TERRITORY OF GUAM
Driver’s Handbook

Department of Revenue and Taxation
Motor Vehicle Division
FOREWORD

This booklet had been prepared to assist you in passing the required written test given prior to your obtaining a Guam Driver’s License. The main purpose of driver-examining is to determine whether an applicant for licensing has the knowledge and skills needed for the safe operation of a motor vehicle. When the driver successfully passes the examination, this means he meets established standards of motor vehicle operation on Guam for the type of license applied for.

However, we would be failing on our obligation to you if that was all we offered for there is a great deal more to driving than being able to make a proper left turn. Therefore, we have added life-saving hint that will be useful to the experienced driver as well as the beginner. This booklet is not only a guide to passing the driver’s test, it is also a guide to Safe Driving.

YOUR VEHICLE: A BENEFIT OR CAUSE OF FATALITY

The car has become a necessity in our modern society, but must its benefits mean that an average of 30 people shall die each year on Guam’s road? (Statistics over the past 4 years). The DRIVER, not the car, is RESPONSIBLE for most of the deaths on our highway. Please remember this when you are studying this book and while you are driving.

SAFETY BELTS SAVE LIVES

One of the most cost-effective vehicle safety device yet invented is probably sitting in your car right now... your Safety Belt. Sure, it’s a little restrictive at times, and you have to remember to put it on, but the benefits of its use far outnumber the drawbacks. In a study by the Volvo Co. involving 28,000 accident cases, no deaths occurred at speeds under 60 mph when the lap belt and shoulder harness were used.

On Guam, your car is one of over 98,000 registered vehicles. If there are 254 linear miles of roadway, that averages out to more than 436 vehicles per mile on our island! Each year about 4,306 accidents occur, resulting in 1,082 injuries. This means that 1 out of every 23 people will be involved in an accident each year, and unfortunately, someone dies in a traffic accident once every eleven days.

The potential for saving the lives of you and your passengers takes only 5 seconds of the time it takes you to buckle up – and those five seconds can be worth a lifetime!
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Section I: GUAM DRIVER’S LICENSE

- Exceptions to Who Needs a License
- Eligibility – Age to Other Requirements
- Types of Licenses
- Your Examination for a License
- The Driving Test
- Discontinuing the Driver Test
- Valid Period of the Driver’s License
- Loss of Driver’s License
- Safe Driving Tips

## Section II: TRAFFIC LAWS – RULES OF THE ROAD

- The Driver’s Signal
- Parking Restrictions
- Steps in Parallel Parking
- The Right-of-Way Rules
- Emergency Vehicles
- How to Make Turns
- Use of the Center Lane
- Speed Laws
- Guam Road Conditions
- Passing and Clearance
- Pavement Markings
- School Buses
- Miscellaneous Driving Rules
- Driving at Night
- Controlling Your Car in an Emergency
- What to do in Case of an Accident
- Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicating Beverages

## Section III: TRAFFIC SIGNAL LIGHTS

## Section IV: ROAD SIGNS

## Section V: BICYCLES AND MOPEDS

## Section VI: REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF VEHICLES
Section I
GUAM DRIVER’S LICENSE

1. THE DRIVING PRIVILEGE

Driving a motor vehicle on public streets and highways is a privilege granted by the Territory according to the ruling of the courts. It is not a right.

Before the territory can issue a permit to drive, you must show that you have the necessary skill. The law states that your ability to drive must be tested and proved by an examination given by the Territory.

A driver’s license is evidence that the Territory has granted you the privilege of driving on the public roadways within its boundaries. It shows that the Territory has judged it safe to grant the driving privilege to you. Every driver must be licensed and must carry their valid license with them at all times while driving on Guam.

If you abuse the privilege, it may be taken away from you by legal means for various periods of time, or revoked permanently under some circumstances.

2. EXCEPTIONS TO WHO NEEDS A LICENSE

a. Active duty military personnel stationed on Guam are not required to get a Guam license as long as their license from their home state is valid, but it is advisable.

b. A valid driver’s license from one of the 50 U.S. States, Territories or possessions may be used for up to 30 days after arrival on Guam.

c. Active duty military personnel operating a military or Federal Government vehicle are not required to have a Guam license while operating the military or Federal Government vehicle.

3. ELIGIBILITY – AGE AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A person over 15 ½ years of age who can pass the examination and meet the requirements of mental and physical ability is entitled to consideration for a Guam driver’s license.

a. Age Requirements for Minors

For purposes of obtaining a Guam driver’s license, minors are persons under 18 years of age. Applicants under 18 must have a parent or legal guardian appear in person during the initial application process to sign the application form prior to taking the written examination.

*b. Learner’s Permits

Before anyone can drive well, he needs to have a good deal of actual driving practice. The law, therefore, provides for the issuance of a learner’s permit which allows a person qualified for a license by age and other conditions to drive on public streets and highways when accompanied by a fully licensed driver. A person must be at least 15 years 6 months of age to apply for a learner’s permit. Holders of learner’s permits do not have the right to drive alone, not even to an office of the Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of taking an examination. They must always be accompanied by a licensed driver when they are driving.

4. TYPES OF LICENSES

a. Chauffeur’s Licenses are issued to those people who are employed by a company for the purpose of driving and who receive compensation therefrom.

b. Taxi Licenses are issued to persons who are operating a taxi for the purpose of compensation. All persons applying for a taxi license are required to be familiar with Section 11101 of Title 16 Guam Code Annotated.

c. Operator’s Licenses are issued for normal use of a four-wheel vehicle.

d. Motorcycle Licenses are required for all military and civilians who intend to
operate a motorcycle on the roads of Guam. To receive a motorcycle license, you must take a written exam and a road test to ascertain whether you have the knowledge and practical experience to operate a motorcycle. Guam law requires use of an approved, securely fastened safety helmet for both driver and passenger. In addition it is recommended that the headlight be used during all driving, both day and night.

5. REGULAR LICENSES
When you receive your regular license, inspect it carefully to be sure the information on it is correct. It should contain your true full name, date of birth, a brief personal description, your signature, in the upper left hand corner, the date when it expires and most current mailing address. If address changes immediately notification is requirement.

* See Pgs. 35-36 Public Law 25-96

6. APPLYING FOR YOUR LICENSE

Written Test *
When you apply for a license, you will need to appear in person before a driver’s license examiner.

a. Information and Identification.
In filling out your application, the law declares that you must give true statements about yourself. You will be asked to certify whether you have ever:

1. Applied for a license under any other name.
2. Had your driving privilege or license cancelled, refused, suspended or revoked (taken away for any reason).
3. Had been afflicted with nervous breakdown, mental illness, or insanity.
4. Had fainting spells, dizzy spells, apoplexy (stroke), epilepsy, paralysis, or any other diseases or disability which might affect your ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.

You must give your full name, address, date of birth, marital status, height, weight and the color of your eyes and hair. You will be asked to state whether you have ever operated a motor vehicle and for how long, and what type of motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles you desire to operate. If you have had a Guam Driver’s License previously, you will be asked to note the number and year it was issued. If you have been licensed in any State, indicate this fact and give the year when you were licensed. You must sign the application with your regular signature and present this license application to an examiner.

* Applicant must have one of the following valid IDs: Passport * Firearms I.D. * Military I.D. * Guam I.D. * Naturalization Certificate * Alien Registration Card * U.S. Mainland I.D. with Photo

Driver’s Education Requirements
Applicant is required to complete a certified Driver’s Educational Class consisting of:

a. Forty (40) hours of training, consisting of thirty-two (32) classroom hours and eight (8) hours in-car.
b. Such training be applicable to all minors (15 years 6 months) and to those adults who are applying for a “first time” driver’s license.
7. YOUR EXAMINATION FOR A LICENSE

Your examination for a driver’s license may include the following:

- Any eye test, given to determine whether or not you can see well enough to drive safely. If you need glasses to pass this test, your license may require you to always wear glasses while driving.
- A road sign test given to determine whether you know what the law requires when you are driving a vehicle.
- A test of your ability to read simple English, such as is used in highway traffic and directional signs.
- A driving test to determine whether you can drive properly and safely.

a. THE DRIVING TEST

In the driving test, the examiner will ask you to show your ability to control a motor vehicle. In addition, he will observe how well you check your vehicle for proper mechanical operation – wipers, lights, and mirror adjustments – prior to operation on a public highway. Any motor vehicle used for a driving examination must meet all Guam Motor Vehicle Registration and safety law requirement. Your car should have the following equipment working and in proper adjustment:

The Driver’s License Examiner will ask you to drive some distance in traffic where you will meet the usual conditions offered by such driving. Special driving problems may be presented for your solution. They will not be very complicated problems, but will serve as examples of traffic situations you may meet at any time. The test is simply proof of your ability to drive by practical demonstration. While being asked to demonstrate your knowledge of the arm signals, you may use your electric turn indicators during the test.

- Start your car from the curb and look for passing cars. He will note whether you give a good signal and whether you wait to enter the stream of traffic until it is safe to do so.
- Keep proper control of your car while using the gas pedal, brake, and other controls as you will be observed on how well you operate.
- Drive in the proper place on the street or highway. The examiner will note whether you stay in the proper lane, change lanes carefully and with proper signal, and follow other vehicles at a safe distance.
- Drive through blind or crowded road crossings. He will note whether you pay
proper attention to signs and signals, right-of-way, pedestrians, and motor vehicle traffic.

- Turn your car. He will note whether you turn from the proper land and turn into the proper lane, giving a good signal at the required distance before turning, and whether you turn too wide or too sharp.
- Stop your car. Examiner will note whether you stop smoothly, stop at the proper place, give a good signal, or whether you can stop quickly and safely in an emergency.
- Control your car while backing in a straight line or in offset backing (the maneuver most often used to park a vehicle parallel to a curb).
- Observe proper speed, giving enough attention to the number and speed of nearby cars, people crossing the street or highway, condition of the highway, condition of the weather and amount of light, and the distance you can see under the conditions existing at the time.
- Keep a safe distance in the following and passing cars, in passing people walking on the highway, and when driving through intersections and when parking.
- Give attention to the rights of others.
- Attend to the job of driving.

The driving test will cover several blocks. Follow the directions of the examiner who rides with you. He will play no tricks on you and will not ask you do to anything against the law. The examiner will answer any questions on proper driving techniques before or after the driving test. Do not converse unnecessarily with the examiner during the test, as this may interfere with your understanding of instructions or his scoring of your driving skills. At the end of the test, the examiner will show you a standard score sheet which he will be glad to discuss with you.

b. DISCONTINUING THE DRIVING TEST – AN EMERGENCY SAFETY MEASURE.

Every person taking a driving test should be informed of a necessary safety rule: The test will be immediately discontinued and counted as a failure if the applicant suffers a collision while driving: the vehicle striking another car, striking a pedestrian, or striking a fixed object. An improper driving action that causes a collision or near-collision for vehicles in the immediate vicinity, even though the driving test vehicle is not involved in the damage or contact, will also cause the ending of the test.

The same immediate action to end the driving test will be taken by the examiner if the applicant does any of the following:

- Make it necessary for another driver to exercise unusual expertness to prevent a collision or for a pedestrian to dodge in order to avoid being struck.
- Make it necessary for the examiner to come to his aid in order to control the vehicle.
- Stalls the car within a busy intersection because of inexperience or lack of skill.
- Drive two wheels over the curb or onto the sidewalk.
- Commits any driving fault, either of skill or excessive caution, which causes immediate danger to any person or property.
- Violates flagrantly any traffic law for which a driver might be arrested.
- Refuses to try any maneuver required by the examiner.
- Fails repeatedly to follow instructions.
c. VALID PERIOD OF THE DRIVER’S LICENSE

Your driver’s license is good for a period of three years. The expiration date will fall on your birthday of the third year. You are then required to renew your application for a Driver’s License.

Fee Schedule:

- Operator (A) $25.00
- Chauffeur (B) (G) (H) $25.00
- Chauffeur (C) $25.00
- Chauffeur (D) $25.00
- Motorcycle (F) $25.00
- Taxi (E) $7.00
- Taxi Identification $25.00
- Duplicate License $25.00
- All Permits $10.00
- Intermediate License $10.00

Loss of Driver’s License:

In the event that a Driver’s License or Learner’s Permit is lost, destroyed, or mutilated, the licensee or permittee may obtain a duplicate from the Department of Revenue and Taxation by presenting an Official Identification to the examiner. Any person who loses a license or permit and thereunder finds the original, must immediately surrender such original license to the Department of Revenue and Taxation at the Driver's Examination branch.

Learner’s Permits for 15 years 6 months of age: (alternative provision) successfully completed the written driver’s license examination. A Learner’s permit shall be valid for 2 years, so long as he/she is accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian while operating a motor vehicle.

SAFE DRIVING TIPS

Be a Defensive Driver

A defensive driver is one who is always on the alert for the mistakes of others. “Expect the Unexpected.” Remember you are sharing the road with all kinds of drivers. By anticipating another’s error, you may avoid an accident. It is better to give up the right-of-way than to suffer an accident with property damage, injury, or death resulting. On the highways, we must all be “Our Brother’s Keeper.”

Watch for Danger

- A car suddenly slows down for no apparent reason. (Is there something in the road? Is he going to turn left?)
- A ball rolls into the street. (Will it be followed by a running child?)
- The front wheels of a parked car move, or smoke comes out of its exhaust. (Will it pull out in front of you?)
- A car has just stopped at the curb. (Will the driver suddenly open his door in the path of your vehicle?)
- An oncoming car appears to be weaving from side to side. (Is the driver drunk or asleep?)
- A car behind you is impatiently “riding your bumper.” (Will he be able to stop if you stop? Will he suddenly dart out to pass you?”
If You Wear Glasses or Sunglasses

If you are required to wear eye glasses while driving as per instruction of your driver’s license, it is a good practice to have a spare pair with you whenever you’re driving. Any accidental breaking or damage to them, rendering your glasses unusable, would create a hazardous situation.

A very important safety principle is don’t use tinted prescription glasses or dark sunvisor types as daylight fades or after dark. In dusk or darkness, they can reduce your distance vision drastically and be very hazardous. Beware of tinted glasses that disguise the actual color of signs and traffic lights, such lenses have caused serious accidents by misleading the driver.

NEVER DRIVE WHEN:

● You are feeling Sick, Tired, Sleep, Angry, or Emotionally Upset.
● You are under Sedatives or Hazardous DRUGS and if you had even ONE DRINK!

Section II
TRAFFIC LAWS – RULES OF THE ROAD
The Driver’s Observance of the Law

1. COMPLIANCE with TRAFFIC LAWS and ORDINANCES
Drivers are required by law to comply with Guam traffic laws as set forth in the Guam Vehicle Code. Exceptions may arise when a traffic officer or policeman gives orders that conflict with traffic laws or ordinances. In such cases, the officer’s directions must be complied with.

2. COMPLIANCE with ORDERS of TRAFFIC and POLICE OFFICERS and FIREMEN
Any traffic direction or signal by a traffic or police officer or a fireman on duty must be complied with. To meet a special situation or emergency, an officer may give orders that conflict with traffic laws or ordinances. In such cases, the officer’s orders have priority.

3. COMPLIANCE with OFFICIAL SIGNS, SIGNALS and MARKINGS
Directions, controls, and limits indicated by all official traffic signs, signals, and markings must be observed. Exceptions may arise when an officer gives directions to meet a special situation or emergency. In such cases, the officer’s orders must be complied.

The Driver’s Signal

Every driver must give signals to tell other drivers on the road when he intends to change the direction in which his vehicle is moving or to reduce his speed or stop. These signals are described in the law. Signals may be given by hand-and-arm motion or by a signal light on the vehicle.

If you signal with flashing vehicle signal lights, be sure the signal does not continue to flash after you have completed your turn. When you plan a series of driving changes, such as a stop for a traffic light or stop sign followed by a right turn, you should always signal first for the action you intend to take first. Thus, in the situation mentioned above, you would signal first for a stop; come to a full stop; then signal for the right turn.

At night, when the hand-and-arm signal can not be seen, it is more efficient to use the vehicle signal lights. Although the law permits use of such signals during daylight, it is a wise precaution to use the hand-and-arm signals when bright sunlight may make it hard to
see lights.

**Arm Signals for STOPS and TURNS (Diagram Reflects Rear of Vehicle)**

Starting Your Vehicle

When starting from a parking place at the curb, first look for cars approaching from the rear, then give the proper signal. Pull out slowly. Remember, you do not have the right-of-way.

When starting from a garage or driveway, be sure to watch for approaching vehicles and pedestrians. Move cautiously to join the traffic at a suitable speed.

If your starting position requires backing, it may be necessary to inspect what is behind your vehicle very carefully before you begin to move it. If necessary, leave the car to look behind it. Then, keep the space behind you well in view through your rear view mirrors and windows.

**Stopping and Parking**

- Always give a clear signal for slowing and stopping before you begin to park your car.
- Never leave your car until you have stopped the engine and set the parking brake.
- Driving in traffic often requires the ability to park your car parallel to a curb. The method for this at a right-hand curb is explained below:

1. Select a space large enough for your car. Stop beside and about a foot away from the vehicle in front of the space which you want to park.
2. Back up slowly. When you are about two feet back, begin turning your wheel to the right. Then turn all the way, still backing slowly. Watch for traffic and pedestrians. Keep on backing until your car is at a 45 degree angle with the street then stop. Check your angle: this is the secret to successful parallel parking.
3. Straighten your wheels and back up until your front bumper is even with the rear bumper of the car ahead. Turn your wheel sharply left and move back slowly.
4. Keep backing until your wheels almost touch the curb. Your right wheel should be approximately six inches from the curb. Straighten your wheels and move up to the center of the space. Set your parking brake.

- The Legal Parking Position is with the right front and rear wheels of the vehicle within 18 inches of the curb.
- When you have to stop on a highway, be sure to park with all four wheels off
the pavement if possible. If you can not park off the roadway, leave an unobstructed width of highway opposite your car. Your parked car should be visible 200 feet in each direction.

**Parking Restrictions**

When angle parking is not clearly designated, a vehicle must be parked parallel to the curb, heading in the direction of the traffic. When parallel parked, the vehicle’s right wheels shall be within 18 inches of the curb or edge of the street, unless a different system of parallel parking is clearly indicated by official traffic signs or markers. Always remove your keys from the ignition after parking your vehicle.

**Steps in Parallel Parking**

Front and rear bumper shall not be closer than two feet from the vehicles when in parked position, unless the street is otherwise marked.

No person shall park a vehicle or permit it to stand, whether attended or unattended, upon a public highway in any of the following places:

a. Within an intersection.
b. On a crosswalk.
c. Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within thirty (30) feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone, unless official signs indicate a different length.
d. Within twenty-five (25) feet of the intersection or curb lines, or if none, then within fifteen (15) feet of the intersection of property lines at an intersection of highways.
e. Within thirty (30) feet upon the approach to any official flashing signal, stop sign or traffic signal located at the side of the highway.
f. Within fifteen (15) feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station
g. Within fifteen (15) feet of any fire hydrant.
h. In front of a private driveway, except that the owner of such private driveway may so park.

i. Immediately next to any street or highway excavation or obstruction, nor opposite the same, unless a clear and unobstructed width of not less than twenty (20) feet upon the main traveled portion of such street or highway shall be left free for the passage of other vehicles thereon.

k. On the roadway or highway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the curb or edge of the highway.
l. On any Guam beach. No vehicle is allowed to park on the beach except for a short time while loading or unloading fishing or boating equipment. (Maximum fine: $100.00)
The Right-of-Way Rules are:

a. At intersections without traffic control devices, such as STOP or YIELD signs or Traffic Control Signs:
   - The first vehicle in the intersection has the right to go ahead. Keep in mind, however, that it is the responsibility of all drivers to Yield the right-of-way. When two vehicles enter an intersection from different streets or highways at the same time, the vehicle on the left shall Yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right. (Section 3325)

b. At Through Highways with STOP Signs:
   - After you have stopped for a STOP sign, let any cars that are within the intersection (or approaching so closely that they may hit you) pass before you enter the through highway. On a divided highway, consider the danger of approaching cars on the further roadway before crossing it. Continue to yield the right of way at a STOP sign until such a time as you can proceed with reasonable safety.
   - All vehicles on any secondary road which intersects with a through highway must STOP before entering or crossing the through highway, even if no official STOP sign is posted. If you are on the through highway and you see a vehicle some distance ahead that is crossing or about to cross after it has stopped at a STOP sign, you must slow down and allow the vehicle to proceed. (Section 3326)

c. Left Turns

When you approach an intersection, give the proper signal for at least 100 feet before turning. The law requires you to wait until it is safe for you to complete your turn. You must give the right-of-way to all cars approaching from the opposite direction on the same roadway that are close enough to be dangerous, and you may make the turn only when it is safe to do so. These rules are especially important on divided highways with several lanes, where you must consider the danger of approaching cars in each lane while turning. These rules also apply to left turns into an alley, private road or property, or driveway. (Section 3321)

d. Private Driveways

When you enter a street or highway from a driveway, alley or from private property, you must not interfere with the safe operation of cars approaching from either direction. You must wait to enter the highway until it is safe to do so (Section 3327). When it can be done safely, you may cross a solid white or yellow line in the middle of the roadway into an alley or driveway. You may lawfully make a left turn across such a solid line for either of these maneuvers after you have made certain that no approaching vehicle is an immediate hazard.

e. Emergency Vehicles

Upon the approach of an authorized emergency vehicle (ambulance, police, fire equipment, civil defense, explosive ordinance, etc.) that is sounding a siren and/or displaying flashing red or blue lights, all highway users must yield the right-of-way, as stated in the Motor Vehicle Code of Guam (Section 3333).
   1. The operators of all other vehicles shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the
right-hand edge or curb of the highway clear of any intersection and thereupon stop and remain in such position until such authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

2. All pedestrians upon the highway shall remain in a place of safety until such authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

f. Pedestrian’s Right of Way at Crosswalks

a. The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, except as otherwise provided this Code.

b. Whenever any vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicles.

How to Make Turns

a. Rules for Left and Right Turns:
   Keep your car in the proper lane during all types of turns.
   Signal for 100 feet before turning. You may need to signal for a longer distance if you must change lanes to make the turn properly.
   You may not legally turn or move to the right or to the left on a roadway unless such a movement can be made with reasonable safety, and until you have given the appropriate signal.
   On right turns, stay within the right-hand lane. Do not turn wide. On left turns, avoid cutting the corners.

b. Right Turns:

   Unless signs or pavement markings clearly permit a right turn from more than one lane, the turn must be made (after signaling for 100 feet) from the extreme right-hand lane. It must be completed in the extreme right-hand lane you are entering.

   - Right turn Against a Red Light:
     After you have come to a full stop for a red traffic light signal and have made sure that traffic permits, you may turn right against the red signal if no posted sign prohibits such a turn, provided you are in the extreme right-hand lane.

c. Left Turns:
Several types of left turns are shown in the above diagrams. General rules for left turns that apply in all cases are these:

1. To start your left turn, get as close as possible to the left-hand edge of the extreme left-hand or portion of the roadway permitted to vehicles traveling in your direction on the street you wish to leave, unless signs or pavement markings indicate that left turns are permitted unless a left-turn lane is present.

2. Wait and watch at the turning point until it is safe for you to complete your turn.

3. Guide your car into the lane closest to the left that is proper for vehicles traveling in your direction in the roadway you are entering.

d. Lane Changing:
   (Section 3314) states that a vehicle shall be drive as nearly as practical entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from such a lane until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can be made with safety. Never change lanes in an intersection.

USE OF THE CENTER LANE

An uneven number of traffic lanes is a standardized roadway design on Guam. Historically, this middle lane has been called Suicide Lane, Kamikaze Run, etc... due to unsafe and often illegal driving practiced here. It is actually a LEFT TURN lane and is only for turning left into or out of traffic. This lane is not to be used for passing and is not a safety zone for pedestrians. It is not only illegal to use the center lane for a walkway, it is positively suicidal.

Some defensive driving tips for using the middle lane:
- If there is a center lane, it must be used for all left turns.
- Always signal your intent to turn left and don't turn your wheels until it is safe to execute the full turn, because if you're hit from behind or in front, the turn of your wheels will send you direction into the oncoming traffic.
- Watch very carefully before entering the middle lane and before the turning out of it; look for cars coming up behind you or planning to turn in front of you into the lane.

e. U-TURNS

The U-Turn is described by law as a turn to proceed in the opposite direction. You may NOT make a U-Turn (turn around to go back the way you came):
1. On a curve or near the crest of a grade (hill) where your car cannot be seen for 200 feet either direction.
2. At any intersection where a traffic signal controls the movement of vehicles, including intersections where green arrows control the flow, unless a sign specifically says a U-Turn may be made.
3. Where there are cars so near that they may hit you.
4. Where there are signs prohibiting U-Turns.
5. In front of the driveway entrance or approach to a fire station. Never use a fire station driveway for the purpose of driving around.
6. In a business district, except through a specifically provided opening for U-Turns at some intersection and divided roadways.

You may make a U-Turn in the middle of the block in a residential district if there are no cars coming toward you from either direction so close as to be dangerous (or within 100 feet).

Provided all other conditions such as signs, signals, the nature of the district or the adjacent intersections are such as to make U-Turns lawful, a driver may cross a solid white or yellow line to make a U-Turn if the turn can be made safely.

**SUGGESTION:** *When in doubt, drive around the block!*

**SPEED LAWS**

a. **Basic Speed Law**

Under Guam Law, you must never drive faster than is safe. This is what the law says:

_No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent, have due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic in, and the surface and width of the highway and in no even at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property (Section 3301)._  

This is called the “Basic Speed Law”. This law does not set an exact limit in miles per hour at which you may drive. The “Basic” law requires that you consider all conditions that may affect your driving. These include the number and speed of other cars on the roadway; the presence of pedestrians; the surface of the road – whether smooth or rough, wet or dry, wide or narrow; how far ahead you can see in existing light conditions; and such things as rain, fog, wind, smoke, dust, and inclement weather. To meet the requirement of this law, maintain the speed of the flow of traffic in your direction, providing it does not exceed the speed limit.

b. **Speed Limits**

Additional speed laws do not set definite speed limits that are generally posted on signs by the road. Some indicate absolute limits and others indicate the maximum safe speed for that area. The MAXIMUM speed on Guam is 35 mph and in no case may you exceed this limit, with the exception of Routes 1, 8, and 10 which are 45 mph.

**GUAM ROAD CONDITIONS**

The roads on Guam are built with coral aggregate and are extremely slippery – a hazard increased by wetness. There are several factors that cause this condition: the oil rich aggregate allows oil to rise to the top of the road surfaces and the coral base polishes easily to provide a smooth surface where algae grows easily in our humid climate. These factors, added to the frequent rain showers, combine to make our roads, at times, quite treacherous.

During heavier rains, it’s advisable to turn on your headlights for increased visibility. Scan ahead for large puddles and slow down when you go through the water. Most vehicles lack protection on the underside and large quantities of water splashed up in the undercarriage can soak wiring, brake linings and other essential parts. Failure to negotiate large puddles with caution can result in a stall or in a brake failure of malfunction. Keep your car under control and your brakes in excellent condition. Always allow a safe distance between your car and any other car or person, so that you make a smooth stop. Jerky stops often cause dangerous skidding. In the event you do find yourself skidding,
DON’T SLAM on your brakes. Instead, take your foot off the accelerator and gently turn your wheels in the direction of the skid. Braking or oversteering to correct may end up in another skid and locked brakes. Once the car straightens up, gently brake to a stop.

In estimating stopping distance, you need to allow for your own reaction time and for braking distance. In following another vehicle, you should allow at least 1 car length for every 10 mph of speed. The road surface condition figures greatly in your stopping efficiency.

At 50 miles per hour, a car with good brakes needs at least 200 feet of dry road in which to stop, but under wet conditions, 3 to 12 times as much distance is needed, making such high speeds extremely dangerous. To keep from skidding on wet, slippery streets, drive slowly. Allow more distance between your car and others. Apply your brakes or gas pedal slowly and easily so that your starts and stops will be smooth.

PASSING AND CLEARING

Passing on the Right
You may pass to the right, if conditions appear safe, under these conditions:

a. When the driver of the other vehicle is making or is about to make a left turn. Never pass to the left of any vehicle signaling for a left-turn (Section 3317).

b. In a business or residential district where the pavement is wide enough for two or more lanes of cars moving in your direction of travel. You may pass on the right or left in this case, provided conditions are safe, but never drive off the paved or main traveled part of the roadway. There are many locations on Guam’s roadways where you find exceptionally wide paved shoulder lanes. The legally traveled portion of the roadways ends where the solid white lines on your right begins. The shoulder lane is NOT for passing – you may hit bicycles, pedestrians, animals, or disabled vehicles pulled off the road for repairs.

Before moving to the left or right of the highway, give a signal to tell any driver ahead or behind you that you are going to change position, never make the change until you’re sure the lane is clear. Don’t rely on rear-view mirrors alone. Turn your head both ways and make sure no car is about to pass you! Never pass to the right on a two-lane highway at an intersection. This type of passing is normally prohibited by “NO PASSING” signs.
Passing on the Left and Restrictions, including Signs, Lines and Lanes
Whenever you wish you pass a vehicle on the left, remember these rules:

1. Where a highway is divided by a solid white or yellow line, no vehicle may cross over or drive to the left of the solid line, except for turning left at an intersection or out of a driveway of alley, or while a U-Turn if lawfully allowed or where signs authorize the use of off-center traffic lanes (Section 3314).
2. Where there is a solid white or yellow line alongside a broken line, you may pass if the broken line is nearest your side of the road (1). If the solid line is on your side, you must not pass (2).
3. Where there is only a broken line separating the lanes, cars going in both directions may pass if the way ahead is clear.

Make sure there is a time to pass before changing lanes to do so. Allow plenty of time to get back on the right side of the roadway to avoid being dangerously close to oncoming traffic. Never get closer than 100 feet to an oncoming vehicle (Section 3314).

In passing at a safe distance to the left, do not return to the right lane until you are sure that you are safely out of the way of the vehicle in your rear-view mirror, this avoiding “Cutting In”.

NOTE: The car being passes is required to maintain the same rate of speed unless presented with an emergency situation where he may be required to slow down to prevent an accident.

PAVEMENT MARKINGS
Pavement markers should indicate to the driver:
1. Where on the roadway he should be driving.
2. Where his visibility ahead is limited and passing is restricted.
3. Where he can expect traffic in the adjacent lane to be going in the opposite direction.
4. Where he may safely wait for an opportunity to make a left turn.

The COLOR of the lines tells the motorist instantly whether he is on a one-way or two-way road:
- Yellow lines are used to divide roads with two-way traffic.
- White lines divide lanes or roadways where the traffic is going in the same direction.

On Guam, small reflective markers are used more than paint to indicate these pavement markings, since paint does not last long.
SCHOOL BUSES

The Motor Vehicle Code of Guam expressly requires that traffic in all directions must come to a complete stop when approaching a school bus that is stopped for the purpose of taking on or discharging students, WHETHER OR NOT ANY STUDENTS ARE CROSSING THE ROAD. School buses must display their red, four-way flashing signal lights as well as the Stop-arm located on the driver’s side of the vehicle. Even on multi-lane highways when the bus is on the other side of the road, you must stop until the Stop-arm is retracted and the bus resumes motion, unless the bus driver signals you to proceed.

SCHOOL BUSES

MISCELLANEOUS DRIVING RULES

a. Backing must always be done carefully. Do not rely upon a mirror to show you where you are going (Section 3321).
b. You must not drive a car so loaded either with property or persons that you cannot see ahead, behind or to the sides or so loaded that you can not control your vehicle (Section 3302). Stickers, signs, posters, etc. are not permitted on a car’s windshield, side or rear windows with two exceptions:

1. In a seven inch square in the lower corner of the windshield on the side away from the driver.
2. Upon the side windows behind the driver in a position where they will not
obstruct his clear view.
c. No object or material may be placed in or upon a vehicle so that it obstructs or reduces the driver’s clear view through the windshield area, hanging from above, or elsewhere except those permitted as listed above.
d. It is unlawful for anyone to ride on any part of your vehicle that is not intended for the use of passenger, such as the hood or other outside parts of the car. It is suggested that if you must carry passengers in the back of a pick-up truck, they should sit firmly on the deck against the cab or against the tailgate, preferably in installed seats with seatbelts.
e. Always keep alert for pedestrians or bicyclists in your view of the road. You should give them room to try to anticipate their movements. Don’t let any cyclist hang onto a car.
f. Horns should be used only when it’s reasonable and necessary for safe operation.

g. If you smoke, use an ashtray in your car. It is illegal to throw any lighted cigarette, cigar, or any other flaming or flowing substances from your car on any street or highway.
h. Any person who goes for sightseeing purposes to the scene of a disaster where the aid of police, firemen, ambulance crews, or other rescue and emergency services are required, and by doing so, interferes with the essential services at the scene, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
i. Any person who drops or deposits upon the highway any destructive or injurious material, shall immediately remove the same or cause it to be removed. Littering is also illegal.

**DRIVING AT NIGHT**

Your speed should always be lowered for night-time driving. You are not as alert after a long day, nor do you see so well. The steady hum of the motor tends to lull you to sleep. But wide awake driving is really needed at night, when your driving view is limited by darkness. Experts agree on the following rules for safer night-time driving.

- Headlights must be used whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a highway or adjacent should from 1 hour before sunrise, or at any time there isn’t sufficient light. It is illegal to drive with only your parking lights on. If you think parking lights are called for, then use headlights. Parking lights are for parking ONLY.
- Keep your headlights properly adjusted so that the lower beams are not aimed upward.
- Keep your windshield clean.
- When you meet an oncoming car, you must lower your headlight beams (dim your lights) within 500 feet of the approaching motorist.
- Slow down when facing the glare from approaching motorist.
- Avoid looking directly into the lights of the cars you are meeting. Instead, watch the edge of the roadway on your right.
- Lower your beams (dim your lights) when following another vehicle within 300 feet. Lower your headlights when you are driving on well-lighted streets.
- Use your lower beams when driving in a fog and reduce your speed. Driving with bright lights in fog is like shining a light into a mirror: the reflection of the light blinds you.
- Be sure that you can stop whenever necessary within the distance you can see clearly ahead, and watch continually and carefully for pedestrians and animals along the roadside.
CONTROLLING YOUR CAR IN AN EMERGENCY

It is important to anticipate emergencies by knowing exactly what to do, for there usually isn't much time to consider the situation. Here are a few helpful tips:

- **Tire Blow Out** - Don't slam the brakes. Keep a firm grip on the steering wheel, steer straight ahead, and slow own gradually to a stop.
- **Rear Wheel Skid** – Don't brake suddenly. Turn your steering wheel in the direction of the skid, and as the car begins to straighten out, bring the front wheels into line.
- **Accelerator Pedal Jams** – Put your gears in neutral or turn of the ignition.
- **Right Wheels Off Pavement** – Don't try to pull sharply back onto the pavement. Steer straight ahead slowing gradually until you can pull safely onto the road.
- **Collision Unavoidable** – Turn of your ignition. While braking, attempt to steer away from rigid objects.
- **Car Coming at You** – If a car approaches on the wrong side of the road, the driver may be asleep, drowsy, inattentive, ill, drugged, or drunk. Warn him with your horn and pull to the right as far as possible – even in a ditch or field is necessary!

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT

(The Government of Guam requires that ALL vehicles be insured)

If you have an accident, you are required to:

a. Stop and properly identify yourself to the other party. Leaving the scene of an accident where property damage has occurred is a MISDEMEANOR. If personal injury has resulted, it is a FELONY to leave the scene.

b. If the property damage exceeds $100.00 or an injury has resulted, you should contact the police immediately, the law gives you a 24-hour period in which to report the accident.

c. You are also required to report the accident within 10 working days from the time the police report has been completed to the Dept. of Revenue and Taxation if the damage exceeds $250.00 or someone has been injured.

Driving Under the Influence

Driving under the influence of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances is responsible for at least half of the traffic deaths on Guam highways. The following are strictly enforced by the Guam Police Department:

**Chapter 18 Safe Street Act**

a. Every person who, while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or controlled substances, who drives or is in actual physical control of any vehicle is guilty of a Misdemeanor.

b. Any person who operates a motor vehicle on the public highways or roadways of Guam shall be deemed to have given consent to a blood, urine, or breath test for the purpose of determining the alcohol or controlled substance content of the person’s blood or urine.

c. Refusal to submit to a blood, urine or breath test will result in the following:
   - The person must immediately surrender his or her driver’s license to the officer;
   - The officer will take custody of the license and will forward it to the Department of Revenue and Taxation, Motor Vehicle Division, along with the officer’s sworn statement affidavit or written declaration and;
   - The driver’s license will not be returned and driving privileges restored until
the completion of all administrative and court proceedings have been ordered by the Director of Revenue and Taxation or the courts.

d. Every person who is convicted of a violation shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 48 hours and not more than 1 year or a fine of not less than $1,000.00 and not more than $5,000.00 or by both. Such fine and imprisonment and the privilege of such person to operate a motor vehicle shall be suspended by the court for not less than 6 months.

e. On a second or subsequent conviction within a period of 5 years, he shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 7 days and not more than 2 years and by a fine of not less than $2,000.00 and not more than $5,000.00. The privilege to operate a motor vehicle shall be suspended for 1 year.

f. Any person convicted of a violation offense occurring within 5 years of 2 separate convictions of a violation or of 2 separate convictions of a prior offense shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree, as defined in Section 18101(C). That person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 90 days and not more than 5 years and by a fine of not less than $3,000.00 and not more than $5,000.00. The privilege to operate a motor vehicle shall be suspended for 2 years.

g. Any person who drinks any alcoholic beverage or consumes a controlled substance while in a motor vehicle upon a highway shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Revised: 3/2004
Ref. Implied Consent Law

Section III

TRAFFIC SIGNAL LIGHTS

A RED light means “STOP” until the green light appears.

A YELLOW light means “WARNING” and tells you that the red signals is about to appear. When you see the yellow, you should stop your vehicle, if you can do so without danger to other cars, and wait for the green light before starting. A FLASHING YELLOW light means “SLOW DOWN” and proceed with caution.

A GREEN light means “GO”, but you must allow any vehicles remaining in the intersection to go through before you may move ahead.

A GREEN ARROW permits the motorist to proceed in the indicated direction without interference from oncoming traffic.

Regardless of the traffic signal, you must always yield the right-of-way to any pedestrians of other vehicles already in the intersection.
HAGATNA’S FAMOUS “LOOP”
The intersection of Route 1 (Marine Corps Drive) and Route 4

TRAFFIC MAY FLOW ONLY IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ARROWS.

Section IV
ROAD SIGNS

Every traffic sign has a definite shape and color which announces its purpose. Each is placed to help you and to instruct you in the best and safest use of the highway. All signs must be obeyed at all times unless a policeman or other traffic officer directs you to do otherwise.

Some signs are being changed for national and international uniformity, and you will find both types in use on some highways of Guam. New and old signs are indicated below:

Color is significant.
- Red = STOP or prohibition of an action
- Yellow = Warning
- White and Black = Regulator Signs or Geographic Indications:
  Speed Limits, City Limits, etc.
- Orange = Construction or Maintenance Warning
Shapes have meaning.

**Octagon (8 Sides) = STOP:** Always Red with White Letters. This sign is the only 8-sided traffic sign. It always means “danger” and tells you that you are approaching a street or highway where you must bring your car to a complete stop, not entering the crosswalk zone. If you cannot see in all directions until you can determine that it’s safe to drive ahead or turn.

**Pennant = No Passing Zone:** Yellow with Black Letters. It is located on the left side of the road and points to the beginning on a no-passing solid-line pavement marking. The pennant is used in addition to the black and white DO NOT PASS sign.

**Wedge = Yield.** The yield sign requires you to give the right of way to other vehicles which have entered the intersection or are approaching on the roadway so close as to be hazardous (Section 3325).

**Diamond = Warning:** Yellow with Black Letters. These describe road conditions and hazards ahead or give Notice of Changes in the highway which you must be Alert for in order to proceed safely.

**CROSSROAD SIGNS**

- **4-Way Intersection Ahead**
- **Crossroad Ahead on Right**
- **Crossroad Ahead on Left**
- **Road Ends You Must Turn Left or Right**
- **“Y” Intersection Ahead**

**TURN, CURVE AND WINDING ROAD SIGNS**

These signs with black symbols on a yellow background are used to warn motorists of twist and turns in the roadways ahead. You may see a small rectangular sign just below the diamond which indicates the highest safe speed under the best road conditions that you can use in successfully negotiating the hazards.

This sign tells you that a bridge ahead is too narrow to be crossed safely at average speed; you must slow down and drive cautiously across.
These Signs have been CHANGED

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ADDITIONAL WARNING SIGNS
(Black Symbols on a Yellow Background)

RECTANGLE = TRAFFIC REGULATIONS: White with Black Letters.
The Speed Limit sign remains unchanged, but some of the new signs have a red circle with a diagonal line across them which mean prohibition ("NO").
COMMON CONSTRUCTION SIGNS
Black Lettering on an Orange Background

GUIDE SIGNS = Identification of Places: Black and white or Green and white. These signs often have reflectorized letters and figures and tell the motorist names and places, mileage distances, highway identification numbers, city limits, junctions, etc.

SLOW MOVING VEHICLE (SMV) EMBLEM
You may see one of the emblems on slow-moving vehicles such as farm tractors, horse drawn vehicles, machinery, or construction equipment. During daylight, the bright fluorescent solid triangle in the center of the SMV emblem is highly visible and at night glows brightly in the path of approaching headlights. Watch out for this sign and Slow down before passing this vehicle.

REFLECTIVE DELINEATORS
Reflective delineators outline the edge of the roadway. Single delineators designate roadways and ramps while double delineators are for change of speed lanes used for entering and leaving freeways.

OBJECT MARKERS
Object markers of various shapes outline hazardous obstructions along the roadside such as traffic islands, bridge end posts and piers.
Section V
BICYCLES AND MOPEDS
REGISTRATION:
Mopeds are required to be licensed under local law. You must be at least 18 years old to legally operate a moped on a public highway or road.

RULES OF THE ROAD:
When you are riding a bicycle or moped on a public roadway, you are subject to the same rules and regulations as drivers of motor vehicles. You must obey all traffic signs and signals, yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, and signal your intent to turn.

Safe Driving Tips:
• Moped and bicycle riders are reminded to ride single WITH the traffic at all times.
• Be sure to watch for car doors which may suddenly open and block your path.
• It’s safest for riders to get off and walk across busy intersections and bridges.
• Avoid chuckholes and “jumping” curbs. You may lose control and damage your wheels.

Many of the islands drains are covered with grates whose bars lie parallel to the traffic flow and are widely set. Watch out for these as they are a terrible hazard to bikes and mopeds.

Section VI
REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF VEHICLES

1. General Requirements
Any motor vehicle, trailer pole or pipe dolly, and any dolly used to support part of the weight of a semi-trailer is required to be registered when driven or moved upon the highways of Guam. This applies to motorcycles and bicycles equipped with a motor (moped, scooters).

2. Mandatory Automobile Insurance
Guam law requires mandatory automobile insurance in order to guarantee adequate protection for victims of car accidents who are injured in Guam or who are injured while riding in a motor vehicle which are operated on Guam. All motor vehicles which are operated in Guam must be insured pursuant to the following limits: $20,000 Property Damage Liability and $25,000 and $50,000 Third Party Bodily Injury Liability.

3. License Plates and Validation Tag
Two license plates will be issued for all vehicles required to be registered in Guam, except for trailers and motorcycles which will be one (1) plate and a validation tag to be placed on the rear plate.

Every license plate issued shall at all times be securely fastened to the vehicle for which it is issued so as to prevent the plate from swinging, and at a minimum distance of twelve (12) inches from the ground in a position to be clearly visible. Every license plate shall be maintained free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible.
4. Renewal of Registration
Your vehicle registration is required to be renewed annually on the month displayed on the sticker located on the top left hand corner of your license plate.

5. Safety Inspection
Guam law requires that every motor vehicle to be registered on Guam go through a safety inspection, upon an original application for registration, annually or following a collision or accident in which such vehicle is involved. The fee for a safety inspection is $15.00.

| Public Law 25-96 requires for the following changes in the driver’s license law: |

**Stage 1:** Learner’s Permit – Previously this permit was called an Instruction Permit. The requirements basically remain the same for this first stage of licensing except:

- a. Minimum age is fifteen and half (15 years, 6 months) years.
- b. Permit holders under the age of eighteen (18) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian who is a fully licensed driver at all times while driving. If licensee does not have a parent or guardian who is a fully licensed driver, that parent or guardian may designate, during the application process for a Learner’s Permit, a responsible adult who is a fully licensed driver who is either: Twenty-one (21) years of age or older, or the permit holder’s spouse to accompany the Permit holder while driving.
- c. Permit holders eighteen (18) years or over must be accompanied by a licensed driver who is either:
  - Twenty-One (21) years of age or older, or
  - The Permit Holder’s spouse at all times while driving, except for the United States military personnel while on their work duty schedule or their spouses.
- d. The permit holder’s parent, guardian, or designee must certify that the permit holder, who is under the age of eighteen (18) years, has completed at least fifty (50) hours of supervised driving, ten (10) hours of which must be during the night time hours after 7:00p.m.
- e. Zero Tolerance for Alcohol:
  Permit Holders must not have a blood alcohol content that exceeds 0.02 at any time while driving. Permit holders must not be at fault in any collision and remain conviction free of all traffic and motor vehicle code violations for six (6) consecutive months to move to Stage 2.
- f. Law enforcement officers shall report all violations to the Department of Revenue and Taxation within ten (10) working days of the violation. Upon receipt of a report of a violation by the Department, the permit holder who has violated any of the provisions of this Act shall not advance to the next stage of licensure for an additional period of six (6) months.

**Stage 2: Intermediate License**

- a. Minimum age is sixteen (16) years.
- b. Zero tolerance for Alcohol:
Intermediate Licensees must not have a blood alcohol content that exceeds 0.02 at any time while driving.

c. Intermediate Licensees under the age of eighteen (18) years must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who is fully licensed driver at all times while driving between the hours of:
   10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. on weeknights and
   12:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. on weekend nights, except
   While driving to and from work.

d. Intermediate licensees eighteen (18) years and over must be accompanied by a licensed driver who is either twenty-one (21) years of age or older, or the permit holder’s spouse at all times while driving between 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. nightly, except while driving to and from work. (The driver must show proof of employment).

e. Licensee must not be at fault in any collision and remain conviction free of all traffic and motor vehicle code violations for twelve (12) consecutive months.

For Stage 1 and 2, law enforcement officers shall report all violations to the Department of Revenue and Taxation within ten (10) working days of the violation. Upon receipt of the report, the permit holder, who has violated any of the provisions of this Act, shall not advance to the next stage of licensure for an additional period of six (6) months.

Stage 3: Full Licensure

a. Minimum age must be seventeen (17) years of age.

b. Must have completed Intermediate Licensing stage or be exempt as a result of possessing a valid driver’s license from any state, territory or possession of the United States or from countries that have been determined to use prudent and acceptable driver’s licensing standards.

c. A person having in his immediate possession a valid operator’s license or chauffeur’s license issued by the Republic of Palau, the Federal State of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Island, Japan, the Republic of China (Taiwan), countries of the European Union, Canada, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, or Australia may drive a motor vehicle upon the highways for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days from the date such person arrived on Guam. However, upon the expiration of such thirty (30) day period, such person must (i) apply for a Guam driver’s license, and (ii) be required to take a written test, and if that person passes the written test, then a driver’s license shall be issued; provided, however, if such person fails the written test twice, such person shall be required to complete a driver’s education seminar before being allowed to retake the test, such seminar must include at least eight (8) hours of classroom instruction and four (4) hours of in-car instruction, and must pass the required road test. An individual is entitled to take a written test only three times pursuant to this Subsection, and be issued a license under this Subsection, and individual must pass both the written test and road test.