

Parent-Teen Driving Contract from Choices Matter

Young, inexperienced drivers die too often in fatal crashes largely because of immaturity and inexperience. Three-stage Graduated Driver License (GDL) laws reduce these factors by gradually introducing driving tasks and privileges through controlled exposure to high-risk situations.

All States and the District of Columbia have GDL laws with these three stages:

Learner's Permit, Intermediate (Provisional) License, and Full Licensure

Make sure you and your teen drivers know and understand your State GDL laws before they get behind the wheel.

Below are also some rules to help with this discussion. Please discuss the following topics with your teen and, together, come up with an explanation of why they should follow these rules as well as the consequences of not following them.

DISTRACTED DRIVING: Texting or being on your phone while driving increases your risk of a crash by 23 times.

RULE: NO CELL PHONES.

REASONING:

AGREEMENT:

CONSEQUENCES:

EXTRA PASSENGERS: The risk of fatal crashes goes up in direct relation to the number of teens in the car. The more teens in a car, the more likely you are to be involved in a crash.

RULE: NO EXTRA PASSENGERS.

REASONING:

AGREEMENT:

CONSEQUENCES:

SPEEDING: In 2023, speeding was the cause of 11,775 fatalities in the United States.

RULE: NO SPEEDING.

REASONING:

AGREEMENT:

CONSEQUENCES:

ALCOHOL: More than 20% of all 10th graders have had a drink in the last month. More than 34% of 12th graders have had a drink in the last month. In 2023, 12,429 people died in drunk driving crashes.

RULE: ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL!

REASONING:

AGREEMENT:

CONSEQUENCES:

SEATBELTS: In 2023, 53% of teen drivers who died in a crash were unrestrained.

RULE: ALWAYS BUCKLE-UP.

REASONING:

AGREEMENT:

CONSEQUENCES:

UNSAFE DRIVERS: If a person does not seem okay to drive or you do not trust them to safely deliver you to your location, it is a bad choice to ride with them.

RULE: CAREFUL WHO YOU RIDE WITH.

REASONING:

AGREEMENT:

CONSEQUENCES:

TEEN: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____

DATE: _____