



Parent Commitment to Teen Safe Driving



Now that you have the facts and are familiar with California Graduated Driver License Laws, you are ready to act and be a role model. Parents are the key to reducing teen driver crashes. Below is advice for parents to help their teens make good driving decisions and become safe teen drivers. Don't let your child become a statistic.

- **Know the law.** Become familiar with the graduated driver licensing laws. Help your teen comply with the GDL rules. Enforce the rules. Provide real penalties for not following GDL guidelines: take the keys.
- **Communication is key.** Talk directly to your teens about their driving behaviors and expectations in yours and other teen's cars. Set consequences for rule violations and reward them for positive driving decisions.
- **Schedule supervised practices.** Most teen crashes are the result of rookie mistakes. The required 50 hours is the minimum to learn complicated skills of driving. Teens need lots of driving practice on various roads and a wide range of situations and conditions to learn necessary driving skills.
- **Be a role model.** Set a good example for your teen. New drivers learn a lot by example. Your teen is watching you. Don't expect them to "practice what you preach" on safe driving behaviors if you don't model these behaviors.
- **Insist on seatbelts.** Always buckle up on every ride, every time. Require all passengers to do the same.
- **Monitor your teen's travel.** Know where your teen is going, whom they will be with and when they will return home. Make sure when driving alone, the roads are familiar and restrict trips to travel with a purpose. Don't let your teen ride with drivers who have less than one year's experience.
- **Prohibit alcohol and drugs while driving.** It's against the law. Alcohol and drugs are highly dangerous for a teenager as even small amounts can impair their driving abilities. Don't ride with anyone who has been drinking or doing drugs.
- **Create a parent-teen driving contract.** Set clear rules for safe driving. Teens with parents who set rules on driving are less likely to be involved in a crash, engage risky driving, or get tickets. A contract can help make the rules and consequences for rules violations clear.
- **Positive reinforcement.** Helps develop a responsible driver and young adult. Be sure to acknowledge what your teen is doing right when driving.