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POCONO RECORD

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Every state has its own transportation agency that handles driver's licensing, so standardizing laws for new drivers isn't as easy as it sounds – even if some safety advocates find the inconsistency alarming. GETTY IMAGES

Many states enact tougher requirements for new drivers

Terry Collins
USA TODAY

A new wave of state laws is enforcing stricter requirements for new drivers, but states still can't agree on how much practice is needed. • While most states have some form of graduated driver's licensing laws, ranging from as low as 20 and as high as 70 supervised hours, more states are looking into adopting tougher mandates for young people, said Jonathan Adkins, CEO of the Governors Highway Safety Association, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit.

Florida, Washington and New Jersey tightened up requirements for new drivers in 2025, but even these new laws have inconsistent requirements. The new laws come as some traffic safety advocates say the United States would benefit from more uniform laws on the topic. "There should be a national law for teen drivers," said Cheryl Giles, the longtime owner of Lakeland Atlantic Driving School in Winter Haven, Florida, which conducts about 1,000 student driving tests annually. "We desperately need some consistency." Meanwhile, motor vehicle crashes continue to be among the leading causes of death for teens in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Teen drivers also face a disproportionately higher risk of crashes in comparison with older drivers, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports. "I would call it an epidemic right now, and we all

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"Whether you are in Virginia, Florida, Utah or even in the most rural parts of the country, the roads can be very dangerous places, especially when you don't fully understand the dangers of driving."

Tammy Gweedo McGee
Safe driving advocate

Woman accused of attacking man who later died

Witness says she clawed at his father like a cat

Max Augugliaro
Pocono Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Nesquehoning woman is accused of causing a 79-year-old man's death and acting erratically before, during and after the attack. According to a criminal complaint, Pennsylvania State Police were dispatched to a house on Parker Mews in Penn Forest Township, Carbon County, shortly after 9 a.m. Aug. 10 regarding the whereabouts of a mental health warrant subject, Ashley Self, 32. While troopers were heading to the scene, the victim's son reported to 911 that his father, Kenneth Greenfield, was being attacked by "Ashley," who was later identified as Self. Troopers found Greenfield on his bed, unresponsive and with a laceration on his left forearm. They also saw that the nasal cannula from Greenfield's oxygen tank was not fastened to him, and its tubing was broken. Trooper Samantha Doherty, the affiant of the criminal complaint, interviewed the son after she arrived at the scene. He told Doherty that he picked up Self earlier on Aug. 10 from a location that was not disclosed in the complaint. While at his Parker Mews residence, Self fell asleep. The son said that when Self woke up at around 8:30 a.m., she started acting like a cat, meowing and rubbing up against him. The son told Self that she would need to leave or he would have to call the police. In response, the son said, Self started to strip completely nude. The son went to the garage to call a mutual friend about Self's behavior.

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Trump cracks down on homeless camps in DC

Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Under the blazing sun, people living in homeless encampments in Washington, DC, packed up their belongings before authorities moved in with garbage trucks on Aug. 14

as President Donald Trump's crack-down on the nation's capital ramped up. At a camp a few miles from the Lincoln Memorial and the Kennedy Center, about eight people broke down their tents with the help of city workers and homeless advocacy groups. "(The president) is targeting us and

persecuting us," said David Beatty, a man living in the encampment that Trump posted a photo of on social media Aug. 10. "He wants to take our freedom away." The moves came days after Trump assumed federal control of the city's police department and mobilized the Na-

tional Guard, declaring a "crime emergency" and vowing to clear homeless people off the streets. Cities across the United States, including longtime Democratic strongholds such as Los Angeles and San

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