



## A Parent and Guardian Driving Pledge: FOR OUR CHILDREN

America used to be the #1 safest country in the world regarding traffic safety; not anymore. All children deserve our best efforts to turn this worsening situation around. As a parent, I am open to any of the new knowledge and information available, to help me better prepare and protect my child in this fight.

1. Distracted driving is the leading cause of ALL vehicle collisions and crashes on America's roads and I should never choose to drive distracted, but especially not when children are in my vehicle.
2. I will always wear my seat belt when driving. I will also make sure that every other person traveling in my vehicle wears a seat belt.
3. I understand distracted driving habits and behavior are a choice. There really are no "accidents". Traffic safety experts can usually find "fault" on all sides of vehicle collisions.
4. I realize my child will start paying attention to my driving, as soon as I turn their child safety seat around to face towards the front.
5. My children may only be in my vehicle 10 to 20% of the time, after they start school. There is no reasonable excuse to ever show children distracted driving habits and behavior.
6. I need to turn my phone OFF and put it away whenever my children are traveling in my vehicle and I will not use my children or any other passenger to relay text messages or phone calls to me, as this is also distracted driving behavior.
7. It is way too late to start thinking about distracted driving and its effect on my children by the time they get their driver's permit.
8. I now understand that new drivers (less than 5yrs of experience) say they are most influenced by their parents driving, NOT by peers, the driver education process, laws or tragic stories.
9. Research shows that my children will be more vulnerable and in harm's way as new drivers (with no skills and no experience); if I consistently expose them to my distracted driving as they grow up.
10. The Driving Test is way too easy to be useful. It is also unreasonable for me to expect a time constrained driver education system to re-educate my children, after they have potentially absorbed my distracted driving habits and behavior, for more than 10 years.
11. Driving distractions and distracted driving behaviors, learned by children from watching their parents drive include: Driving while sleepy or fatigued, Aggressive driving behavior, Impatience, Reckless driving, Eating and Drinking while driving, Ignoring speed limits, Driving under the influence of Alcohol or Drugs, NOT using seat belts, Using or looking at a Smartphone, ALL phone calls, Hands-free or Hand-held, Tailgating, Red Light Running and there are many more..
12. Driving will be the most dangerous thing my children do on a daily basis, with an ability to kill or seriously injure themselves, friends, family and even people they don't know, every time they drive.

### **Because I have read, processed, and understood the 12 points above:**

I PLEDGE to make every possible effort to drive distraction free at ALL times, especially when children are in my vehicle. Statistics show that MOST new drivers WILL BE involved in a vehicle collision or crash (fatalities to fender benders). This is both horrific and preventable. I want to be part of the solution to this tragic problem. I never want to feel I could have, or should have, done more.

Name..... Date.....