

The Parent/Teen Driving Contract

Did You Know?

Parents can cut their teen driver's crash risk in half if they set driving rules and monitor them in a supportive, non-controlling way.

By creating a Parent/Teen Driving Contract, you are actively engaged in keeping your teen safe behind the wheel.

The contract in this booklet can guide you and your teen in creating a mutual understanding of the rules and consequences of breaking them.

Visit codot.gov/safety/colorado-teen-drivers for more tools and tips for encouraging safe driving.



Visit coteendriver.com for up-to-date information on teen driving laws and links to other resources.

Teen Driving Resources

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| AAA Colorado | colorado.aaa.com |
| Colorado Department of Transportation | coteendriver.com coloradodot.info |
| Colorado State Patrol | csp.state.co.us |
| Colorado Department of Revenue Division of Motor Vehicles | (303) 205-5646 colorado.gov/revenue/dmv |
| Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association | rmiia.org/teen |
| Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment | colorado.gov/cdphe/ |
| DriveSmart Colorado | (719) 444-7534 drivesmartcolorado.com |



The Driver's Seat campaign and this brochure were developed by the Colorado Teen Driving Alliance, a coalition of state agencies, law enforcement and private partners concerned about teen driving safety.

codot.gov/safety/colorado-teen-drivers

When Your Teen is in the Driver's Seat



A Guide for Parents

Teen Driving and Graduated Drivers Licensing Laws (GDL) in Colorado



What's your role for your teen driver?

Did You Know?

Teens face the greatest risk of crashing during the first year of their license. One out of every five licensed 16-year-olds will be in a motor vehicle crash.

When your teen is in the driver's seat, you're far more than just a passenger.

Your job is to steer your teen into a lifetime of safe driving. As a team, the two of you can navigate Colorado's laws and safety guidelines. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for teenagers because they lack driving experience. That's why your role during your teen's first year behind the wheel is so critical.

What parents should do:

- Learn Colorado's Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) laws.
- Enroll your teen in driver education.
- Supervise your teen's driving.
- Set family rules and limits by creating a Parent/Teen Driving Contract.
- Impose consequences for violations.

What is GDL?

Colorado implemented Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) laws to help teenagers gain important driving skills gradually while limiting dangers by restricting the number of passengers, banning cellphone use and setting a curfew. Whereas the GDL laws aren't always convenient for busy parents and teens, their impact on saving young lives is indisputable.

Parent/Teen Driving Contract

Rules and Consequences

- Read, discuss and put into effect each rule in the contract.
- Discuss and write in possible consequences.
- Sign and date at the bottom to confirm your agreement and commitment.
- Tear out contract and display as a reminder.

Driving Rules

Consequences

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| <p>1. Passenger restrictions I agree to abide by the state law for passenger restrictions. I will have no passengers under 21 during the first six months with my license and no more than one passenger under 21 until I have had my license for one year. At any time there will be only one passenger in the front seat.</p> | <p>Lose driving privileges for ____ wks/mos Other: _____</p> |
| <p>2. Seat belts I will always wear a seat belt. All of my passengers will wear seat belts, as required by law.</p> | <p>Lose driving privileges for ____ wks/mos Other: _____</p> |
| <p>3. Curfews I will not drive after ____ p.m. I understand that it is against state law to drive between midnight and 5 a.m. For the first year with my license. Check local curfew, which may vary from state laws.</p> | <p>Lose driving privileges for ____ wks/mos Other: _____</p> |
| <p>4. Check in I will check in with my parent(s) or guardian(s) every time I drive and let them know where I am going, who I am going with and when I will return.</p> | <p>Lose driving privileges for ____ wks/mos Other: _____</p> |
| <p>5. Alcohol and drugs I will never use alcohol or drugs when I am driving and never ride with someone who has used them. Colorado has a zero tolerance law for minor drivers.</p> | <p>Lose driving privileges for ____ wks/mos Other: _____</p> |
| <p>6. Distractions I will not talk/text on my cellphone while driving, as required by law. I will not eat while driving. I will not adjust the radio, CD or MP3 player when driving. I will not wear headphones to listen to music while driving. I will not allow any passenger "horseplay" while driving.</p> | <p>Lose driving privileges for ____ wks/mos Other: _____</p> |
| <p>7. Driving while tired or emotional I will not drive if I am overly tired. I will not drive if I am overly emotional (i.e., excited, angry, sad).</p> | <p>Lose driving privileges for ____ wks/mos Other: _____</p> |
| <p>8. Traffic laws I will obey all traffic laws and rules of the road.</p> | <p>Lose driving privileges for ____ wks/mos Other: _____</p> |
| <p>9. Carrying important documents I will always carry my driver's license, registration, insurance papers and emergency information when I drive.</p> | <p>Lose driving privileges for ____ wks/mos Other: _____</p> |
| <p>10. Other:</p> | <p>Lose driving privileges for ____ wks/mos Other: _____</p> |

We both understand and agree to these driving conditions and rules.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Teen Signature

Date