

Teen-Parent Driver Agreement

Teen-Parent Driving Agreements are a proven way to raise awareness of the dangers of teen driving and reduce a teen driver's crash risk. **Motor vehicle crashes remain the #1 killer of teens.** This Agreement spells out safety risks and what happens if the teen driver violates his/her obligations. Complete and sign this Agreement when your teen obtains a learner's permit, and review it again when your teen obtains a license.

Safety Risks *(check-off after discussing)*

- Driving is especially dangerous for teens because the human brain does not fully develop its ability to assess risk and danger or control impulse until we reach our mid-20s. Teen driver training cannot overcome this condition.
- Passing a training course and obtaining a driver's license means that a teen is only a beginner; ***it does not mean that a teen is a safe driver.***
- Failure to follow state driving laws can cause injury, death, damage to property, and can result in criminal and civil penalties.
- Speeding, reckless driving, alcohol or drug use, not using seat belts, illegal or distracting electronic devices, illegal passengers, and/or driving while fatigued risk the life of the driver, passengers, other drivers, and pedestrians.

Supervising Adult's Obligations *(to be initialed)*

____ I am a role model, and I will teach safe driving habits and be a safe, responsible driver at all times. I will obey all traffic laws, always wear my seat belt, never drink and drive, and not use illegal or distracting electronic devices.

____ I will, at any time and for any reason, give my teen a ride to avoid a dangerous driving or other situation. I agree that a call from my teen to provide a ride will not count as a violation of this Agreement.

Tips for Supervising Adults

Is your teen ready to drive?

Connecticut allows 16 year olds to obtain a learners permit, but an adult must decide if a teen is ready to drive. Some teens are not. Connecticut allows parents to block teens from getting a license.

Understand the dangers of texting and cell phones.

Texting is a major cause of motor vehicle crashes. Texting takes the driver's eyes off the road and eliminates the time needed to avoid a crash. Teen drivers should not use any illegal or distracting electronic device.

At least 100 hours on the road before solo driving.

Connecticut law requires a minimum of 40 hours of supervised driving practice prior to getting a license. **It is recommended that a teen have at least 100 hours of supervised driving practice** before getting a license and driving solo.

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Teen Driver Obligations

- Supervising Adult:** My driving will be supervised by one or more adults who will decide, day by day, whether it is safe for me to drive.
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- Driving Plan:** I will get permission from the supervising adult every time I drive, and we will agree on my route, destination, time of return, and passengers. Joyriding, (driving with no destination or reason) is not allowed.
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- Seatbelts:** I will wear my seatbelt and I will make sure that every passenger in my car, of any age, wears one.
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- Electronic Devices:** Driving while texting, or talking on a cell phone (even hands-free) is illegal. I will not use any illegal or distracting electronic device while my vehicle is in motion.
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- Curfews:** I understand that in Connecticut I may not drive between 11pm and 5am, except for school, a job, a medical or religious reason, or a Safe Rides program, and I will not do so.
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- Passengers:** For my first six months with a license I may carry one adult who is supervising my driving. In the next six months I may add immediate family, but I may not transport friends until I have had my license for one year.
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- Alcohol or Drug Use, Fatigue:** I will NEVER drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or when I have not had sufficient rest. I will call my supervising adult for a ride if I find myself in need of avoiding a dangerous driving situation.
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- Speeding:** I will obey speed limits, stop signs, traffic signals, and the rules of the road. I will drive at a reasonable speed and adjust my speed based on road conditions (i.e., weather, turns, hills, visibility, and unfamiliar roads).
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- Suspension of Driving:** IF I VIOLATE ANY OF THESE OBLIGATIONS, MY DRIVING PRIVILEGES WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR [] DAYS. Violations may be reported by law enforcement, neighbors, school personnel, or friends. This suspension will be in addition to state law requirements. If I drive while my privileges are suspended, they will be suspended indefinitely.
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- Finances:** During this Agreement, costs of insurance, gas, and maintenance will be divided:
[]

- Time Period:** This Agreement will remain in effect until []

12 months at a minimum, or until the age of 18, whichever is later.

Commitment to Safety:

By signing below, we commit ourselves to the safe driving requirements and understandings stated in this Agreement.

Teen Driver

Date

Supervising Adult

Date