

# **Airfreddy's** **Guide on Learning To Fly**

**Step-by-Step Guide On the Private  
Pilot License From Start To Finish**



## **The Most Important First Step**

The First Thing you need to do is get your Aviation Medical. This has to be done by an FAA Approved Medical Examiner. I have had people come into my office with a note from the family Doctor stating they are fit to fly. This will not work. The Medical has to be done by someone who is designated by the FAA.

I have had many students over the years get denied on the first time around. Usually it gets worked out, but it could take you up to six months or longer. I actually had this happen this year. I told the student to get it when we first started flying. He decided to wait till the last minute and he was supposed to solo the day of his medical. Now he has to wait because he is now in the middle of the FAA paperwork mess.

So the first thing you do before you spend any money is get your medical. On Average they are about \$150. So wouldn't you rather lose \$150 than go spend \$5000 and then find out you are going to have to wait or worse not get it at all?

The Links Below have all of the information you will need on Medical Certification

[FAA Medical Certificates](#)

[FAR 61.23](#)

[Medical Examiner Locator](#)

If you think you have a problem I will go thru that below. The Frequently Asked Questions are below.

[Frequently Asked Questions Section](#)

Once You have passed your Aviation Medical Exam, the Examiner will give you a an Aviation Medical.

**Medical Classes:** There are three classes of Medical Certificate. There are three because there are different Pilot Certificates also. We are concerned with Learning to fly and the Private Pilot Certificate, so you are only required to have a third class certificate. If you plan on flying for a long time and perhaps want to get an instrument rating or go further, I would advise getting a first class medical. The list is below.

- **First Class:** The first class medical is good for 6 months after which it turns into a second class and then a third class. This is the medical required for airline transport pilots working for the major airlines.

- **Second Class:** The second class medical is required if you are in a commercial operation (if you are being hired to fly someone somewhere). Most of the small air carriers qualify for this.

- **Third Class:** This is what you must have if you want to become a private pilot.

Basic Med: This is a newer form of medical certificate. Most of you will have to get an aviation medical because in order to qualify for Basic Med, you must have had an FAA Medical Certificate.

Now if you think you have a problem I will help you out.

**STEP # 1:** First you want to go to the medical requirements for the class of medical you want to get.

### [Aviation Medical FAQ](#)

Now check the regulations and see if your worry is in there. If it is not then you should be ok

**STEP #2:** If you come up with something questionable use the link above to find an examiner in your area. Ideally you will want to find the Chief Medical Examiner for your area. Call them up to ask questions; do not make an appointment. Ask them about your worry and then see what documentation you will need. Make sure you get this answered in detail as I have seen people get

disapproved because they forgot to bring a form or an x-ray.

**STEP #3:** Go to your family doctor or whoever is required to get the paperwork for you and COPIES OF EVERYTHING.

**STEP #4:** Make a list of all the documents you have, THEN call the examiner and go over the list with them. You have to make sure you have everything you need the first time around. If you don't you are going to be dealing with a six month Nightmare.

**STEP 5:** Only after you have double- checked and maybe triple- checked do you want to schedule the exam. When you schedule your appointment make sure you tell them you want a student pilot certificate. Then when you are there make sure you tell them again. I have seen people come from the medical without the student pilot certificate. Yes you can get one issued from a Pilot Examiner but it is just another hassle you won't have to deal with.

### **THINGS THAT USALLY AREN'T A PROBLEM**

**GLASSES:** Many people worry about this. There are airline pilots that have glasses out there as thick as a beer mug. What will happen is you will get a restriction on your medical certificate that states corrective lenses must be in the cockpit with you. I have one of these.

**COLOR BLINDNESS:** I have seen it go both ways on this. If you are worried about this go do the following:

Find the number for the local control tower. You can get this from the airport manager. You want to talk to a controller in the cab of the tower. Tell him/her that you are worried about failing your medical for color blindness. Make an appointment and go down to the airport. You will want them to give you light signals while you are on the ground. If you can tell the difference between the white, green and red light signals, you should be ok.

Make sure you talk to the examiner about this first, before you go. What "should" happen is the medical examiner will forward your paperwork to the local flight standards district office (FSDO) and they will schedule an appointment to check the light signals with them. That should be it. I would go out to the airport first to make sure you can see them. You can locate the Flight Standards Office nearest you below.

[FSDO Locator](#)

**DEPTH PERCEPTION:** This takes a couple of flights to find out. If you can judge your distance and land the plane then you SHOULD be ok. The local FSDO will do a quick flight test with you before you solo. They will go up and do about three landings with you. It is not that big of a deal. I think I have had two people do this and they both passed.

**THINGS TO AVOID:** If you don't have any Major health issues you should be ok but check the regulations I have listed above. Here are a few to avoid.

**ANTI DEPRESSANTS:** If you are on any member of the PROZAC family, get off them and stay off of them. This is a big NO NO. Check the frequently asked questions for the most up to date information.

**Drug Convictions:** I have never had anyone convicted as a student so I first hand can't tell you from experience. Once again check the regulations I have listed above and then get all your paperwork in order. On the application for your pilot certificate it specifically asks this. You may get thru the medical and flight test then get a letter from the FAA suspending your certificate until they have "INVESTIGATED YOU" If you have this problem contact me and I will search for someone who has gone thru your specific problem.

**DUI:** If you have a DUI, check this section for the FAA requirements.

[DUI](#)



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