

Parent/teen sample contract

Item 1: Driving Hours

Remember that until the age of 18, driving hours are limited in accordance with the graduated licensing law (see page 11). You may decide to further restrict these hours.

Parent/Teen Agreement:

Consequence:

Item 2: Passengers

We strongly encourage you to limit teen passengers. The facts are clear that the more teen passengers, the greater the chance for crashes to occur.

Parent/Teen Agreement:

Consequence:

Item 3: Driving Violations/Tickets

Teens are expected to obey all traffic laws. If they don't, who will pay the ticket? What other consequences will there be? Many parents remove all driving privileges for a period of time, determined in part by the severity of the offense.

Parent/Teen Agreement:

Consequence:

Item 4: Safety Belts

Law requires safety belt usage. Make your teen responsible for requiring everyone in the vehicle to buckle up. There should never be more passengers in the car than there are seat belts. Have your teen state that they understand that the seat belt law is a primary enforcement law which means that the police can stop their vehicle if anyone is not properly secured and the driver gets the citation for all those under 18 who are not properly secured by a safety belt or child safety seat.

Parent/Teen Agreement:

Consequence:

Item 5: Vehicle Responsibilities

If teens are driving a family car (which we recommend for at least a while), will they help pay for maintenance and gas? If they damage the car, will they be responsible for repairs? What other consequences will there be? How will these issues be handled if they occur in their own vehicle?

Parent/Teen Agreement:

Consequence:

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Item 6: Unacceptable Driving Behaviors/Activities

These include any activity where the driver takes his/her eyes off the road and/or takes one or both hands off the steering wheel when the car is not in park or turned off. Common distracted behaviors include: talking and texting on a cell phone, eating, applying makeup, reading and any type of horseplay.

Parent/Teen Agreement:

Consequence:

Item 7: Weather Conditions

In Florida, we can't always avoid a thunderstorm, but teens (really all drivers) should avoid driving in any severe weather. It is best to wait until the storm passes. As a teen begins to learn to drive, you may want to only allow driving during dry conditions.

Parent/Teen Agreement:

Consequence:

Item 8: Trip Plan

Teens should drive with a purpose in mind and not just go for a ride. We strongly suggest that you require your teen driver to check in each time they drive and give you detailed information about where they are going, when they will return and who they are with.

Parent/Teen Agreement:

Consequence:

Item 9: Other

You may wish to include other issues in the contract, such as grades and family responsibilities like picking up a sibling from after school activities.

Parent/Teen Agreement:

Consequence:

Signature of Teen

Signature of Parent

Date