

## TEEN DRIVER & PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT

It is no secret that good communication contributes to healthy families and relationships through a more thorough understanding of the expectations of all involved. The goal of this contract is to get the parents and teen to find the time to sit down, and articulate exactly what they expect of each other, as it relates to their child’s driving experience. Understanding and agreeing to explicitly stated expectations and obligations will discourage prohibited behavior and alleviate issues resulting from misunderstandings and “grey” areas. Further, your teen driver should be better equipped to enjoy his/her driving experience because he/she knows exactly what is expected of him or her. A collaborative effort, involving both parties will be more supportive and contribute to the teenager’s maturation as a driver.

**WHEREAS**, both the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and the Teenager, collectively referred to as “parties”, wish to memorialize their understanding of the rights, rules, regulations, and expectations of the salient issues related to teenager’s operation of a motor vehicle; and

**WHEREAS, BOTH PARTIES, AS PREVIOUSLY DEFINED, CONSENT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

- 1. WE ACCEPT** the responsibility of our respective positions, and promise, on grounds of our mutual covenants and through mutual love and trust, to adhere to the principles and rules as subsequently set forth and to be accountable for any violations of these agreed duties and obligations.
- 2. WE ACCEPT** that any failure to uphold the terms of this contract does not provide the grounds for the contract’s termination but rather, that both parties, with particular emphasis on the offending party, upon accepting the agreed consequences of the violation(s), agree to utilize their best effort to avoid any further violation(s).
- 3. WE ACCEPT** that both parties have entered into this contract to uphold the interests of both parties, and that this effort is meant to contribute to the relationship of parties, quality of life, and most importantly, the safety of the Teenager; and

4. This agreement is comprised of the explicit consent of the parties as defined below:

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teen Driver \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS, BOTH PARTIES CONSENT AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS, CONDITIONS AND STATEMENTS:**

**1. WE ACCEPT AND UNDERSTAND** the following to be the cornerstones of this contract:

- a. The overriding concern of this contract is to help provide for the health and safety of the Teenage Driver;
- b. Driving is a privilege, not a right, and will be treated as such by the Teenager;
- c. Parent(s) assume a substantial legal and financial responsibility by enabling the Teen Driver use of a vehicle;
- d. Teenager understands that improper use of a vehicle may injure or kill the driver, passengers, or others which would be totally devastating to parents;
- e. Teen Drivers are significantly more likely to be in accidents than experienced drivers;
- f. Nearly 40% of all 16 to 19 year old deaths are the result of motor vehicle accidents;
- g. Wearing your seatbelt and having your passengers wear their seatbelts, is a requirement for safety and access to a vehicle; and
- h. Teenager's improper use of a vehicle may not be covered by insurance which could jeopardize the family's savings, livelihood, cause the loss of the family's home, and may result in the family's financial ruin.

**THEREFORE, DUE TO THE CRITICAL NATURE AND POTENTIALLY FATAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH GRANTING THE TEEN DRIVER ACCESS TO A VEHICLE, BOTH PARTIES HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

**A. The Parent(s)/Guardian(s):**

- 1. ACCEPTS AND AGREES** that is our responsibility to be patient with and teach our Teen Driver the necessary skills to be a safe and competent driver. We also understand that we should be as patient as possible while teaching these skills and that we are ultimately responsible for ensuring that our Teen Driver is capable of driving and all the risks and dangers are understood by our teen;
- 2. ACCEPTS AND AGREES** that we need to take the time to answer all of our Teen Driver's questions about all issues related to the vehicle's operation and maintenance, inclement weather driving techniques, what to do if pulled over, where the insurance/registration information is located, and any other questions that may arise. We also acknowledge that doing so promotes the safety of our Teen Driver;
- 3. ACCEPTS AND AGREES** that being accessible and able to be contacted, by cell phone or other means, will make us better able to ensure the safety of our Teen Driver and also allow our Teen Driver to obtain any guidance when the need arises; and further

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4. The Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will pay for the following (if any), so long as the Teen Driver fulfills the agreed upon conditions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Teen Driver:**

1. **I, THE TEEN DRIVER**, will maintain a grade point average of \_\_\_\_\_ or better, otherwise my driving privileges will be subject to revocation until the next grading period when my grade point average has reached the required level;

2. **I, THE TEEN DRIVER**, will prohibit alcohol or drugs from entering the vehicle at any time. Moreover, I accept that it is my responsibility to have offenders leave the vehicle immediately and to contact my parents if they refuse to do so. A violation of this provision will result in the permanent revocation of my driving privileges;

3. **I, THE TEEN DRIVER**, will abstain from consuming any alcohol or drugs prior to driving the vehicle as well as any other substances that may impair my ability to drive safely. I also acknowledge that alcohol/drugs significantly increase my risk of being in an accident, and puts myself, my passengers, and family at risk for serious injury or death and serious legal ramifications. A violation of this rule will forfeit my driving privileges permanently;

4. **I, THE TEEN DRIVER**, understand that wearing a seatbelt reduces my likelihood of dying in a crash by 45%. Therefore, I will wear my seat belt whenever the car is in motion, and/or not safely parked and demand that all my passengers do so as well. I acknowledge that allowing my passengers to not wear their seatbelt places them at higher risk for injury and death, and also places me and my family at risk for legal repercussions. Likewise, I understand that it is my responsibility as the driver to verify that all of my passengers are abiding by this rule. A violation of this rule will forfeit my driving privileges for \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days;

5. **I, THE TEEN DRIVER**, understand that the number of passengers in a car contributes to an elevated risk of accidents, injury, and death for inexperienced drivers. Therefore, I agree that for the first six months of driving, I will have no more than \_\_\_\_\_ passengers in my vehicle at any time. Subsequently, if I am deemed ready by my parent(s)/guardian(s) and assuming no legislation prohibits me, I will be allowed no more than \_\_\_\_\_ passengers. This I understand may be subject to change if I fail to adequately perform the duties of a safe driver. I also acknowledge that a violation of this rule without specific permission will subject myself to the following penalty: suspension of driving privileges for \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days;

6. **I, THE TEEN DRIVER**, understand that driving while talking on a cell phone makes my reaction time equivalent to a 70-year old. Therefore, I agree to not call, text, or in any other way use a cell phone while driving. I will also avoid being a distracted driver by not playing loud music, adjusting the GPS while driving, driving with an unrestrained pet, eating or drinking while driving, or having others interfere with my ability to operate a vehicle. A violation of this rule will forfeit my driving privileges for \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days; and further

7. **I, THE TEEN DRIVER**, will accept the financial responsibility for all traffic violations; and further

8. **I, THE TEEN DRIVER**, will accept the financial responsibility for accidents resulting from my fault up to \$ \_\_\_\_\_; and further

9. **I, THE TEEN DRIVER**, will pay for the following (if any), so long as the Teen Driver fulfills the agreed upon conditions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**C. Joint Commitments:**

1. **BOTH PARTIES ACCEPT AND AGREE** that the Teen Driver must call the Parents, regardless of the time, for alternate transportation home to avoid either riding in or driving a vehicle where alcohol or drugs are involved, or to avoid a potentially dangerous situation. Both Parties agree that driving privileges will not be affected by this action. However, the Teen Driver concedes that details of the situation or other factors may result in other disciplinary actions or social restrictions. By way of example, a third party who drove drunk may be forbidden from the Teen Driver's vehicle. The Teen Driver accepts that the consequences of such punishments far outweigh the risks associated with entering a car with a drunk driver, or other alcohol and drug related situations;

2. **BOTH PARTIES ACCEPT AND AGREE** to the following rules:

- a. The Teen Driver shall obey all traffic and motor vehicle laws, rules, and regulations;
- b. The Teen Driver must be home with the vehicle by \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. unless there is a specific permission obtained for an alternate time;
- c. As the Teen Driver matures and demonstrates reliability, both parties agree to consider adjusting these times as deemed appropriate. Conversely, these times may be reduced if the Teen Driver fails to perform adequately as deemed by the terms of this contract; and
- d. Failure to observe curfew shall result in a suspension of driving privileges for \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days. Additional penalties/guidelines:

3. **BOTH PARTIES ACCEPT AND AGREE** that a ticket for exceeding the speed limit by less than ten mph will result in a suspension of privileges for \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days. A violation in excess of 10 mph will forfeit privileges for \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days. Additional penalties/guidelines:

4. **BOTH PARTIES ACCEPT AND AGREE** that other traffic violations will incur the following penalties:

- a. Following too closely \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days.
- b. Distracted Driving \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days.
- c. Running a Stop Sign \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days.
- d. Running a Stop Light \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days.
- e. Reckless Driving \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days.
- f. Failure to Yield Right-of-Way \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days.
- g. Other Violation \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days.

5. **BOTH PARTIES ACCEPT AND AGREE** that any collision for which the Teen Driver is at fault resulting in \$500 damage or more shall result in the suspension of driving privileges for \_\_\_\_\_ months/weeks/days.

6. **BOTH PARTIES ACCEPT AND AGREE** that this contract represents an effort to promote the Teen Driver's enjoyment of the benefits of driving while emphasizing the Teen Driver's safety. If the Teen Driver's actions are consistently in accordance with the terms of the contract, than the Teen Driver may enjoy increased privileges and benefits. These benefits may include broader use of vehicles, reduction in financial responsibilities, later curfews, and other privileges as agreed by both parties. Other terms and conditions are set forth in Addendum I.

BY SIGNING BELOW, both Parties accept and agree to the terms and covenants contained herein of this *Teen Driver and Parent/Guardian Contract*.

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_ Town/City \_\_\_\_ State

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_

Teen Driver

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

**TEEN DRIVER & PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT**

**Addendum I**

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teen Driver \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_