

CONNECTICUT

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.

For further information, go to:
www.ct.gov/teendriving

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 or 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