

Frequently Asked Questions: Owner Policy for Youth

What is the legislation all about?

House Bill 1092 extends section 431.056 of the Missouri Revised Statutes to allow a minor, 16 or 17 years old, in the legal custody of the Children's Division under a court order to purchase an insurance policy without a co-signer.

How does this affect me as a 16 or 17 year old driver?

If you are a qualified 16 or 17 year old and own a vehicle, you are eligible to purchase your own automobile policy without an adult co-signer.

If you don't own a vehicle but drive one owned by your care giver or a friend, you may purchase the special **Named Non-Owner Policy for Youths in State Custody** offered by the Missouri Automobile Insurance Plan ("Plan") under your own signature.

I've never purchased an auto policy before. What do I have to do?

The law states that consent must be given by the Children's Division or Juvenile Court so you will need to get a consent letter from your case manager first.

The next thing you'll want to do is find a licensed insurance agent who can help you purchase insurance coverage. The best way to find an agent is to get a referral from someone you know and trust who is happy with the service their agent provides. You can also find an agent in the phone book under "Insurance" or you can type "auto insurance agent" into an internet browser. The Department of Insurance has more information on **selecting an insurance agent**.

What will I need when I'm ready to buy a policy?

If you own a vehicle you will need your license, age, make, model and the vehicle identification number ("VIN") of your car. A licensed agent will guide you through the process to determine the appropriate liability limits for your needs. Some companies offer good student discounts if you maintain a "B" or better grade point average so have your most recent report card with you. Most companies offer payment plans which require at least a 25 percent down payment.

The Department Of Insurance has an **automobile consumer guide** which can help you understand insurance terms, your financial responsibility when operating a vehicle and what to do in case you have an accident. You can request a hard copy of the brochure by calling 800-726-7390, pressing "6."

What if my agent has difficulty finding an insurance company who will insure me?

The agent should contact the Missouri Automobile Insurance Plan ("the Plan") which is administered by AIPSO.

What is the Missouri Automobile Insurance Plan?

The Plan was created to provide automobile insurance coverage to eligible applicants who are unable to obtain coverage from other insurance companies. Any agent licensed to do business in the state of Missouri has access to the plan and may submit an application. Applicants must declare and certify that they have tried and failed to obtain automobile insurance in Missouri within the preceding 60 days and have been unable to obtain such insurance. Applicants must also have a valid driver's license or be eligible to obtain one.

What if I don't own a vehicle?

If you don't own a vehicle but still want coverage in the event you drive your care giver's vehicle, the Plan has a **Named Non-Owner Policy for Youths in State Custody** which you can purchase.

What is a Named Non-Owner Policy?

A named non-owner policy provides coverage for an individual who does not own a vehicle but who may drive borrowed vehicles from time to time. Before the legislation was passed this policy was available only to youth 18-21 years of age. The legislation makes this policy available to youth from 16-21 years of age.

The policy was created to provide special coverage for Bodily Injury and Property Damage when a youth drives a care giver's vehicle but is not covered as a driver on the care giver's personal auto policy. In addition, if the youth leaves one household and goes to another, the named non-owner policy goes with the youth. Coverage under this policy is not tied to a specific vehicle. Instead, it is tied to the individual named in the policy. Uninsured Motorist coverage is also provided for youth owning a named non-owner policy. In the event the youth is injured by an uninsured vehicle as a pedestrian or cyclist, coverage for the youth is available under the named non-owner policy.

How does a youth apply for the special Named Non-Owner insurance policy through the Plan?

Any agent licensed to write automobile insurance in Missouri can assist a qualified youth in obtaining insurance through the Plan. If the agent is unfamiliar with the policy, ask him/her to contact the Plan at 888- 706-6100 for information about the policy.