

TEEN-PARENT SAFE DRIVING CONTRACT

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 20 hours documented supervised driving before taking driving test
- Supervisor must be 21 years of age and have a valid drivers license

Junior Driver

- ≤ 2 passengers
- No driving 9pm – 5am, except work or school (school for academic reasons, i.e. not a sporting, theatrical, or musical activity)
- Driver's Education allows for full license at 17 years of age
- Parents can withdraw their consent for a Junior Driver license through the DMV (use form MV-1W, found at www.nysdmv.com)

Parent Tips

- Set a good example
 - Always wear your seat belt
 - Control your own speed/aggression
 - Avoid cell phone use and 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 child to practice driving - it is the single most important thing you can do to help your child 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, learn to scan for hazards

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. Try this Teen-Parent Driving Contract. It sets up the rules right away so there are no gray areas. It can be updated as your teen gains more experience driving.

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Curfew and driving area limits: Half the teens that died in car crashes in 2005 were killed between 3 p.m. and midnight.

Agreement

Consequences

Seat belts: Using lap/shoulder belts can reduce the risk of dying in a car crash by 45%.

Agreement

Consequences

Cell phone, music, food in car: Talking on a cell phone while driving gives you the reaction time of a 70-year-old.

Agreement

Consequences

Number of passengers: According to a recent study, the presence of just one more male teen in a car doubles the chance of a fatal crash.

Agreement

Consequences

Grades: Good grades are important for a teen's future and can save money on car insurance.

Agreement

Consequences

Speeding and tickets: In 2005, speed-related crashes accounted for 44% of fatalities among 15-20 year olds.

Agreement

Consequences

Alcohol and other Drugs: In 2005, drunk driving caused one of every four fatal teen crashes.

Agreement

Consequences

Paying for gas, insurance, car, etc.:

Agreement

Consequences

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(S) OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)

DATE