

## Safe Driving

Familiarize yourself with Connecticut State traffic laws before heading out in your car. Rules are largely the same throughout the U.S., but there are laws that vary from state to state. The CT driver's manual can be found on the [CT DMV website](#) [1]. Here are a few basics:

- Each driver of the vehicle must have an acceptable valid driver's license.
- The driver and all front seat passengers are required by law to wear seat belts. Back seat passengers aged 4-16 are required to wear seat belts.
- Speed limits in the U.S. are strictly enforced. If you are caught and ticketed for speeding, you will be required to pay a very large fine.
- Handheld cell phones cannot legally be used while driving. Ask for a "hands free" device from your cell phone provider if you need to drive and use your phone.
- Drivers must yield the right-of-way at all times to pedestrians who are in a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- "Right on Red": Turning right at a red light is permitted in Connecticut only after you have stopped completely to make sure it is safe to proceed. In the city of New Haven, however, many intersections will have signs that indicate "NO TURN ON RED."
- Infants and children must use approved child restraint seats in all vehicles until they are over six years of age AND 60 pounds. After children outgrow their car seat, they must ride in a booster seat using a lap and shoulder belt. The law also now requires that infants remain rear-facing until they are 1 year of age AND 20 pounds!
- Headlights must be turned on whenever the windshield wipers are in use — rain or snow, night or day.
- You must stop for a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing whether it is on your side of the road, the opposite side of the road, or at an intersection you are approaching.
- Do not leave children unattended in a parked car. This is a serious crime.

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### Source

URL: <https://oiss.yale.edu/campus-community-life/for-students/practical-matters/transportation-driving/safe-driving>

### Links

[1] <https://portal.ct.gov/dmv>