

# Who Needs a License?

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Sixteen is the age where someone finally gets a car, but before someone can drive, they need to obtain a state issued drivers license. However, it appears in the metro Atlanta area, this requirement to drive is becoming useless. Between August and October, there have been several accidents, some minor and some extensive, caused by non-licensed drivers according to the information gathered from several metro Atlanta police reports.

Is it difficult to obtain a state issued license? It must be due to the large amount of people driving without license. According to the metro Atlanta police reports, they usually are the cause of the accident, and very rare they would be the victim of the accident. In either case, the person charged with no license faces major consequences, so why not go ahead and get a license to reduce any charges if an accident should occur.

An example is Sergio Estrada, resident of Alpharetta, GA, who failed to yield and would of only received a violation for failing to yield, however, officers discovered he had no license and charged him with not having a license and his fines increased. Juan Quivoz is another example of not having a license. Quivoz, who was already suspected of a hit-and-run, was charged for not having a legal license.

If someone does not have a license or is unable to get one legally, why not just let someone drive you around? According to the reports, the majority of these non-licensed drivers are low-income Hispanic men. Many people, especially due to Atlanta's high living cost, have to work really hard for low paying jobs. Which means they are not legal residents who cannot obtain a license legally. This stands in the way to obtain one, however, if someone has to put food on the table, they probably will do without thinking of repercussions such as driving to work without a license. Many people mean no harm and just want to be able to commute from one place to another, however, accidents do occur.

Though driving unlicensed is dangerous to you, it puts other drivers at risk, too. Someone unlicensed might not know all the traffic laws as well as someone who does have a license, which may increase the number of accidents on the interstate.

For instance, Salvador Perez-Lopez of Forest Park, struck another vehicle on its side, and the other driver suffered from chest and back pain. Perez-Lopez was cited for no license and charged heavily.

Increased accident rates, the potential to put others at risk, and injuring others seems too dangerous to not get a license.