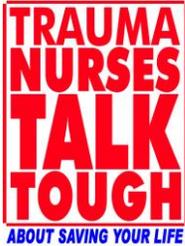


How to Utilize the Graduated Driver's Licensing Law Effectively

Rev. 3/16

Car Crashes are the **LEADING** cause of death for teens
Parents hold the **KEY** to Teen Driver Safety!



AWARDS
2004 National Safety Council
Youth Activity Award of Merit
2007 NOVA National Hospital Association



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Car crashes are the leading cause of death for US teens. **2013: Fifty-two** percent of teen passengers are killed while riding with a teen driver. In response to those two statements, most US states and territories have adopted GDL laws. GDL is the acronym for Graduated Driver Licensing. While GDL is no guarantee your teen will avoid being cited or injured in a crash, there are ways that help evaluate the teen driver's maturity and experience that may increase his or her safety.

Major contributors to teen crashes are:

Driving inexperience and immaturity—The skills are new, they have very limited experience and pre-frontal cortex brain development is in the rudimentary stage. Teens learn to operate the vehicle very quickly, however~

Distraction—secondary tasks i.e. cell phones, eating, peer passengers, looking at a road-side object. Just *reaching* for a phone makes a novice driver seven times more likely to have a crash or close call. Included is a chart provided by the New England Journal of Medicine study from 1/2/2014 comparing experienced and novice driver crash or near-crashes associated with performance of a secondary tasks.

Task	Novice Drivers	Experienced Drivers
Odds Ratio (95% CI)		
Using cell phone		
Texting or using Internet	3.87 (1.62–9.25)	NA†
Dialing	8.32 (2.83–24.42)	2.49 (1.38–4.54)
Talking	0.61 (0.24–1.57)	0.76 (0.51–1.13)
Reaching for phone	7.05 (2.64–18.83)	1.37 (0.31–6.14)
Reaching for object other than cell phone	8.00 (3.67–17.50)	1.19 (0.61–2.31)
Looking at roadside object	3.90 (1.72–8.81)	0.67 (0.37–1.22)
Adjusting controls for radio or HVAC	1.37 (0.72–2.61)	0.53 (0.30–0.94)
Adjusting controls other than those for radio or HVAC	2.60 (0.89–7.65)	0.64 (0.15–2.65)
Eating	2.99 (1.30–6.91)	1.26 (0.74–2.15)
Drinking nonalcoholic beverage	1.36 (0.31–5.88)	0.44 (0.16–1.22)

* The analysis of the 100-Car Naturalistic Driving Study involving experienced adult drivers was based on 518 crashes and near-crashes for which the driver was at fault or partially at fault and 16,614 control periods. The analysis of the Naturalistic Teenage Driving Study was based on 167 crashes and near-crashes for which the driver was at fault or partially at fault and 5238 control periods. CI denotes confidence interval, and NA not applicable.

† Texting, accessing the Internet, or both rarely occurred during the data-collection period in the 100-Car Study, so this task could not be appropriately evaluated with the use of the data from this study.

Fatigue—Teens do not recognize the symptoms of fatigue.

Over-confidence in the second year licensure—Veteran drivers suffer from complacency as the rudimentary contributor to crashes and violations.

Not holding lanes—Teens often have poor time management skills, are single focused, without a clear understanding of the how Newton's Laws of Motion connect with Traffic Safety.

Speed is the most common contributor to crashes for teen males. Simply stated, the faster you go—the harder you hit and anything that isn't secured is going to fly around until it hit's something bigger and harder.

Teen females have a higher incidence of inattention to dashboard information, giggling, screaming and general lack of understanding how the weight and speed of a vehicle in motion contributes to crashes.

Disregarding traffic laws and safety—often compounded by peer transport

Why Parent Participation is Important

Parents hold the key to teen driver safety! National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Research shows that when parents do not limit when, where and how frequently a teen can drive, teens' traffic violations and car crashes increase. Research also shows that although parents are in a prime position to influence the teens' driving behaviors, many parents are less involved than they could be.

According to a recent study by the NICHD, researchers found that teaching parents how to set limits on their teen's driving greatly reduces the teen's chances of risky driving behavior that could lead to crashes. Whenever youth learn a new skill, it is always advisable for parent(s) / guardian(s) to actively support and encourage the youth's progress. Research concludes that the key to increased safety in families requires parental awareness and involvement.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2563441/> It is essential parents have an *immediate plan of response upon a teen's first violation or crash.*

Children observe parents from the day they are born. Much of their attitude—in life and behind the wheel—establish early in their lives by the parents' behaviors. Parental modeling of seat belt use and safe, law abiding and polite driving is essential.

Adolescence can be a confusing time when many issues, ideas and opinions are developed. Driving is not the time to work through those frustrations, disappointments or impatience with a disturbing situation of the day.

******We encourage parents to enroll their teen in a professional driving school or the school. Parents of youth taking a Driver Education course however should **not be** fooled into believing the child is an expert driver simply by attending the class. Continued practice after taking the course is essential.

Connecting the dots between Brain Development and Driving for Teens

The American Medical Association (AMA) studies show the Prefrontal Cortex of the brain begins to function in a human being around the age of 12-13 years and reaches full maturity near the mid-to-late 20's. Parents sometimes ask teens, "Why would you do something like this?" and a teen responds, "I don't know!" Guess what? They don't know because the immature brain can send some confusing messages at times.

The PBS series THE SECRET LIFE OF THE BRAIN describes the kind of activities chosen by teens determines how the Prefrontal Cortex develops. Chemical (alcohol or other drugs) introduced during the formative years inhibits the development of the Prefrontal Cortex. When teens choose healthy activities and build new skills during this period, the brain develops ways to hold on to the information and remembers how to learn.

Ways to measure developing maturity:

- Consistently wearing safety equipment correctly when going faster than running or walking (properly positioned, secured and used with or **without** parental supervision)
- Taking responsibility for school homework and chores without reminding
- Successfully keeping agreements
- Money management and organizational skills
- Offering to help with home chores and projects without request
- Increased cooperation

CAUTION: Do NOT license Youth suffering from Behavioral issues

The Graduated Driver License (GDL) Law

GDL is the acronym for Graduated Driver's License. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, GDL is systematic and progressive, allowing the young driver to develop driving skills and maturity at a rate that meets individual levels of capability. Oregon GDL laws went into effect in March 2000.

Car Crashes are the leading cause of teenage death and the reason for the GDL laws. In a recent Virginia Tech *naturalistic study* found, "The young drivers, who were recruited within three weeks of earning their driver's license, turn out to be tripped up by all kinds of "secondary" activities in the driver's seat. They're **3 times more likely** to get in a crash when they're eating; **4 times more likely** when they're looking at roadside objects; and **8 times more likely** to get into trouble when reaching for an object other than a cell phone."

The driving privilege requires personal integrity that develops in the prefrontal cortex. The personal integrity standard is defined by "how one conducts oneself while no one is watching". If a teen is unable to meet this standard, driving and social training must continue until maturity is better developed.

Can you guess how many skills a driver uses while behind the wheel? Approximately 1,500! These skills include: observation, perception, interpretation, and anticipation—all occurring in the prefrontal cortex! Teens are capable of operating a vehicle, but **DISADVANTAGED** simply because of the way the human brain develops.

GDL is effective only if parents understand, support and know how to implement it, and if youth have well-practiced driving skills, experience, maturity and a highly developed personal integrity.

Teen: Driving inexperience and immaturity are the main contributors to young driver citations and crashes, but there are other issues to consider too!

- Speed, peer pressure from other passengers and night driving—not alcohol or bad weather—

are the biggest contributors to teenage car crashes.

- Fatigue: This age group actually doesn't recognize they are tired.
- Over-confidence: Teens tend to exhibit over-confidence in the 2nd year of licensure
- Inconsistently follows traffic laws
- Not holding lanes

Veterans & Teens

- Complacency: Contributes to driving citations and crashes for veteran drivers who tell themselves, "My car knows the way."
- Car Cell phone: Every driver should restrict cell phone use while driving to emergency calls or letting someone know you will be late. Using a cell phone while driving reduces the number of required driving skills by 50% and responsible for 40% ('08 stat) of fatal crashes! Texting while driving leads to FATAL crashes.

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Recommends:

200 hours or 6000 miles of driving practice before licensing a teen, plus an additional 500 miles of supervised driving after licensing to be logged by the teen before being granted the privilege as principle driver. It takes 5-7 years to become driving proficient.

Tips for Parents (AAA Oregon/Idaho)

“Parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers” (U.S. Department of Education)

Is your teen fully prepared for the responsibilities of driving? Has your teen driven extensively in all kinds of weather conditions, under varied traffic situations, and at night? Does your teen follow the rules of the house? Before you hand over the keys, both of you need to feel comfortable.

Be a Good Role Model. Your teen has been watching your driving habits for the last decade or so. And as your teen begins the learning-to-drive process, that focus will likely increase. So, make changes in your driving to prevent any poor driving habits from being passed on. Show you take driving seriously.

What you can do

- Always wear your safety belt.
- Obey traffic laws.
- Do not use a cell phone while driving.
- Watch your speed.
- Don’t tailgate.
- Use your turn signals.
- Don’t drive when angry or tired.

2014 SAFE KIDS Data

- **31% of teens report feeling uncomfortable as a passenger when riding with a Parent driver**
- **39% of teens say they have ridden with a teen driver who was texting**
- **43% of teens report riding as a passenger with a teen driver who was talking on the phone**
- **57% of teens said they have seen a parent talking on the phone while driving**
- **28% of teens have been riding in a car with a parent who was texting**
- **73% of teens who don’t use a seat belt are more likely to say they text while driving than those who do**

Who Should Teach Driving in Your Family: Dad or Mom?

Sometimes one parent is a better teacher than the other. Parents and youth should practice together to determine which parent:

- Remains calm, cool and collected while driving
- Always practices safe, lawful and courteous driving
- Knows the traffic laws well, or takes time to refresh the information
- Takes a ‘logical’ approach to driving lessons. As an example, youth may have trouble disassociating hands from eyes—in other words, where they look is where they steer the car. In this case, the ‘logical’ solution is for the youth to continue driving in a parking lot until the skill can be mastered before going out on the road!

After Licensure

- Teen will continue to get plenty of supervised driving—even after being licensed
- Unsupervised driving at night is prohibited until night driving experience is well practiced
- Children will not ride in cars full of other teens
- No use of radio or CD player for the first six months of solo driving

Working Together!

To create a positive driving experience for teen and parent, practice the following to foster cooperation.

Parents	Teens
<p>Make a calendar to practice driving to accommodate schedules. Stick to the schedule or pre-arrange any changes.</p> <p>Make it a rule to <i>greet and assess</i> every driver every time he/she comes to the house to transport a family member.</p> <p>Focus only on issues of driving lessons. Do <i>not</i> discuss disappointments, chores, grades, etc., during driving practice. Your teen will concentrate better on driving if he/she does not feel 'trapped'.</p> <p>Practicing courteous and helpful commentary is imperative.</p> <p>If the atmosphere begins to tense, pull off the road to calm down and resolve the situation. Stop for a soda or go home and set another practice date.</p>	<p>Make sure your friends know your driving practice rules and help them follow those rule so your parents do not have to mention it.</p> <p>Complete chores, homework or other expectations <i>before</i> getting behind the wheel for driving practice. Your parents will appreciate your consideration and will consider your cooperation as a point of maturity.</p> <p>Keeping cool attitudes and respectful comments will contribute to a successful driving session. If nervousness or anger sets in, take time to regain your composure or request another date to practice. It just might be a bad day to drive and it is good to recognize that fact. Pay close attention to how you are feeling, what you are thinking and if you are making too many mistakes. Realizing that you may be too tired or distracted to concentrate is part of being mature.</p>

NOTE: Once licensed, ***attentive Parents*** periodically ride with the young driver after licensing to be sure dangerous driving habits have not replaced with good habits.

PARENTS! Young drivers must be taught to constantly scan the entire driving environment with the vigilance of a veteran driver. To help build driving awareness take advantage of the opportunity to point out your 'driving' observations, assessment, reasons for positioning your vehicle and any other driving response you make when **you are driving with** the youth sitting in the front passenger seat.

Beginning

Good Driving Habits~ Teaching the teen to begin with a habitual driving set-up routine (seat and mirror adjustments and lights, checking around the car for debris and tire pressure and confirming the license tags are current and insurance cards are kept handy) can help him/her avoid citations or be prepared should a officer stop him.

Teaching a teen to consistently use signals when changing lanes or making a new maneuver is essential and remember to practice hand signals too, just in case a blinker should fail.

While a Parent is driving, ask the teen questions about the driving environment to begin broadening his/her observation skills. Example: Did you see that driver did not signal before changing lanes? or, Do you see that car darting in and out of traffic lanes and can you tell me how his driving behavior should affect our driving behavior?

28 Traffic Safety Driving Awareness Question

1. What is the **FIRST** thing we do **before** we start the car? (buckle safety belt)
2. Why is it important to behave in the car? (to avoid distracting the driver)
3. What is the meaning of each signal light? (red—stop; yellow—stop safely; green—go cautiously)
4. Why is it important to use the turn indicator? (to communicate accurate information to other drivers)
5. Why should hands be positioned on the steering wheel with an airbag at 3 & 9 or 4 & 8? (the airbag deploys at 200mph and can break thumbs if hands positioned at 10 & 2)
6. Why is it important to wait 3 seconds while completely stopped at a Stop Sign? (it takes that long for observation information to reach the brain and then to conscious thought)
7. Why is it important to keep the volume low on the radio? (to hear sirens, car distress noises & prevent early hearing loss)
8. What action is to be taken if we hear or see an emergency vehicle with flashing lights? (move to the right as soon as it is safe to do so and STOP)
9. Why do we wait for pedestrians in the crosswalk or at corners before continuing to drive?(so they will be safe and we do not hit them)
10. How often do car mirrors need to be checked while driving? (every 20 seconds)
11. Why do we follow every traffic law consistently? (so every other driver can 'depend' on us)
12. Why is it especially important to drive the speed limit in neighborhoods and school zones? (to protect children, the elderly & pets)
13. Why is it important to wear safety belts properly? (to avoid a broken back, neck or head injuries)
14. When is it safe to unbuckle a safety belt? (once the vehicle is parked and passengers can get out safely)
15. Up to what age do youth safely sit in the back seat properly safety belted?(15)
16. Why do we keep our eyes on the road? (because we must watch other driver's behavior and keep our own car on the road)
17. Why do we leave 4 seconds worth of space between our car and the car in front of us? (to give ourselves a cushion for avoiding or stopping safely without hitting the car in front of us)
18. Why don't we talk on a cell phone, read a book, or groom while driving? (In Oregon, cell phone use by drivers under age 18 is against the law. Regardless of age, cell phone use in a car is responsible for 40% of fatal crashes and reduces by 50% your ability to perform the number of required skills needed at all times to drive safely—reading or grooming means we are not looking at the road—distraction is a MAJOR contributor to fatal and injury crashes)
19. Why is it unsafe to wear a back pack while riding in a car? (the weight of the back pack can break your back if you are in a crash or make a sudden stop)
20. Did you see that driver didn't signal to tell us where he wanted to move his car?
21. Did you see that driver didn't wait for the pedestrian?
22. Did you see that driver speed up to go through the yellow light?
23. Did you see that driver up ahead has begun to brake?
24. Did you see that pedestrian did not use the crosswalk?
25. Did you see the little child on the sidewalk, in the driveway, etc.?
26. Did you see that driver signal but made a different maneuver?
27. What is wrong with the way that person is driving?
28. Did you see or hear the emergency vehicle?

Monitoring Devices

Using ‘technology’ to monitor teen driving behavior can be useful, but NOT if it is only a GPS which tells you where the teen is located and nothing about the teen’s driving behavior.

Studies with in vehicle data recorders (IVDR’s) have shown to have some benefits. There are a number of IVDR monitoring devices and services available. Check with your car insurer for more information or Google IN VEHICLE DATA RECORDERS for the most current information.

Caution: Parents feeling the need to ‘monitor’ the Teen’s driving behavior may indicate the Teen is NOT adequately experienced with good driving skills and does not have the emotional maturity to be licensed. Instead, old-fashioned hands-on supervision returns better ROI! Investing in building good skills, and driving experience to give the youth enough time to develop the maturity required to be a reliable and safe driver will yield a higher RETURN ON INVESTMENT.

Crashes are NOT accidents! We use the term CRASH because collisions are usually not some incident from out of the blue. Ninety percent of crashes and injuries are avoidable! Crashes occur because people do not follow some of the simplest laws to obey—traffic laws. This means these crashes and injuries are EASY to prevent. FYI: Parents **are NOT required** to sign the documents to grant their children the privilege of driving prior to the youth’s 18th birthday. To enhance a youth’s maturation and driving experience, it may be advisable for the youth to get a driving permit and practice driving for **two years** before being licensed. ADHD youth need EXTRA support, practice and maturity **before** licensing.

Updated Information

Safety Restraints for Children: Effective July 1, 2007 ORS 811.210 and 811.215

- A. Child passengers under one year of age, regardless of weight, or a child who weighs 20lbs or less, must be properly secured in a child safety system in a rear-facing position
 - B. Child passengers who weigh 40lbs or less must be properly secured in a child safety system
 - C. Children weighing more than 40lbs and who are 4’ 9” or shorter, must ride in a child safety system which elevates them (i.e. booster seat) so the lap and shoulder belt fit them properly
 - D. Children eight years or older must be properly secured with a safety belt or safety harness
- IMPROPER use of a child safety system or safety belt leads to injury or death!

Smoke-free Cars for Kids: Effective January 1, 2014 ORS 811.93 Smoking in a motor vehicle with a minor under the age of 18 present is a secondary traffic violation. Individuals can be fined up to \$250 for first offense and up to \$500 for second or subsequent offenses for smoking in a vehicle when youth are present.

Oregon GDL: The Basics & Beyond

The Law	Beyond The Law
Law: Six months of driving with an instruction permit.	Parents may want to extend this period and have the power to delay licensing until youth turns 18 (avoid licensing youth who refuse to wear safety gear, have behavior issues or do not take responsibility for completing chores and homework)
Law: 50 hours of adult-supervised (older than 21) training plus complete an ODOT approved safety course, or an additional 50 hours of adult-supervised training and a driving log certifying the hours. 100 certified hours without a safety course.	Parents riding with a young driver for required hours who continually needs cautioning about speed, signals, tailgating, traffic conditions, weather conditions, should delay licensing and work with the young driver until he/she no longer needs to be reminded of safe driving habits.
Law: Driving Log-used for certification of meeting the 50/100 hr. supervised driving requirement	Note day, time, year, traffic and weather conditions. When the weather changes, check the log to determine if the teen needs more practice.
Law: In the first six months after licensing, a teen can carry no one younger than 20 years old except immediate family. Proof of high school enrollment, completion or exemption.	Drunks are the most difficult passengers to control--siblings may be the second hardest. Parents can expand beyond the law and NOT allow siblings to be transported for the first 2-6 months after solo driving. <u>Reminder</u> : Licensing a teen to make life more convenient for parents is not advisable
Law: In the second six months after licensing, no more than three passengers younger than 20, except family.	When adding passengers, parents can expand beyond the law to allow ONLY ONE passenger for 3 months and add additional passengers SLOWLY. For example: One passenger for 3 months, 2 passengers after 6 months, 3 passengers after one year and consider 3 peer-age passengers the <u>maximum</u> transported at any time. 65% of fatal teenage crashes involve a teenage driver.
Law: Curfew between midnight and 5:00 a.m. during the first year of driving unless it is work-related, to or from a school event or with a licensed driver 25 or older.	Forty-one percent of crashes involving teenage drivers occur between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Parents may want to set a curfew of “dark” during summer months and before 9:00 p.m. in winter. In Oregon a large number of crashes occur between 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., immediately after school.

FYI about DUII Drivers: Every weeknight from 10:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m., 1 out of 13 drivers are drunk. On weekends from 1:00 a.m.-6:00 a.m., 1 out of 7 drivers are drunk. 10:00 PM is a *reasonable* curfew for anybody of any age—to avoid being the target of a drunk driver.

Before licensing the teen be sure to construct a Teen Driving Contract. Contracts serve to get expectations and consequences written down. Using ink to write the contract is preferable to avoid any revisions without notation. Teens who cannot keep contract agreements usually lack maturity and driving skills. Instead of lowering the contract expectations, it is preferable to work with the young driver to improve his skills and buy time for maturation development. Do not believe because the teen is a good student he/she will be a mature driver—Intelligence and Maturity **are not** similar.

The following copy of the Teen Driver Contract is based on Oregon GDL laws. Please read the GDL laws of your state and modify the information to reflect those GDL laws.

Building a Teen Driving Contract

A driving contract is an effective barometer to determine a beginning driver's level of driving skill, experience and maturity. A contract can be useful in other ways: It can help to define expectations and eliminate any confusion. If the teen has difficulty keeping the contract, it may be written in such a way that it does not meet the appropriate maturity or experience level of the young driver or there may be other underlying reasons, i.e. alcohol or drug use (an addict cannot keep a contract). Teenagers can follow rules for responsible driving, but first, they have to know the rules.

Parents & Youth

It is suggested that parents and youth draft and share copies of similar guidelines with other family members and the families of friends so that ALL drivers connected with one another have uniform expectations and consequences. Include any relatives, neighbors and family friends with children of similar ages who might ride with your teen. Additionally, adopt the family rule to greet and assess everyone every time he/she comes to the house to transport family members in a vehicle. Safety is built into good manners!

A simple teen driving contract might read as follows:

Parent agrees to pay for all/portion of vehicle insurance, gas and upkeep in exchange for Teen agreement to: 1. Retain a 3.0 grade average; 2. No involvement with alcohol or other drugs; 3. No driving citation or crash that is his/her fault, otherwise the driving privilege is revoked until the teen is grown and moved out of the home.

Issues/Agreements Teen-Parent Contract

A comprehensive teen driving contract can be a good start to a great dialogue and understanding between Parents & Teen drivers. Set a firm time to design the driving contract. Teens and parents can review the following sample contract, noting points to consider at the beginning of the discussion. Contract Building will take approximately a week. Spell out precisely family driving rules and agreements and any consequences for breaking the rules.

Teen Driver Contract

Issue 1: Grades—if the teen's grades drop below minimum levels to keep insurance premium benefit, does the teen pay the total amount of the premium increase or a percentage? What is the impact on driving privileges? Reduced? Limited? How long? Remember: do not confuse maturity to be equal with intelligence.

Rule: When grades are fall below _____

Agreement: Then driving privileges are _____
_____ until _____

Issue 2: Curfew—what is the expectation and strategy? Oregon GDL curfew is between midnight and 5 AM. Be sure to keep in mind the national statistical information regarding DUII Drivers: Every weeknight from 10:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m., 1 out of 13 drivers is drunk. On weekends from 1:00 a.m.-6:00 a.m., 1 out of 7 drivers is drunk. 10:00 PM is a reasonable curfew for anybody of any age—to avoid being the target of a drunk driver.

Rule: If I stay out past the curfew of our home or beyond the GDL limits when unrelated to my job or school activity for which I will have a permission statement,
Then _____

Issue 3: Safety belts—In addition to properly wearing safety belts low and tight across the lap, keeping feet on the floor and the seat back in the upright position while driving or riding, safety belts should remain buckled when sitting in a car in a parking lot or on the side of the road.

Rule: When driving/riding in a vehicle, I will always _____

Issue 4: Operating Expenses—does the teen pay a percentage, a usage rate, or all? FYI: Youth expected to invest in driving expenses have a better understanding of the responsibilities of the driving privilege. Example: Paying for car, gas, insurance, etc. Rule: Teen agrees to pay 10% or other % of monthly expenses, including car payment, fuel, maintenance costs, insurance premiums, registration fees, etc. Agreement: Failure to make agreed upon payment by the last day of the month will result in suspension of car privileges. If only half the amount due is paid driving privilege and use of car reduces by half.

Rule: I agree to _____

Agreement: If I cannot fulfill my agreement, then _____

Issue 5: Distracted driving—Cell Phone: In Oregon cell phone use while driving is **illegal** for drivers under age 18. Texting while driving is prohibited behavior because a driver must keep visual connection with the road. As of **2010**, Oregon drivers over 18 are required to use a hands-free device while driving; however the data does NOT show any reduction in crashes/violations when using a hands-free device while driving. **2014** \$500 maximum fine for drivers using hand held devices. The required numbers of safe driving skills are reduced by 50% when a cell phone is used while driving. Additionally, playing the car stereo and eating while driving are distractions for every driver. Keeping a tidy car: When discussing this issue, remember to include the car environment; pencils, cups, etc. Draft a strategy for each or check agreement

Cell Phone: O Drive without sending or receiving texts O Call/text before I start driving to let parents, friends and others know when I'll arrive O Pull over to a safe location to check texts or listen to voice mail O Deputize my passenger when I am driving to text or make calls for me O When alone, turn my cell phone off or on vibrate before starting to drive and wait to respond until I and they have stopped driving O Stop texting, or end phone conversations with others once I learn they are driving

Music: O Set up CD selection before driving O Pull over to a safe location or wait until I am finished driving to adjust music, change CD's, check Facebook, surf the internet, scroll through I-Pods, I-phones or similar devices

Food & Make-Up: O Pull over to a safe location or wait until I am finished driving to eat or apply make-up
Other things I can do to be safe while I drive or as a passenger to help the driver: _____

Issue 6: A Peer passenger—the GDL allows 3 peer passengers in the **second** 6 months of licensure, but is it safe? Remember, **52%** of fatal crashes (based on **2013** data) involving a teen had another teen driving. A driver is responsible for passenger safety. Develop a strategy for dealing with disruptive behavior. Questions for the teen driver to consider: Will you explain to your passengers your expectations before you let them into the car? Will you wait until they misbehave and then tell them the expectation and subsequent consequence? What will be the expectation/consequence?

- a. I will begin with # _____ peer passengers
- b. I will add peer passengers 1 at a time in: 1month 2month 6month increments
- c. If I determine that I am unable to handle two passengers, I will reduce the number of passengers I transport until I feel comfortable. Agree
- d. I will postpone transporting 3 peer passengers until I have been driving for two years without any incidents Agree
- e. I expect my passengers to _____
- f. If my passengers misbehave, I will do the following: _____
- g. If I determine I am unable to transport siblings and peers together for any reason, I will _____

Issue 7: Restricting driving limits when first licensed—The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety recommends restricting long distance driving for the first two years of licensure. Design a strategy for driving under hazardous conditions; inclement weather, construction zones, peak traffic hours. A 3-5 mile radius is adequate at the beginning of solo driving. Immediately upon licensing, teen drivers should be restricted from driving at night for the first two years of licensure or until youth have plenty of **supervised night driving experience**.

When weather is hazardous, then _____

When traffic is heavy, then _____

When I have driven supervised for at least 500 miles after licensed, then I _____

When I have driven supervised at night for at least 100 hours after licensed, then I _____

Issue 8: Sleep deprivation/Mood/Running late—Suggestions: Set a clock ahead 10 minutes; Pack book bags and cars and organize clothes the night before to help avoid rushing around or speeding. Studies show Teens need at least 9 solid hours of sleep before driving. You may want to limit sleep over occasions to children of elementary school age or disallow driving by the teen following a sleepover.

When/If I am too tired to drive, then I _____

When/If I am running late, then I _____

My strategy for being on-time is _____

Knowing that strong emotions are equally as impairing as any chemical while driving, if I am in a bad mood, sad or too happy, then _____

Issue 9: Incidents or crashes—Most moving violations are intentional--speeding, running stop light or sign, failing to yield, etc., vs. mechanical failure or parking violations. Suggestion: For moving violations, return to a 'modified GDL' i.e. Siblings and peer passengers should be suspended and added back slowly. Recommendation: 1 week of supervised driving for every mile over the speed limit for which the teen is cited or at least 1-2 months of supervised driving, then allow one peer passenger, adding each passenger in 1-2 month increments, reduce driving destination and suspend night-time driving. Consider how the teen pays the fine: through job income, savings, or sweat equity?) Will the driving privilege be suspended until expenses are paid in full?

Remember, if a teen is not allowed to drive for more than two (2) weeks, most of the driving acuity is lost therefore requiring supervised driving until he/she can drive without being cautioned about driving skills, observations, and responses before being allowed to drive solo again. Keep in mind the insurance deductible when constructing this portion of the contract. Is the teen expected to pay 10%, 25%, 100% of the deductible because he/she is expected to return the vehicle to the undamaged condition? Decide a response for each circumstance.

A. Receiving a citation that is my fault, I agree to the following:

1. Driving privilege is: Revoked Supervised for _____ (how long): wks./mos.
2. Passengers are limited to family-only for _____ (how long): wks./mos.
3. Peer Passengers are: Suspended for _____ (how long): wks./mos.
4. Then, reduced to one reduced to two for (how long): wks./mos.
5. I am responsible for paying the fine: \$_____ Through: chores job savings sweat equity other
6. I understand I will need to pay any increase in car insurance Agree

B. Crash that is my fault

1. Pay 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% of deductible Agree
2. Pay portion or all of the damages \$ _____ Agree
3. I will lose my driving privilege until _____ Agree

C. Crash for which I am not at fault

1. Pay 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% of deductible _____ Agree
2. Pay portion or all of the damages \$ _____ Agree

D. If the vehicle I drive is damaged, then I understand I am responsible for the damages and will:

1. Pay 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% of deductible _____ Agree
2. Pay portion or all of the damages \$ _____ Agree
3. Other:

E. Breaking GDL law

Peer Limits: If I have peer in my car **before** the first six months of my licensure is completed, then _____

F. Parking Violation/Mechanical Failure: When/if this violation occurs, then the Teen is responsible for paying the fines, making repairs, etc. and agrees to pay

\$ _____ : Through chores job savings sweat equity other

Rule for peer moving violation/crash—develop a policy to refuse to ride with an offending driver in the future. How long will you refuse to ride with that driver? How will you determine when it is safe to accept a ride from that cited peer? Will you inform your parents of your friend's violation or will you try to handle it yourself? Should your parents and your friend's parents discuss the situation and draft an outcome?

Suggestion: After a peer is cited have a response when offered a ride. Remember: A driver not taking personal safety seriously will not keep you safe either.

Policy:

Peer Rule: When my friend gets a citation my Peer Agreement:

Then _____

Note: The PBS series THE SECRET LIFE OF THE BRAIN describes the kind of activities chosen by teens determines how the Prefrontal Cortex develops. If a chemical is introduced during these formative years, it will inhibit the development of the Prefrontal Cortex. If teens choose healthy activities and build new skills during this period, the brain develops ways to hold on to the information and remembers how to learn.

Issue 10: Alcohol or drug use or emotionally impaired driver—what is the impact to the driving privilege if the teen is: cited for minor-in-possession; discovered to be using alcohol/drugs, or accepts a ride with someone who is impaired from alcohol/drugs or extreme emotion? Develop strategies for each situation. Remember, a teenager who refuses or cannot follow the rules of the home, especially about alcohol or other drugs, are unreliable to obey traffic laws. The teen needs more time to mature before allowed to drive a car. Once the youth can be determined to be **clean and sober for a minimum of a year**, start the GDL process again.

Draft a No-Use & Escalating Consequences Agreement (available from TNTT 503-413-4960); if the teen is unable to keep either agreement, call your pediatrician to schedule an assessment and develop a treatment plan. Keep in mind that some of the teen’s friends need avoiding. Help the youth develop alcohol/drug free activities and keep a family event alcohol/drug free.

Rule: If I am discovered to be using,
then _____
If I receive an MIP,
then _____

I will **NOT** accept a ride with an impaired driver under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or extreme emotion. Teen Signature: _____

Strategy to return home safely and avoid accepting a ride with someone under the influence:
Parents and youth face liability exposure. Develop strategies for your son/daughter to help friends stay safe too.
If Peer is using, then _____
If peer receives MIP, then _____
Strategy for peer who needs to return home safely is _____

Issue 11: Street racing/Taking a vehicle without permission--will the consequence be the same for participating as the driver, passenger or spectator? A teen involved in this dangerous activity does not have sufficient Prefrontal Cortex development to understand the seriousness of driving. Remember, law enforcement can impound cars of racers and spectators. **Parents of youth who street race or take a vehicle without permission are reminded to keep all keys to vehicles on his/her person, suspend all driving practice for a minimum of a year to allow more prefrontal cortex maturity and work with the youth for an extended amount of time before ever considering licensure.**

Rule: Never participate in street racing or take a vehicle without permission. **Agreement:** If I break the rule, then I agree to _____

Additional Comments and Agreements: _____

Signature of Teen Driver _____

Date: _____

Signature Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Date: _____

Consider additional signatures by significant other Adults and older siblings in the teen’s life to standardize expectations and consequences throughout the family.

Date: _____ Date: _____

Oregon Legal Consequences and Parental Liability of a Child's Actions

It's not what you didn't know, but what you should have known that can make the difference.

Parent Negligence: A parent can be liable for any negligence on their part that causes the child to harm another person. A parent has a duty to exercise *reasonable* care to control a minor child and to prevent the child from harming others. Examples of this are negligent supervision and negligent entrustment.

Negligent Supervision: This type of claim occurs when someone is injured when your child is unsupervised. In particular, this type of claim can arise when a child has access to guns, alcohol or other hazards.

Negligent Entrustment: This claim arises when you allow your child to use a car, gun or other "dangerous instrumentality" without using reasonable care, *i.e.*, you allow use of your car knowing the child has a poor driving record, or you allow use of a gun knowing the child has not been taught gun safety.

Parent as an accomplice: Parents can also be held liable for harm caused by their child if they directed, encouraged or ratified the conduct. For example, allowing a child to furnish alcohol to minors at a party in your home, *whether or not* you are actually present.

Caveat: Oregon law limits a parent's liability for a child's reckless or intentional act to \$7,500.00. There is no such limit for a *negligent* wrong or civil liability suits. Parents providing primary means of support for children over the age of 18 can still be held liable for negligent or intentional wrongs, *i.e.*, when the child is away at college, the parents pay for the purchase of a car, its insurance and/or maintenance, and the parents continue to claim the child as a dependent tax deduction.

Child's Liability: A child (under the age of 18) can be sued for negligent or intentional wrongs, and a money judgment can be obtained against a child. Judgments are collectible for up to *20 years*.

FYI: As of January 2002, Oregon law changed for youth 14-18 years old and allows a driver's license to be restricted for 90 days following two driver improvement violations, two preventable crashes or a combination of violation and crash, including seat belt violations. Driving privileges will be suspended for one year following the third violation or crash if the incident occurs before one's 18th birthday.

2009 Oregon Legislature voted to restrict hand-held cell phone use while driving for every driver. Hands-free cell phone use allowed for drivers over 18 yrs. old.

2013 Oregon Legislature voted to raise the citation fee to \$500 for drivers using a hand-held cell phone while driving.

Crash Report Form

Keep a copy of this form in your glove box along with a pencil/pen so you will be prepared should you ever have a crash. If possible, always look for a witness to confirm what occurred and ask for his/her contact information. If you cause the crash, you will need to provide proper information to the other driver. In Oregon, if damage to a vehicle exceeds \$1700.00, a crash report must be filed with DMV.

Your Vehicle

Your Name _____
 Date _____ Hour _____ AM/PM
 Crash Location (include street name, cross street or inner section or
 Hwy/Freeway number) _____

 Phone Number _____
 Police Dept. Contacted _____
 Officer Name _____
 Witness Name _____
 Witness Phone Number _____
 Describe damage to YOUR Vehicle _____

Other Vehicle

Driver's Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____
 Driver's License Number _____
 Vehicle License Number _____
 Insurance Company _____
 Policy Number _____
 Describe Crash _____

Consider using cell phone to take photos of damages, surroundings, other driver's license plate, driver's license, insurance card and surrounding environments including street signs and road upon which the crash occurred.

Resources

Additional information provided by:

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, American Medical Association (AMA), National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD) AAA Oregon/Idaho, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), THE SECRET LIFE OF THE BRAIN-Oregon Public Broadcasting, End Distracted Driving

Useful information listed offered only as a starting place—not as endorsements

MADD National
1-800-GETMADD
www.madd.org

AAA
503-222-6734
teendriving.aaa.com

****Recommend Searching Ask.com to read various article to help with:
Choosing the Safest car for your Teen

Oregon Department of Transportation-click on Driver Education icon
www.odot.state.or.us/transafety

End Distracted Driving: www.EndDD.org

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia/ IP Center:
<https://injury.research.chop.edu/traffic-injury-prevention/teen-driver-safety#.VuCG4cvTloI>

NTSA Teen Driving: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers> Center for Disease Control/Injury Prevention Center:
http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen_drivers/

Missing Children's Clearing House

1-800-282-7155

- Report *any* missing child within 12 hours. Once found, police can hold a child for only 3 hours unless special arrangements made.
- Regularly photograph your child.
- Know your child's friends and parents; have **all** phone numbers and addresses on hand.

Oregon Liquor Control Commission

503-872-5070

- Report **all** stores not requesting and checking for proper Identification of persons looking younger than 26 years of age purchasing alcohol.
- Report **all** adults furnishing or buying alcohol for anyone younger than 21.

AAA Oregon/Idaho

503-222-6734

Randall Children's Hospital Trauma Nurses Talk Tough

503-276-6500
503-413-4960

Legacy Emanuel Hospital, 2801 N. Gantenbein, Rm. 4129, Portland, OR 97227
Contact our office to request a copy of this handbook to print.

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