

## RISKS FACING YOUR TEEN DRIVER

All teens' risk of being in a car crash is at a lifetime high in the first 12 months and 1,000 miles of driving. This is due to their lack of driving experience. Here is a list of risks that they face due to this inexperience.

### TEEN DRIVER RISKS WITH SEAT BELTS, ALCOHOL AND SPEEDING

Assuming that your teen is always following the seat belt, alcohol and speeding laws can be tragic assumptions. Teens are far less likely to wear their seat belts than adults. Nearly one-third of drivers' ages 15-20 killed in crashes had been drinking. Teens tend to seek thrills, and speeding delivers.



### TEEN DRIVER RISKS WITH CELL PHONES AND TEXT MESSAGING

Cell phones combine all four types of distractions — manual, auditory, visual and cognitive — into one dangerous and often deadly result. Nearly 40% of young adults send and receive text messages while driving.

### TEEN DRIVERS AND PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS

When driving with multiple passengers, teen drivers face a crash risk 3-5 times greater than when driving alone. Many GDL laws limit the number of teen passengers during the new driver's first six to 12 months behind the wheel.

### NIGHTTIME DRIVING RESTRICTIONS FOR TEEN DRIVERS

While teens drive only 15% of their total miles at night, 40% of their fatal crashes happen then. Most nighttime teen crashes occur before midnight. The hours of 9 p.m. to midnight should be the primary focus of nighttime restrictions.

## AS A PARENT, HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR TEEN DRIVER

No single regulation, procedure, driver education program or state law can, by itself, make your teen a safer driver. Only a combination of practice, gradual exposure to higher-risk situations and parental involvement can reduce a teen's chance of being involved in a crash.

### KNOW YOUR STATE'S GDL AND TEEN DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Nearly all states have adopted some form of Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL). Laws vary widely from state to state.

### HOW YOUR FAMILY RULES CAN IMPROVE ON YOUR STATE'S LAW

Currently no state has the optimum GDL system. So your state's driver licensing regulations may not deliver the greatest safety benefits. No matter what age your state allows, you should decide the right age for your teen to begin driving.

### THE ROLE OF DRIVER EDUCATION

Driver Education can teach a teen to operate a vehicle and also explain the rules of the road, but science tells us that traditional Driver Education doesn't reduce a teen's exposure to crash risk.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPERVISED DRIVING DURING LEARNER'S PERMIT PHASE

Parents make a critical safety difference as role models and guides while teens learn to drive. Teens should drive up to 50 hours or more over 9-12 months with an adult supervisor.

### HOW THE PROVISIONAL LICENSING PHASE WORKS

The newly licensed teen has acquired skills and earned trust to drive without supervision. But teens face new risks as solo drivers. That's why there should still be restrictions on driving privileges while teens gain more experience.

### WRITE A STRONG FAMILY PLAN WITH PARENT/TEEN AGREEMENT

The Family Plan and Parent/Teen Agreement help you set clear expectations that both teen and parent understand and agree upon. Determine parameters that will reduce your teens driving risks during the first six to 12 months of solo driving.