

# Parent-Teen Driving Agreement

Learning to drive can be both exciting and stressful for a teenager — and his or her parents. This parent-teen driving agreement can help families work together to safely navigate the learning process. The agreement helps establish rules and consequences for teens, but also places responsibilities on parents. Safe driving generally requires much more than what state laws call for, and signing an agreement before the teen starts driving can be helpful in establishing expectations for the whole family. By working as a team, parents and teens can accomplish their shared goal — a safe, successful teen driver.

## Non-Negotiable Rules for Everyone

Parent(s) and teen will:	Parent(s) and teen will NOT:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear seat belts and require all passengers to wear seat belts</li> <li>Obey all traffic laws</li> <li>Drive at safe speeds for road conditions — at or below the speed limit</li> <li>Be a courteous driver while behind the wheel</li> <li>Agree to meet at least once per month to discuss the teen’s driving performance and plans for the next month</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or ride with an impaired driver</li> <li>Engage in racing, stunts, or other thrill-seeking</li> <li>Conceal tickets, warnings, or crashes</li> <li>Allow anyone else to drive the car</li> </ul>

## Learner’s Permit

Parents and teens should practice a minimum of 2-3 hours each week for at least six months to ensure the teen gains ample experience in a range of driving conditions before solo driving.

Parent(s) will:	Teen will:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide and maintain a safe vehicle</li> <li>Pay for driver training classes and materials</li> <li>Be available for practice driving above and beyond what is required by law</li> <li>Provide practice on a variety of road types and driving conditions</li> <li>Share observations and provide coaching in a calm, respectful manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively participate in driver training classes</li> <li>Make time for practice driving</li> <li>Not drive without parent(s)</li> </ul>

## Intermediate License/Solo Driving

Driving without a parent poses new challenges for a teen. Crash rates are especially high during the first year of driving. Research shows that teens have fewer crashes when there are limits on solo driving that gradually relax as they gain experience. The table below is based on research and modeled after the National Institute of Health’s Checkpoints program. Breaking rules, at-fault crashes, and moving violations should result in reverting to an earlier phase for a pre-determined time. Critical violations (racing, reckless driving, drinking and driving, etc.) should result in license suspension for a pre-determined time.

	First Two Months	Months 3-6	Months 7-12
<b>Start date</b>	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___
<b>No driving after</b>	8 p.m. or dark	9 p.m.	10 p.m.
<b>Passengers</b>	No one under 25	No other teens	No more than one
<b>Roads</b>	Local	No highway	Most
<b>Weather</b>	Dry	Moderate	Most
<b>Parent(s) will:</b>	<b>Teen will:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide practice on a range of road types and in various driving conditions</li> <li>Consider appropriate exceptions when asked in advance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Always tell parent(s) where he/she is going and with whom</li> <li>Always call home if going to be late</li> <li>Always call home if it’s not safe to drive or ride</li> <li>Pull safely off the road before using cell phone or other devices</li> </ul>		

## Signatures

Teen: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_