

PARENT/TEEN SAFE DRIVING CONTRACT

Adopt a Parent/Teen Safe Driving Contract before your teen driver gets behind the wheel on their own. Parent/Teen contracts make it clear about what is and is not allowed when driving a vehicle thus avoiding arguments about who said what or who "should" have done what. Stress the fact that the contract will help insure their safety and the safety of others.

We have provided an example of a Parent/Teen Driving Contract for your use. It can be used as is or as a starting point in developing your own.

The key point in using or developing a teen contract is what is allowed and what will be the consequence if the irresponsible behavior occurs. This should be an open discussion with your teen so that they are clearly aware of both the responsible behavior expected and the results of irresponsible unsafe behavior. The more time you spend working together and involving them in discussion of the contract the greater their awareness of the conditions will be. Go over every point and have your teen driver initial their agreement to the conditions before both of you sign the agreement.

Set a date to review and revisit the contract after a given period of time (within 1-3 months). On review go through the agreement and change it a little or a lot based on the drivers adherence. Make it stricter if necessary or perhaps a bit more lenient (remove the need to call home if running late or change the hour of curfew) if your teen is doing well. Set regular periods of time for additional reviews.

Please feel free to use the following Parent/Teen contract to help encourage responsible driving on the part of your new teen driver.

Parent – Teen Safe Driving Contract

I/We _____ and _____
(name of parent(s)) (name of driver)

hereby enter into this agreement covering the operation of any vehicle allowed for use.

I understand that driving is a privilege and not a legal right. I agree to comply with the following responsible driver rules and understand the stated consequences:

(initial)

_____ I fully understand that a car is not a plaything but a powerful machine that has the power to injure and kill. I will treat it with respect and not show off with it.

Consequence _____

_____ I will always wear my seatbelt and will not drive with any passenger who refuses to wear theirs.

Consequence _____

_____ I will obey all traffic laws and drive carefully, cautiously and in control.

Consequence _____

_____ I will not speed, race or engage in any type of thrill-seeking behavior while driving.

Consequence _____

_____ I will comply with the passenger restrictions of my Junior Operators License.

Consequence _____

_____ I will comply with my curfew of _____ and at no time will I be out after 12:30 a.m. in violation of my Junior Operators License.

Consequence _____

_____ I will not consume alcohol or drugs in the vehicle or operate any vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Consequence _____

_____ I will not get into a vehicle of a driver who has been drinking or using drugs.

Consequence _____

_____ I will provide my parents with information on my destination and time of return. (may exclude regularly scheduled travel to school or work)

Consequence _____

_____ I will call my parents if I find I will be more than 30 minutes late.
Consequence _____

_____ I will not drive to endanger my life, the lives of my passengers, or anyone else on the road.
Consequence _____

_____ I will not allow anyone else to drive or use the vehicle entrusted to me.
Consequence _____

_____ Should I be in an accident I will not leave the scene, no matter how minor, and will inform my parents of any accidents, tickets or encounters with the police.
Consequence _____

_____ I understand that automobile accidents are the leading cause of death for teens 16 to 18 years old.

I have reviewed and understand this agreement, the responsibility I am accepting and the consequences of not being a responsible driver. I promise to abide by the contract as outlined above. Further I understand that my parents, at their discretion may revoke my driving privileges indefinitely if there are multiple violations of this agreement.

Signed _____ Date _____
(signature of driver)

I, as parent of _____, promise to do what I am able to help my teen in becoming a safe and responsible driver by enforcing this contract. I understand that this is an evolving contract and promise to make myself available to discuss, revisit and revise the contract at regular intervals.

Signed _____ Date _____
(signature of parent)

Signed _____ Date _____
(signature of parent)