Is driving a right or a privilege? It is a privilege that the State of Texas regulates. You must pass a written test and a driving test before you are issued a driver’s license. This privilege can be revoked and your license to drive can be suspended by the State for many reasons, including bad driving such as multiple collisions, excessive tickets, or driving under the influence of alcohol.

Do the parents continue to be liable for a child’s accidents after the child turns 18? No. The liability of a parent ends when a child becomes 18.

Are all drivers required to have car insurance? Yes. All drivers are required to maintain a liability insurance policy and to carry proof of insurance in the vehicle. A driver is required to show proof of insurance to a law enforcement officer who requests it. Proof of liability insurance is required for driver license renewal, annual vehicle license renewal, annual vehicle inspection, and motor vehicle title transfer. Failure to carry insurance is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine determined by the legislature.

How do driving laws apply to motorcycles? All laws of the road that apply to cars also apply to motorcycles. A regular driver’s license does not permit a person to legally operate a motorcycle on public roads, however. A person must apply for a permit to
operate a motorcycle and must either satisfactorily complete a safety course or pass an operator’s test in order to be granted a permit to operate a motorcycle. All operators and passengers under 21 years old must wear a DPS-approved helmet while riding.

What is an occupational license and how does one get one? An occupational license grants limited privileges to drive a motor vehicle for those people whose licenses have been suspended. The person must demonstrate an essential need to drive in order to attend school or work. The application made to the Court must state very specifically why one needs to drive and must limit the driving to the specific times and locations.

What happens if someone is stopped for driving while intoxicated? You will be arrested and taken to jail if you fail a breath/blood test. Your license will be suspended for a specific period of time determined by the legislature. In addition, if you refuse to give a breath/blood specimen, the time of suspension will be increased. You have the right to request a hearing to contest the driver’s license suspensions. Your license can be suspended following your arrest for DWI and following your conviction for DWI. Persons under the age of 21 can also be charged with a DUI, driving under the influence. A DUI can be filed simply because an officer detects an odor of alcohol about you. You do not need to be intoxicated to receive a DUI. Intoxicated also includes being under the influence of drugs. A DUI can result in a fine and
What are the penalties for driving while intoxicated?

- No prior conviction: Fines and times in jail are determined by the legislature. In addition you will be required to attend some alcohol counseling or educational programs. Remember that your license may have already been suspended.

- One or more convictions: Maximum amounts of fines, confinement, and driver’s license suspension may more than double for a subsequent offense.

- Open Containers: It is a criminal offense for a driver or passenger to possess an open container of alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle on any public street or highway, whether the vehicle is moving or is stopped or parked.

- In all cases you may be eligible for probation for a period of time. Penalties are substantially increased where serious bodily injury results from the offense. If it is shown at the trial of a person that at the time of the offense the person operating the motor vehicle had an open container of an alcoholic beverage in his immediate possession, then the minimum term of confinement substantially increases.

Do the “Driving While Intoxicated” laws apply only to cars and trucks? No. According to Texas law, they apply to operating “motor vehicles,” such as motorbikes, motorcycles, aircraft, and
watercraft while intoxicated.

Distracted Driving. As of September 1, 2017, drivers cannot use a wireless device to read, write or send electronic messages while operating a motor vehicle unless the vehicle is stopped. Violations could result in substantial fines.