

New Jersey Probationary Driving Program: John Hogan

In New Jersey after a driver completes the permit period, that driver is eligible for a probationary driver after they've completed their road test and written exam. This one-year period applies to any driver who obtains their license prior to 21 years of age. During this period of time the driver is restricted from the number of passengers they may have in their vehicle, the use of handheld cellular devices and further, the hours of operation. They cannot operate a motor vehicle from 11:01 p.m. until 5 a.m. finally, they have to have a red reflective decal on the front and rear license plates of any vehicle they operate. This reflective decal called Kyleigh's Law is required to allow police officers to enforce the restrictive driving conditions for these probationary drivers. If an individual is caught in violation of these restrictions, they are exposed to a \$100 fine. Further, any of these drivers that receive a moving point violation must have some action taken by the motor vehicle commission, such as a driving class or a suspension depending on how many violations they get. Importantly, these drivers are not eligible for reductions in points when they go to municipal court to fight their violations. It doesn't mean they cannot have a legitimate defense of their violations, but as far as plea bargaining is concerned it is very limited. It is important if any of these drivers receive a violation, they take it seriously, deal with it and seek professional assistance with it. I can be reached at 732-855-6470. Thank you.