

# **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)
- 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
  - 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 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.**

Fill-in the agreement for each area and mutually decide what the consequence will be when a rule is broken.  
Remember to update this contract as more driving experience is gained.

**Curfew and driving area limits:** More teens die in car crashes in between 3 p.m. and midnight than any other time.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
*Agreement*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Consequences*

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

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\_\_\_\_\_  
*Agreement*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Consequences*

**Distractions: cell phones, music, food, etc.:** Talking on a cell phone while driving gives you the reaction time of a 70-year-old.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
*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.

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*Agreement*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
*Consequences*

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

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*Agreement*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
*Consequences*

**Obeying traffic laws:** Speed-related crashes accounted for 44% of fatalities among 15-20 year olds.

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*Agreement*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
*Consequences*

**Personal responsibility -** paying for gas, insurance, car repairs, traffic infractions, etc.:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
*Agreement*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
*Consequences*

**Alcohol and other Drugs:** Teens are at far greater risk of death in an alcohol-related crash than the overall population, despite the fact they cannot legally purchase or publicly possess alcohol in any State.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
*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 of Parent / Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date