**START THE CONVERSATION**

**TEEN-PARENT SMART DRIVING CONTRACT**

**Use this agreement to help set up the rules so they are clearly understood by both parent and driver.**

When teens and parents work together, teens become safer drivers. Understanding the driving laws, getting to know the graduated driver’s license (GDL), and most importantly, talking to your teen about rules of the road will help them be smart drivers. Inexperience and distractions are the leading risk factors for teen driving crashes. Teens also have the lowest seat belt use of any age group.

**Junior Permit**

• 16 years of age

• 6 month minimum before taking driving test

• At least 50 hours documented supervised driving before taking their road test, including 15 hours of driving after dusk

• Supervisor must be 21 years of age and have a valid drivers license

**Junior Driver**

• Only 1 non-family passenger under age 21

• No driving 9pm – 5am, except work or school (school for academic reasons, i.e. not attending a sporting, theatrical, or musical event)

• Completing Driver’s Education allows for full license (Class D) at 17 years of age

• Parents can withdraw their consent for a Junior Driver license through the DMV

**Parent Tips** - 89% of teens say their parents are most influential in encouraging safe driving

• Set a good example

o Always wear your seat belt

o Control your own speed/aggression

o DO NOT use cell phone while driving and avoid other distractions

• Talk to your children early and often as you do for other risky behaviors

• Know the GDL rules and enforce them

• Allow your teen to practice driving - it is the single most important thing you can do to help your teen stay safe on the road

• Set up rules and guidelines, i.e. – no passengers for first six months, no night time driving, gradually add new privileges as your new driver gains experience

Every year nearly 6,000 teenagers are killed in car crashes and about 300,000 are injured. Despite safer cars, better roads and countless driving programs, the numbers have stayed fairly constant for more than a decade. You can help change this.

**It is illegal to TEXT or use any portable electronic device while the vehicle is in motion!**

**The registered owner of a vehicle will receive a ticket if running a red light is caught by a camera.**

Funded by the Allstate Foundation in collaboration with the Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Rochester at the Golisano Children’s Hospital and the Monroe County Office of Traffic Safety.

**Mutually decide what the consequence will be when a rule is broken and fill-in the agreement for each area.**

**Remember to update this contract as more driving experience is gained.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cell Phones & Texting**Cell phone calls and texting increase crash risk significantly and teens are particularly affected. Research shows that texting while driving can take your eyes off the road for an average of almost five seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of a football field—completely blind.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Agreement\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Consequences**Music, Food & Other Distractions**In 2009, 16 percent of all fatal crashes for people under the age of 20 were reported to involve distracted driving. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Agreement\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Consequences**Seatbelts**Using lap/shoulder belts can reduce the risk of dying in a car crash by 45%.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Agreement\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Consequences | **Time of Day**Nearly half the teens that died in car crashes in 2009 were killed between 3 p.m. and midnight. Check your local teen driving curfews.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Agreement\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Consequences**Speeding**In 2009, speed-related crashes accounted for 34% of fatalities among 16-to-19-year-olds. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Agreement\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Consequences**Number of Passengers**The presence of even one passenger increases the chance of a fatal crash, and the presence of just one male passenger nearly doubles those odds\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Agreement\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Consequences |

**Being a Safe Passenger & Friend**

When you see your peers texting, talking on a cell phone, or doing risky things—speak up. It’s not just themselves they are putting at risk; it’s your life too.

**Sixty percent** of teen passenger deaths in 2009 occurred in vehicles driven by another teen.

When riding as a passenger in a car driven by a teen,help the driver get to your destination safely by:

• Not having more people in the car than is allowed under the law.

• Discourage cell phone use and texting while driving.

• Refuse to get into the car when the driver is drunk or drugged.

• Avoid situations and teen drivers that you feel could place your safety at risk.

**TEEN DRIVER:** I promise to abide by the contract outlined above. If I break any part of this contract, I will accept the consequences. During any time that I cannot drive, I will be responsible for making other arrangements to get around.

Signature of Teen Driver Date

**PARENT/GUARDIAN:** I promise to do what I can to help my teenager succeed in following this contract. I promise to make time to help my child become a safe and responsible driver. I understand this is an evolving contract and promise to make myself available to discuss these rules and their consequences when necessary.

Signature of Parent / Guardian Date

