

Driving Regulations

- A licensed driver who is under the age of 17 may not operate a motor vehicle between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless accompanied by a driver who is 21 years of age or older and holds a valid driver license, or the operator is driving to or from work.
- A licensed driver who is 17 years of age may not operate a motor vehicle between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. unless accompanied by a driver who is 21 years of age or older and holds a valid driver license, or the operator is driving to and from work.
- When operating a motor vehicle, the holder of a learner's driver's license must be accompanied at all times by a driver who:
 - Holds a valid license to operate the type of vehicle being operated;
 - Is at least 21 years of age;
 - Occupies the closest seat to the right of the driver of the motor vehicle.
- **Zero Tolerance:** Any driver under 21 years of age who is stopped by law enforcement and has a breath or blood alcohol level of .02 or higher will automatically have their driving privilege suspended for 6 months. This is an administrative suspension and does not reflect as a DUI on the driver's record. If the driver refuses to take a test, their driving privilege is automatically suspended for 12 months if it is a 1st time refusal and 18 months if it is a 2nd refusal. These are administrative suspensions.
- All front seat occupants must wear their seatbelts, even if the vehicle is equipped with an airbag. This applies to all cars, pickup trucks, and vans operated on Florida roadways. The cost to a violator will be a minimum of \$71.50 per violation. In addition, all passengers under the age of 18 must use a seatbelt while riding anywhere in the vehicle.

Risky Behavior

- For teen drivers, the presence of one teen passenger doubles the risk of a fatal crash. Having two or more teen passengers carries five times the risk of a fatal crash as compared to driving alone.
- Drivers under the age of 20 are more likely than older drivers to be distracted while adjusting a radio or CD player.



- Teens talking on a cell phone while driving quadruples the risk of having a car crash.
- Adolescents are more likely to engage in risky behaviors such as speeding, following other cars too closely, unsafe accelerations, and rapid lane changes.
- Younger drivers are much more likely to overestimate their driving skills - especially males.

Remember...

Parent's driving styles greatly influence the way their children drive, so set a good example for your children.

Teen Driving



What Parents Need to Know!

Startling Statistics

- **Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for American teenagers.¹**
- **Teen drivers drive less than any other age group, yet their number of accidents and fatalities are disproportionately high; 16-year-old drivers are more than 20 times likely to have an accident as is the general population and 17-year-old drivers are more than 6 times as likely.¹**
- **Up to 78% of teens are ticketed or have an accident by the time they are 18.**
- **Parents can make a difference: research has shown that traffic violations are four times more likely and car crashes almost seven times more likely when parents have fewer restrictions on their teenagers driving with friends as passengers.²**
- **About 5000 teenagers of driving age die in automobile accidents every year.¹**
- **For every teenager killed, about 100 have injuries that are not fatal. Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of disability-related head and spinal cord injuries.¹**

1. American Academy of Pediatrics

2. American Family Physician

For most parents, nothing you will deal with as a parent will be more important, or more life-and-death, than how your teenager uses or misuses a motor vehicle.

What You Can Do to Help Keep Your Teen Safe

- **Create a mutually agreed-upon “driving contract” with your teen, outlining rules and regulations concerning the number of passengers allowed in the car, curfew, tickets and accidents, destination, etc. Make it clear that drug and alcohol use while driving is never acceptable. Having these regulations in writing can help avoid future misunderstandings. A sample contract is available for download at www.parentingteendrivers.com. You should revise it and rewrite it to suit your particular situation.**
- **During the time your teenager has a learner’s permit, they must complete a minimum of 50 hours of adult-supervised driving practice, 10 of these hours must include night-time driving. Of course, the more experience you can give your teen behind the wheel with you or another responsible, supervising adult, the better.**
- **Talk to the parents of your teen's friends. Whenever possible, parents of teenagers in a peer group should decide together what peer group rules they support. If all teenagers in a group have the same rules, the opportunity for negative peer pressure is less.**
- **Monitor your teen’s comings and goings regularly to see if they are wearing their seatbelt.**



- **Keep the communication lines open regarding underage drinking. Make sure the teenager is familiar with the zero-tolerance law and the legal implications of their actions. Teenagers who have been informed by their parents and who feel the topic of drinking is open for discussion are less likely to drink and more likely to call home for a ride if under the influence.**
 - **Parents have many more technology options today. Some cell phone companies are offering their phones equipped with GPS tracking devices that allow parents to monitor their teen’s location, driving habits, and speed. Some even allow parents to set speed and location limits, so they are alerted if their teen drives too fast or goes beyond a pre-determined boundary.**
 - **The loss of driving privileges can be a powerful incentive for teens to follow rules, and consequently, to practice safe driving.**
- Let your child know that you are willing to deny them the privilege of driving if they don't agree to and abide by the rules.**
- **Try driving in separate vehicles when going to the same place. Your teen drives in one, you drive in the other. This gives the teen their independence while still allowing for supervised practice.**