

# Parent/Teen Driving Agreement

## *We jointly agree . . .*

In all forms of human relations — friends, spouses, families, and nations — conflicts most often arise from misunderstandings. “I didn’t know. You never said. But, I thought,” are all expressions of misunderstanding. As we embark on one of the most stressful and exciting times we will ever experience as a family — teaching a teen to drive and the transition from dependent to independent...

**WE, THE PARENTS, AND THE NEW DRIVER, AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING GROUND RULES.**

**WE JOINTLY AGREE** on the importance of trust between us, on the responsibilities we each have and the consequences associated with failure to fulfill our individual responsibilities. Bad things may happen. Mistakes might be made. Failures could occur. But, through it all what will bind us and keep us healthy and together is our agreement to a set of conditions. This agreement between

\_\_\_\_\_ as parents and

\_\_\_\_\_, the New Driver, hereby sets forth what each expects of the other.

**WE JOINTLY AGREE** on the following truths.

- Driving a car can be dangerous to your health and happiness.
- New drivers have more accidents than experienced drivers.
- Driving is a privilege, not a right.
- The use of a car is a privilege, not a right.
- Parents take on an awesome financial responsibility when they allow a minor child to use a family vehicle.
- Misuse of a vehicle by a minor can result in the destruction of the family’s economic health through claims by injured parties that exceed the family’s insurance coverage. Families can lose their home and life savings because of auto accidents.

Therefore, in recognition of the gravity and risks associated with granting the New Driver certain driving privileges, the parties make the following agreements:

**1. WE PARENTS** will approach the process of teaching our New Driver the appropriate skills, patience and support. We will accept that this is a learning process and do everything in our power to mentor and coach the New Driver through each level of learning. We understand that our role is to encourage, not to criticize; to demonstrate, not to remonstrate. We will accept whatever pace the New Driver achieves in developing skills as their pace and not try to rush the process. We recognize that this is a physical skill and an overall attitude of responsibility that we are teaching, and everyone develops at a different pace.

**2. WE PARENTS** agree to establish a schedule of training and to honor that schedule reliably so that the New Driver can depend on the opportunity to learn and to achieve their goals.

**3. I as NEW DRIVER AGREE** to maintain a grade point average of \_\_\_\_\_ or better, in order to maintain driving privileges.

**4. I as NEW DRIVER AGREE** to the following rules governing the use of any vehicle.

- 4.1 There will be no alcohol or drugs permitted in the car at any time. I promise to eject anyone who violates this rule, or to call my parents if I am unable to get the offenders to vacate the car.
- 4.2 I promise to consume zero alcohol or drugs prior to driving the car. There is no such thing in this agreement as “acceptable blood alcohol limit”.
- 4.3 I will wear seat belts whenever the car is in motion and demand that all passengers do the same.
- 4.4 I will only drive in the set geographic limits my parents and I have agreed upon, or request special permission to go outside the limits.

5. **WE JOINTLY AGREE** that failure on any of these counts will result in the suspension of driving privileges for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months.

6. **WE JOINTLY AGREE** that the New Driver may, at any time he or she deems appropriate, call the parents for alternate transportation home to avoid either riding in or driving a car where alcohol or drugs are involved. **WE AGREE** that such an incident shall not affect future driving privileges.

7. **I as NEW DRIVER AGREE** that for the first six months of driving, there will never be more than \_\_\_\_ people in the car with the New Driver. Thereafter, for the next \_\_\_\_ months there will never be more than \_\_\_\_ people in the car with the New Driver. Failure to observe this rule without specific permission will result in a suspension of driving privileges for \_\_\_\_\_ days/weeks.

8. **WE JOINTLY AGREE** on the following rules regarding curfews.

7.1 The New Driver will observe those specific limitations set forth in state law.

7.2 The New Driver must be home with the car by \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. unless there is a specific agreement on an alternate time.

7.3 As the New Driver demonstrates reliability, we agree to adjust these times to reflect greater freedom.

7.4 Failure to observe curfew will result in a suspension of driving privileges for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months.

9. **WE JOINTLY AGREE** that a citation for speeding of less than 10 mph over the speed limit will result in a suspension of driving privileges for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months. For a violation in excess of 10 mph over the speed limit, the suspension will be \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months.

For other traffic violations, the suspension schedule will be:

9.1 Careless Driving \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months.

9.2 Reckless Driving \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months.

9.3 Following Too Closely \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months.

9.4 Failure to Yield Right-of-Way \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months.

9.5 Running a Stop Light \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months.

9.6 Running a Stop Sign \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months.

9.7 Any At-Fault Collision resulting in \$500 damage or more will result in a suspension of \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months.

10. **I as NEW DRIVER AGREE** to not text message while driving. I will not dial or use a cell phone in any manner while driving and will pull over to answer the phone.

11. **I as a NEW DRIVER AGREE** to accept financial responsibility for the above-listed traffic violations or accidents up to \$\_\_\_\_\_.

12. **WE JOINTLY AGREE** that this family wants the New Driver to enjoy all the positive benefits of driving — convenience, entertainment, occupation, recreation and independence. Therefore, we agree to jointly establish a program of ongoing rewards for the continued faithful performance of the New Driver. This may include increased use of family vehicles, reduction in curfew restrictions, credits against suspension periods and other rewards as we may jointly agree.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Parents

\_\_\_\_\_  
FUI Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
The New Driver

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

