

Parent/Teen Driving Agreement

University of North Carolina
Highway Safety Research Center

Even after many months of driving practice, when teens move from supervised driving to driving without an adult in the car, their crash rate increases sharply. This reflects the many crash risks that result from poor judgment, dangerous conditions and other things besides technical “driving skill” that are involved in crashes.

Fortunately, even though you are no longer in the car, there is still something parents can do to help protect their teen. This is where the *Parent/Teen Driving Agreement* comes in. The driving agreement helps make sure the driving conditions are as safe as possible for your teen even when you’re not there.

What is a driving agreement?

It’s a formal agreement between parents and teens. It includes specific things that *both* parents and teens agree to do. Parents have found that driving agreements work well to keep teens safe when they first begin to drive on their own by making expectations clear.

How does the driving agreement work?

1. You and your teen should talk about the driving agreement and why it’s important. Keep in mind that an agreement only works when *everyone* agrees to it.
2. Fill in the restrictions on the teen’s driver license that apply in your state (for example, night driving, passenger, or seat belt restrictions).
3. Next, you and your teen should create a driving agreement that best fits your family. Talk with your teen and listen to his or her suggestions about what to include in the agreement. This is something you should create *together*. If you need a few ideas to get started, see the sample agreement that is provided.
4. When you and your teen are satisfied with the driving agreement, both of you should sign it at the bottom. Also, make sure to write down a starting and ending date for the agreement (on the left hand side). Finally, keep the agreement somewhere that you are likely to see it often, such as the refrigerator door.
5. After a month or two, you and your teen should review the driving agreement and make changes to it. For example, if your agreement says that your teen is only allowed to drive during clear weather, you might change this to include rainy weather if you both feel comfortable with your teen’s progress.

Parent/Teen Driving Agreement

Teen Agreement

I agree to know and abide by all restrictions that apply to my driver's license. These include:

In addition, I agree to:

Teen signature: _____

Parent Agreement

As a parent or guardian for my teen, I agree to:

Parent signature(s): _____

Review on: _____

Ending: _____

Starting: _____

TIME PERIOD: _____

Sample Driving Agreement

Parent/Teen Driving Agreement

Review on: 12/15/03

Ending: 3/15/04

TIME PERIOD: Starting: 9/15/03

Teen Agreement

I agree to know and abide by all restrictions that apply to my driver's license. These include:

Driving only between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. unless I am being supervised.

Driving with no more than 1 teen passenger in the car, because I know that other teens can distract me.

Making sure each and every person in the vehicle (including me) is wearing a seat belt.

In addition, I agree to:

Not drive when my abilities may be affected by my physical condition, for example, when sleepy, after drinking, or after taking some cold or allergy medications.

Only drive the Ford Taurus unless I get permission from you to drive a different car.

Only use the car to drive to and from school, baseball practice, or Johnny Morton's house.

Get permission from you if I need to drive somewhere else.

Request your help if I need a ride after 9 p.m. (or for some other reason).

Respect other drivers and not drive aggressively.

Avoid distractions while driving, such as eating, changing CDs, or using a cell phone.

Teen signature: Tamara Evans

Parent Agreement

As a parent or guardian for my teen, I agree to:

Drive safely and be a good role model for you, including wearing my seat belt.

Allow you to use the Ford Taurus anywhere in town if, after three months, you have no traffic tickets or crashes.

Drive you to and from any activities after 9 p.m.

Respect other drivers and not drive aggressively.

Avoid distractions while driving, such as eating, changing CDs, or using a cell phone.

Parent signature(s): Bill Evans Monica Evans