

When it comes to driving...what you need to know comes in *three flavors...*

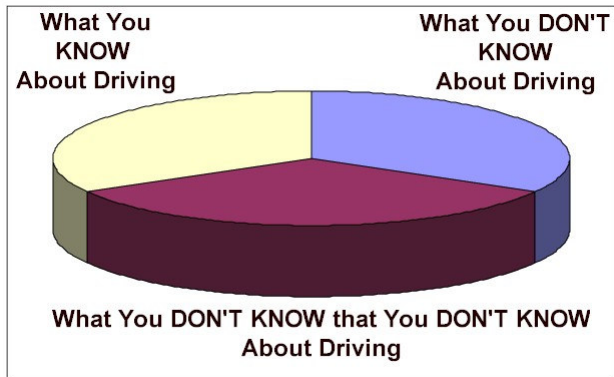
Safe Teen Driving Pledge

There are things **you KNOW** about driving.

There are things **you DON'T KNOW** about driving.

And then, **there are things you DON'T KNOW that you DON'T KNOW!**

And *that's* what causes young and beginning drivers the greatest problems.



Here are some of the things you probably **KNOW** about driving. (You've heard them plenty of times).

- Driving safely takes practice. It's something you **learn** to do – it's not a natural skill.
- Driving is a privilege, not a right.
- You can lose your license if you drop out of school (most states).
- You can be charged with homicide as the driver in a fatal accident.
- And other serious stuff.

- You also know that driving gives you real **FREEDOM!**
- It gets you off the school bus.
- It lets you get away from parents and have fun with your friends.
- Being able to drive marks you as a young adult.

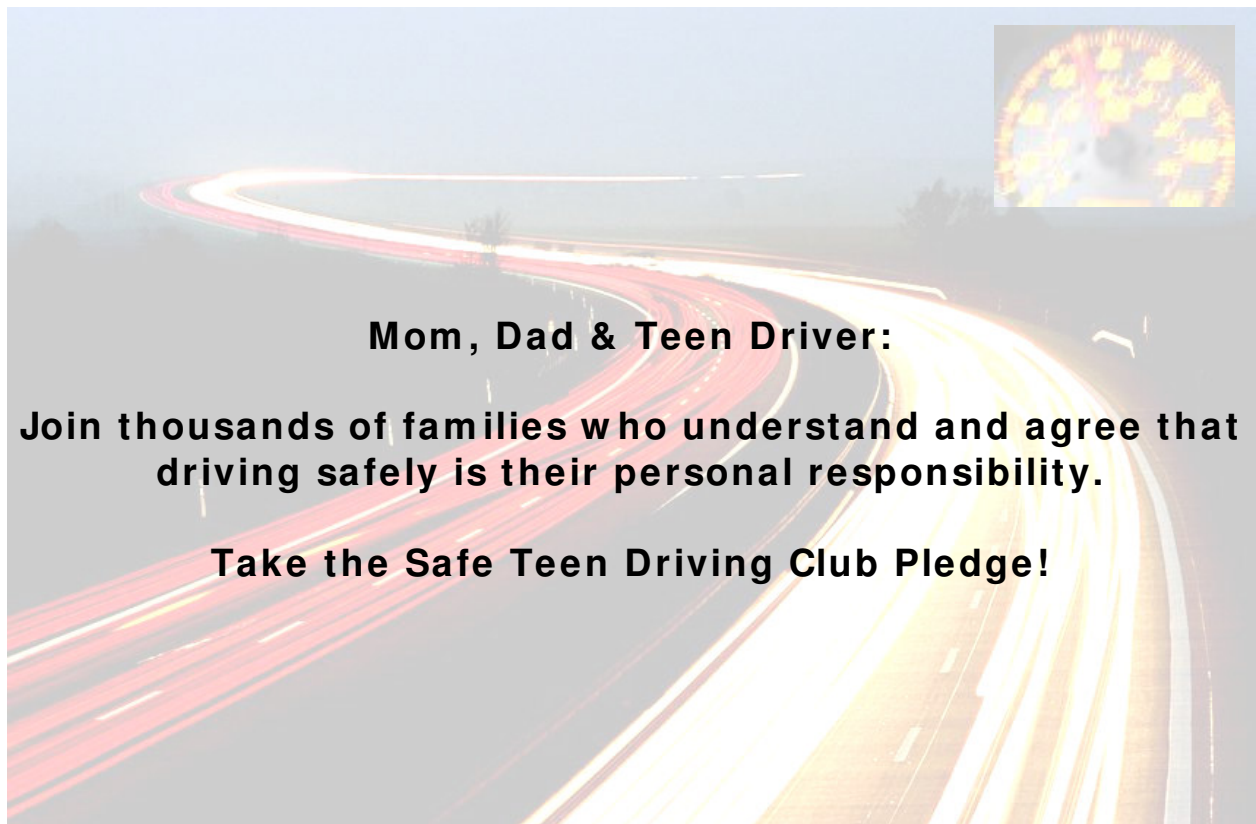
Here are a few things you probably **DON'T KNOW** about driving.

- Teens at age 16 have *twice as many accidents* as 85 year olds and *four times as many accidents* as 18 year olds.
- On average, for every teen driver fatality, two other people also die. These are usually passengers or other motorists.
- Teen drivers cause more fatal accidents than any other group of drivers, mile for mile.
- Over 20,000 teens died in car accidents in the past 3-1/2 years. Some 300,000 every year have survived a crash but been seriously injured and received Emergency Room care.
- Teen drivers – both boys and girls – are notorious for risky driving behaviors like speeding, failing to wear seat belts and becoming distracted at the wheel.



And here's what you probably ***DON'T KNOW that YOU DON'T KNOW...***

- The human brain doesn't fully mature until the early 20's, especially the pre-frontal cortex. That's the "executive" part of the brain that affects decision-making and good judgment. Younger brains are still "under construction." It's *especially* important to STOP, THINK and RECONSIDER *before* you drive in a risky way that creates hazards for you and others. Acting on impulse without sober thought causes accidents.
- Teen/Parent agreements are proven to reduce the number of accidents. Parents and teens who agree to formalize driving rules – and stick to them – are involved in fewer accidents than those who don't.
- An accident or fatality CAN happen to you – whether you feel invulnerable and invincible with your whole life ahead of you – or not. Not only that it *can*, but statistically teens are *far more likely* to have an accident than any other driver on the road! According to the National Safety Council, 58% of teens have crashed within their first year of driving.



Mom, Dad & Teen Driver:

Join thousands of families who understand and agree that driving safely is their personal responsibility.

Take the Safe Teen Driving Club Pledge!



I PLEDGE — STARTING THIS MOMENT — TO DRIVE SAFELY!

(Teen initial each item below)

I understand that driving laws are made for the protection of the general public — including me, my passengers, other motorists and pedestrians nearby. I pledge to drive safely and within the law at all times. Specifically:

I WILL OBEY DRIVING LAWS

_____ I will obey speed limits, traffic signs, signals and laws.

_____ I will wear a seat belt at all times, regardless of how far I am driving. I will insist that my passengers buckle up as well.

_____ I will *not* drive aggressively by racing, speeding, tailgating or cutting others off in traffic.

_____ I will learn and understand the Graduated Driver Licensing laws in my state. These may require me to observe driving curfews; they may limit the number of passengers in my vehicle; they may restrict my use of a cell phone. I will require my parents to help me learn to drive as required by law (most states). Whether I agree with these laws or not, I will comply with them because they are the law.

_____ I will not drive when I am under the influence of drugs or alcohol. I will not get into nor ride as a passenger in a vehicle when the driver is under the influence.

I WILL DRIVE RESPONSIBLY

_____ I understand that *I alone* am responsible for my actions behind the wheel.

_____ I will *reconsider* when I feel the “need” to hurry, drive fast or recklessly. On reconsidering, I will *slow down*. I understand that being late is better than having an accident.

_____ I will tell my parents where I am going, who else will be in the vehicle, what route I am taking and when I will return. If my trip changes I will notify my parents.

_____ I will remain alert when I am driving. If I feel drowsy or cannot give my full attention to driving, I will pull off the road and call for help.

_____ I will drive defensively at all times. I understand that I am responsible for my own safety, that of my passengers, and that of nearby motorists and pedestrians.

_____ I will *not* allow myself to become *distracted* while driving by using a cell phone, an iPod, trying to tune the radio, eating, drinking, smoking or engaging in other actions that take my attention away from the road ahead and the traffic situation around me.

_____ I will keep the volume on the radio or music player to level where I can clearly hear sounds outside the car. I will not wear earphone or ear buds while driving (illegal in most states).

_____ I will *not* drive if I am angry, over-tired or in a physical or emotional condition that can impair my driving.

_____ I will be aware of weather conditions that can affect my driving and will pull over and call for help if I am not able to drive safely.

_____ I will exercise extra caution when driving at night or when visibility is restricted by weather conditions.



I WILL OBEY THE DRIVING RULES MY PARENTS SET DOWN.

_____ If I am going to be more than _____ minutes late returning home or if I cannot get home safely or if my destination changes, I will call my parents.

_____ I will not neglect my regular responsibilities including chores at home, attendance and performance at school.

_____ My driving privileges may be lost or restricted if I do not keep my promises regarding the items above. My parents and I agree that the following restrictions will apply:

Legend:

1 = No driving for _____ (days/weeks) **2** = No driving for _____ (days/weeks)

3 = Other Restriction: _____

Infraction	Restrictions Imposed by Parents (Insert Code from Legend Above)
Driving after having used drugs or alcohol	
Failing to buckle up	
Being ticketed for a moving violation	
Lying about the destination of a trip	
Speeding, racing or driving aggressively	
Driving beyond curfew hours established by law or by my parents	
Driving with passengers not allowed by law, based on age or number of passengers.	
Violating any of the Graduated Driver Licensing laws in my state. (Visit www.dmv.org to learn the laws in your state)	
Failing to call home if you will be late or if your destination changes.	
Disabling GPS vehicle location services, if your vehicle is so equipped.	

If there are other key rules you wish to establish, continue on additional pages as needed.



Parents: Take Note!

Your son or daughter is pledging to do his or her best to be a safe and responsible driver, beginning *right now!* It is important that you *establish driving rules* for your young adult and that you *take an active role* in helping your teen learn to drive safely.

AS A PARENT OR GUARDIAN, I AGREE THAT: (Parent initial each item below)

_____ I will learn and help my teen comply with Graduated Driver Licensing laws in my state.

_____ I will arrange for driver's training for my teen.

_____ I will ride with my teen as s/he learns to drive...and (if required by law in my state) will submit an affidavit to the licensing authority certifying that s/he has completed the required number of accompanied, supervised practice driving hours.

_____ I will listen in a respectful manner to explanations or concerns expressed by my teen regarding the terms of this contract.

_____ I will serve as a good role model when operating a vehicle, knowing that my behavior influences that of my teen.

_____ I will respectfully provide feedback to my teen on driving performance and behavior.

_____ I will respond reasonably, moderately and fairly if my teen calls for assistance due to his or her inability to drive, due to a traffic accident, weather situation or any other driving or roadside emergency.

WE EACH PLEDGE TO FOLLOW THE TERMS OF THIS DRIVING CONTRACT:

_____ Teen Driver's Signature

_____ Date

_____ Parent or Guardian's Signature

_____ Date

As your teen gains experience in driving, you should review this Pledge and make changes that reflect the maturity and good driving behavior your teen exhibits. We recommend that teens and parents review the terms of this Pledge each 3 months.

Next Review Date for this Contract: _____

