



# Road Safety



**Road safety** is everyone's responsibility. Each of us is responsible for the way we act on the road, no matter how we use it, and we should always drive with due care and attention.

**Speed** is the single biggest cause of road deaths in Ireland. Excessive or inappropriate speed is a factor in one third of fatal road collision. Reducing speed saves lives.

## Alcohol and Drugs

Alcohol is a contributory factor in 38% of all fatal collisions (drunk drivers/riders and drunk pedestrians). More than half of fatal road collisions that happen between 9pm and 5am are alcohol or drug related.

Since April 2017, An Garda Síochána have the power to test the oral fluid of drivers for the presence of Cannabis, Cocaine, Opiates (e.g. Morphine) and Benzodiazepines (e.g. Valium) at the roadside or in a Garda station.

Every driver found over the legal limit (for alcohol or drugs) now faces an automatic disqualification from driving.

## Seat Belts



Seatbelts save lives. Without a seatbelt, 3 out of 4 people will be killed or seriously injured in a 50km per hour head on collision. Always wear a seatbelt when driving and make sure every passenger wears a seatbelt. Children should use the appropriate child restraint when necessary. On average, one in five people who died in vehicular road collisions had no seatbelt on at the time of the collision.



## Tiredness

Tiredness could be a factor in up to 20% of fatal collisions in Ireland. Driving when very tired is as dangerous as driving while over the drink driving limit. If you get tired pull in somewhere safe to take a rest and have a drink of tea or coffee.

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An Garda Síochána

## Mobile Phones



It is against the law to hold a mobile phone while driving. This includes holding it in your hand, but also supporting it with another part of your body, for example between your head and shoulder, when you are driving. Using a hands-free kit is not illegal but it will stop you concentrating for a short time when you use your phone. This puts you and other road users at risk.

## Unaccompanied Driving



In Ireland, regardless of their age, learner drivers must always be accompanied by a fully qualified driver (not a novice).

Unaccompanied learner permit holders not only face penalty points and a fine, but can now have their vehicle impounded on the spot. The vehicle will only be released on payment of the appropriate fee. In addition, the owner (if different from the driver) faces prosecution if they allow a permit holder drive that vehicle.

- You must have passed your driving test and be in possession of your full driving licence to drive unaccompanied.
- This legislation applies to all learner permit holders who must be accompanied, regardless of how many learner permits you have held. It does not apply to motorcycle learners or to tractor learners unless there is a passenger seat in the tractor being driven.
- Learner and novice drivers face disqualification after receiving 7 penalty points.

## E-scooters



Currently e-scooters are classed as 'mechanically propelled vehicles' (MPV's) under the Road Traffic Act 1961. As such, operators of e-scooters require a driving licence and the vehicle must be registered, taxed and insured. Currently there is no facility to register e-scooters for use in a public place. The use of an e-scooter in a public place is an offence for which An Garda Síochána have the power to seize the vehicle under Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act.



Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre  
Road Safety Authority

QR Code links to a video on unaccompanied drivers courtesy of the RSA. See [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie) and [www.RSA.ie](http://www.RSA.ie)



Campus Watch is similar to a residential Neighbourhood Watch scheme in that it is a crime prevention and community safety programme. It operates as a partnership between An Garda Síochána and the campus occupants. It works on the basis that every member of campus can help to improve the quality of life on site by keeping a look out for students, staff and visitors, and reporting suspicious activities to the gardaí.



[www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

Garda Emergency – 999/112  
Garda Confidential Line (Free Phone) – 1800 666111