene of a collision when it is unnecessary for you to do so can cause additional hazards for others who are using the roadway.

### WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



*You have had a collision. The other driver says that there's no need to get the police involved. What would you tell the driver?*

## Lesson 4 Review





1. What are your responsibilities if you are in a collision?
2. What may be the legal consequences of a collision?

## Using Coordinates

You want to find Port Allen, Louisiana, on the map. How can you do that quickly?

First find Port Allen on the map index. It is listed alphabetically. Beside the name, you will see H-12. These are coordinates.

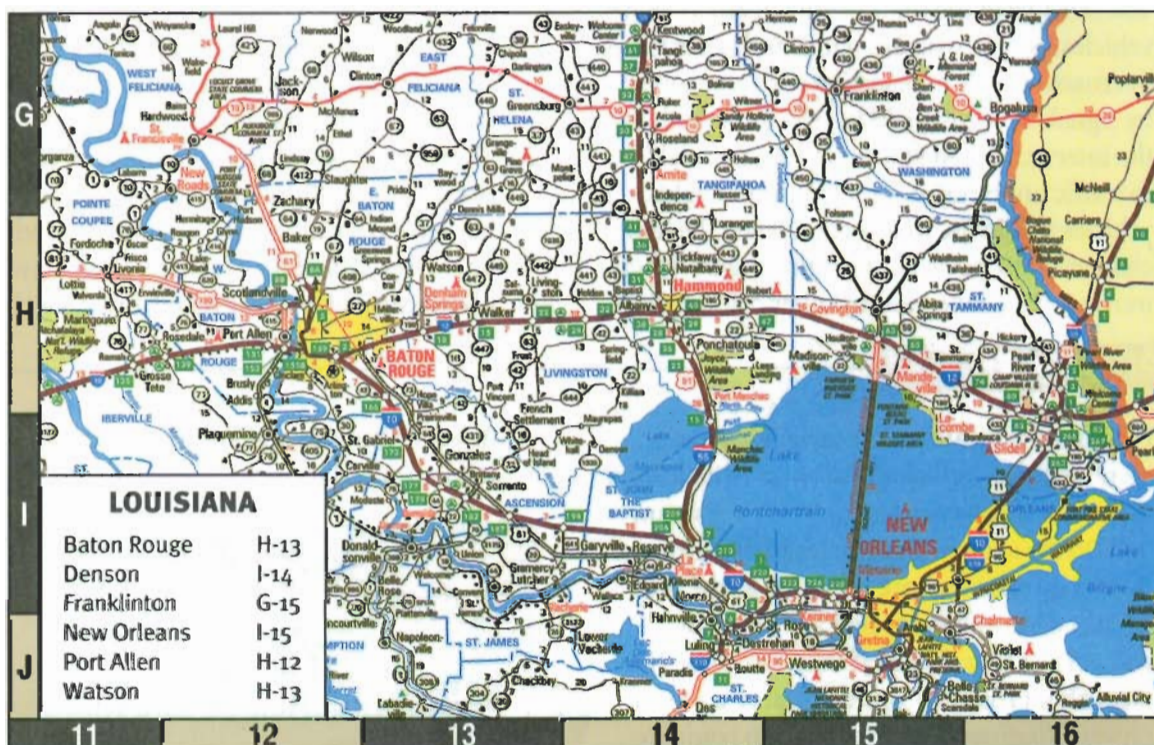
Look at the map. There are letters along the left side and numbers along the bottom. Find the H and put your left finger on it. Now find the 12. Move your left finger straight across the map until it is above the 12. Port Allen is in that area.

Notice the  beside Port Allen. This means it is a county seat. A  stands for a town, a  stands for a city, and  stands for the state

capital. If you scan the map quickly, you can see that the names of cities and towns are written in different-size type. The larger the type, the greater the population.

## Try It Yourself

1. Find Denson on the map. Is its population greater or less than the population of Port Allen?
2. Find Franklinton and Watson. Which is a county seat?
3. Find Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Which is the capital of Louisiana? Which has the smaller population?



# CHAPTER 6 REVIEW

## KEY POINTS

### Lesson One

1. Every state has administrative laws that set standards for issuing driver's licenses and learner's permits, certificates of title, motor vehicle registration, and financial responsibility requirements.
2. To comply with the administrative laws, drivers must obtain a driver's license, maintain an acceptable driving record, obtain a certificate of title when buying a car, register their vehicle, and prove financial responsibility by obtaining vehicle insurance.

### Lesson Two

1. Right-of-way means that one driver is required to yield when making a move in traffic.
2. You must yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles, people who are blind, and pedestrians in crosswalks. At intersections not controlled by signals or signs, yield to vehicles already in the intersection. At stop or yield signs, yield to traffic on the cross street. At traffic lights, vehicles still in the intersection when the light changes must be given the right-of-way. When moving into a lane used by other drivers, yield

to passing vehicles. Stop when a school bus stops to pick up or discharge students.

### Lesson Three

1. Fixed speed limits are the maximum and minimum speeds that a vehicle may be driven on a particular roadway. Advisory speed limits provide guidelines when an adjustment in speed is needed, such as when approaching a sharp curve in the road.
2. Always drive at a speed that is reasonable and proper for existing conditions.

### Lesson Four

1. Drivers involved in a collision must stop immediately and turn off the ignition, give aid to the injured, try to get medical help, call the police, exchange relevant information, get names and addresses of witnesses, stay at the scene, make accident reports, and see a doctor.
2. The legal consequences of a collision can be serious. If the collision is the result of your having broken a traffic law, you may, depending on the severity of the crash, be fined, have your license suspended or revoked, or be sent to jail.

## PROJECTS

1. Find out the location of your area's department of motor vehicles. Visit it or write a letter asking for a copy of your state's driver's manual. Do the same with two neighboring states. Report on laws that are the same as the laws in your state and those that are different.
2. Ask at least four drivers if they can name five facts about roadway speed. Prepare a report on your findings. You may want to compare your report with the reports of others in your class and put together a combined report on

drivers' attitudes and knowledge about speeding and speed laws.

### interNET CONNECTION



Search the Glencoe Web site for information on how to fill out a vehicle registration form.

[drivered.glencoe.com](http://drivered.glencoe.com)

# CHAPTER 6 REVIEW

## CHAPTER TEST

Write the letter of the answer that best completes each sentence.

- If you are in a collision and the other driver is injured, you should
  - go home and call an ambulance.
  - stay at the scene until the police arrive.
  - run away as fast as you can.
- Posted speed limits
  - tell you at what speed you must drive.
  - are only on interstate highways.
  - indicate you cannot safely go faster or slower than specified speeds.
- The higher the speed, the more likely it is that a vehicle will
  - develop engine problems.
  - roll over on a turn.
  - get excellent gas mileage.
- Administrative laws set standards for
  - rules of the road.
  - minimum speed allowed.
  - motor vehicle registration.
- On a two-lane street, an ambulance is coming from behind with its siren blaring and lights flashing. You should
  - pull over to the left and stop.
  - pull over to the right and stop.
  - increase your speed.
- At an intersection, a person with a guide dog steps off the curb. You
  - tap your horn and continue forward.
  - stop to yield the right-of-way.
  - drive around the person.
- Your driver's license can be revoked if you
  - are convicted of DUI or DWI.
  - get into a collision.
  - drive below the minimum speed limit.
- Two drivers who have been in a collision should
  - avoid any contact with each other or with witnesses.
  - split the cost of any damages.
  - exchange names and other information.
- Right-of-way rules determine
  - minimum speed limits in each state.
  - procedures for turning right.
  - who should yield the right-of-way.
- You must pass a series of tests in order to
  - increase your number of driving points.
  - obtain a driver's license.
  - obtain a certificate of title.

Write the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.

vehicle registration information

Uniform Vehicle Code

point system

accident report

basic speed rule

- The \_\_\_\_\_ states that you should always drive at a speed that is reasonable and proper for existing conditions.
- If you are involved in a collision, you should make a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Most states use a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to keep track of traffic violations by individual drivers.
- All states have right-of-way laws that are based on the \_\_\_\_\_.

## DRIVER'S LOG

In this chapter, you have learned about the rules and laws that govern the roadways and the motorists who use them. Write about the five rules you think you will have the most trouble remembering. Explain what you will do to jog your memory.