

# PARENT-TEEN DRIVING AGREEMENT



Driving is a privilege and the safety of your teen driver is priority number one. A Parent-Teen driving agreement is designed to help parents and teen drivers by establishing a list of safe driving practices, violations, and the corresponding consequences for not following the agreement. Through open communication, this agreement seeks to encourage trust while allowing the driver to explore their new level of independence.

I \_\_\_\_\_ , acknowledge that I am being given permission to drive a car by my parents. I am aware of the responsibility that driving entails, and am voluntarily entering into the following agreement with my parents.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) I understand that being given permission to drive is **not** a right. My parents are under no obligation to let me drive, and they may take away this privilege at any time. I understand that just because I meet the State's requirements to drive a car, doesn't give me the automatic right to drive.

## Driving is a very serious privilege and I am aware of the following:

Car accidents are the **leading cause of death** in 16-20 year olds.

initial

If I make an error or am reckless in my driving, I could hurt myself, people in the car with me, other people or pedestrians.

initial

I will never talk on the phone in the car (not even on Bluetooth) until I have pulled over to a safe place.

initial

I will never text while driving. I will put my phone in a place out of reach and will not retrieve it until I am parked and the engine is off.

initial

I will never operate the car without my parent's permission. Even if the car is a gift to me, my parents are still legally responsible for both my actions and the car.

initial

I will obey all driving rules. I will only drive the speed limit and will obey all traffic laws. I acknowledge that these laws are there to protect myself and others.

initial

I understand that my parents and I are coming to an agreement about my driving privileges and that depending on how well I handle the responsibility of driving, my parents may change the rules depending on how well I handle the responsibility.

initial

I understand that until I reach the age of 18, any criminal or other acts that I commit may also lead to personal responsibility for my parents. This could include jail time or financial liability for any reckless acts or other serious consequences and could cause my parents to lose everything they have worked for.

initial

**If at any time, my parents revoke my permission to drive, for any reason, I will hand over the keys immediately with no argument. If I drive for any reason without my parents' permission, this contract may be cancelled, and my parents may call the police.**

initial

I have read all the rules below, and agree to abide by them.

initial

## Rules:

01

**No Alcohol Use.** It is illegal for me to drink and my parents do not allow it. If for some reason, I consume alcohol, I will not drive for at least a day, and if I am out with the car, I will call my parents to come and get me.\*

02

### No Drug Use.

**a. No Illegal Drug use.** It is illegal for me to use any illegal drug/substance. There is no "acceptable" drug. If I use any drug, I will not drive the car for at least 3 days and if I use any illegal drug while I am out with the car, I will call my parents to come and get me.\*

**b. Prescription Drug Use.** Several legal drugs that are prescribed by a doctor cause dizziness, or have other side effects that impact your ability to drive. I will inform my parents of any prescriptions I am taking and they will decide if I can drive while taking them.

03

### Safety with Other Drivers or Passengers.

**a.** I will not get in any vehicle if the driver has used any alcohol or drugs. Even if I am not sure, I will not take a chance.

**b.** If I am in the situation above, I will call my parents or another person to come and get me.\*

**c.** I will not allow any alcohol or drugs in the car. I understand that if alcohol or drugs are found in the car, they are automatically considered mine even if they don't belong to me.

- 04 Reporting Accidents or Tickets.** I will let my parents know about any tickets, accidents or any other incidents involving the police. My parents understand that by calling them, I am taking responsibility. They have told me that I may call them at any time day or night if I find myself in a dangerous situation and that they will try to be understanding and patient.
- 05 No Firearms/Weapons.** I will not drive the car with any firearms or weapons in the vehicle. I will also not allow any passenger to bring any firearms or weapons into the car.
- 06 No Other Drivers.** I will never allow anyone else to drive the car unless it is an emergency, and only if I contact my parents for permission, and the other driver has a valid driver's license.
- 07 No Driving while Upset.** I understand that my driving skills are affected by my emotions. If I am upset or angry, I agree not to drive and will contact my parents to come and get me. My parents agree to give me privacy about personal matters.
- 08 Vehicle Care.** I will protect the car at all times. I will keep it clean inside and out, and if I have other responsibilities, I will make sure they are completed when needed.
- 09 Seatbelts.** I will wear my seatbelt at all times, and will not move the car unless all passengers are wearing them also.
- 10 Passengers.** I will not drive any of my friends until I know that their parents have given them permission to ride in the car with me.
- 11 No Smoking.** I will not smoke in the car or allow anyone to smoke in the car.
- 12 Eating and Drinking.** I will not eat or drink while driving.
- 13 Stereo System/MP3/iPod/Pandora, etc.** I can drive with the car stereo on, but will not play it loudly or adjust the station or volume while the car is moving. I will not wear any kind of headphones while I am driving.
- 14 Distractions.** I understand that not every situation can be described in this Agreement, and I agree to always do my best to avoid anything that distracts me from focusing on my driving.
- 15 Weather.** Weather has a huge impact on driving. I understand that driving in bad weather not only puts myself, the car and any other passengers at risk. If I am given permission to drive in bad weather, I will take extra caution, and drive under the speed limit and will notify my parents when I reach my destination.

## Penalties:

- 01** **Speeding Tickets or Moving Violations.** I understand that if I get a ticket, that my parents may suspend my driving privileges. I will also have to pay all tickets and fines.
- 02** **Maintenance.** I understand that if I do not keep the car clean and maintain the car as my parents have required, I may lose my driving privileges until they feel that I can be responsible.
- 03** **Family Obligations.** I understand that my parents may need me to drive members of my family. Even if these obligations are conflicting with my schedule, family obligations will always come first. If I fail to help my family, my parents may suspend my driving privileges.
- 04** **Home, School, and other Responsibilities.** I understand that I am being **allowed** to use the car on the condition that I demonstrate that I can be responsible. I will keep up with schoolwork and get good grades. I will do any household chores that are assigned to me, and will be respectful to my parents and other adults. If at any time, my parents feel that I am not being responsible, they may suspend my driving privileges until they feel I have earned the right to drive again.
- 05** **Curfew.** I understand that just as I have a curfew to be home, I have a curfew with the car. Each time I am given permission to use the car, I will tell my parents where I will be, and make sure I understand what time I need to be back home. If I disobey my curfew, I understand that my driving privileges may be suspended.

Violations:	Consequences:
Used cell phone while driving	Lose driving privileges for ____ months/years Other: _____
Received ticket for speeding	Lose driving privileges for ____ months/years Other: _____
Did not require passengers to wear seat belts	Lose driving privileges for ____ months/years Other: _____
Came home late without calling	Lose driving privileges for ____ months/years Other: _____
Drove with too many passengers	Lose driving privileges for ____ months/years Other: _____
Drove under the influence of alcohol or drugs	Lose driving privileges for ____ months/years Other: _____

Violations:	Consequences:

\*\*\* Enter additional violations and consequences as needed.

I UNDERSTAND THAT MY PARENTS ARE CREATING THIS CONTRACT WITH ME BECAUSE THEY CARE ABOUT ME AND WANT WHAT IS BEST FOR ME.

I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS BEST TO HAVE ALL THE RULES AND REGULATIONS DEFINED TO AVOID CONFUSION AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS DOWN THE ROAD.

### Signatures

..... Date: .....

*Driver*

..... Date: .....

*Parent (or guardian)*

..... Date: .....

*Parent (or guardian)*