

**FAMILY-TO-FAMILY AGREEMENT
PARENT-TEEN DRIVING AGREEMENT**

DRIVING CONTRACTS



Please visit AAA.com/drivingcontracts to download a printable version of the Parent-Teen Driving Agreement and the Family-to-Family Agreement. Please note that these agreements may be customized to fit your needs. You may choose to use the agreements as is, or only choose sections that you feel comfortable in implementing.

FAMILY-TO-FAMILY AGREEMENT

Stronger laws play a part in keeping roads safe for everyone, but parents play a critical role in enforcing these laws and serving as good role models for their children. Since many state laws lack key provisions, graduated driver licensing laws should be considered as baselines. It is recommended that parents in states with weak passenger restrictions not allow their teen to ride with other teen drivers and not allow them to transport other teens in the first year of driving. It's tempting to be lured by the convenience of having other options for getting kids to and from school and practices, but the risks are just too great.

Recognizing that parents may feel awkward about enforcing rules that other parents are not enforcing, AAA encourages parents to work as a team to ensure teens gain driving experience in the safest environment possible during that first year. AAA also encourages parents to talk with one another about the driving rules in their respective homes and encourages them to develop some common rules. That way, teens who are friends have the same or similar rules, which helps remove some of the peer pressure to break parental-imposed rules.

Families are joining forces by creating voluntary Family-to-Family Agreements that define acceptable driving behavior. Some high schools and community organizations also are encouraging these contracts to create a support system for parents and greater protection for teens.



FAMILY-TO-FAMILY AGREEMENT

W *We, the undersigned parents agree to work as a team to ensure teens gain driving experience in the safest environment possible. Because we care about our teens and respect the responsibilities of parents, we:*

Agree that our teens won't drive with other teen passengers or be driven by a teen driver for a period of at least _____ months. We recognize that each passenger increases risk. We shall not allow our new driver to have passengers. We ask that you place the same restriction on your teen.

Agree that our teens won't drive at night between the hours of _____ to _____ for a period of at least _____ months.

Agree to talk to our teens about the importance of always wearing a safety belt — in every seating position in the vehicle.

Shall not provide alcohol or other drugs to teens who are guests in our home, nor will we allow teens to bring alcohol or other drugs into our home. We ask that you observe these same restrictions.

Agree to monitor our behavior in the car and be the best role models possible for our teen drivers.

If we suspect your teen has been drinking or using other drugs, or is otherwise unfit to drive, we will call you. If we cannot reach you, we will get your teen home safely.

We will call you if we have questions about the whereabouts, supervision or driving behavior of our teen. We encourage you to call us if you have any concerns.

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____

Contact Numbers: _____

(Day)

(Night)

** Although we intend to honor the terms of this agreement, we understand that this is not a legally enforceable contract.*

SPELL IT OUT: CREATE A PARENT-TEEN DRIVING AGREEMENT

G *Graduated licensing laws put restrictions on inexperienced drivers. As drivers gain experience, they earn additional privileges.*

As a parent, you also can add protective guidelines through a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement. These agreements were pioneered about 15 years ago to address some key facts:

- A recent study by the National Institutes of Health confirms that parental involvement and restrictions significantly reduce risky driving behavior during a driver's first 12–18 months behind the wheel.
- Teens lack experience and judgment and are susceptible to impulse behavior and peer pressure. A contract can help teens govern their behavior in unfamiliar circumstances.

A contract communicates that driving is a privilege that your family takes seriously.

It's important that parents and teens share a clear understanding of expectations and consequences. Putting expectations and consequences in writing helps parents enforce standards consistently.

Parents should review and adjust the contract before presenting it to the teen for discussion. To make this contract meaningful, it's important that you do not allow your teen to drive independently until the agreement is signed.

Schedule a review date for the contract. As your new driver demonstrates good driving habits and good judgment over time, specific points in the contract may be renegotiated. You may relax restrictions or allow special privileges, or if your teen has not lived up to the contract, add new restrictions.



PARENT-TEEN DRIVING AGREEMENT

Our family enters into this agreement covering the operation of any family vehicle by

(Teen's Name): _____

Non-Negotiable Rules

(teen to acknowledge each rule with initials)

I understand that the car I drive is my parent's or guardian's property and I may only drive it with their permission and in accordance with their rules and restrictions.

I WILL:

- () wear my safety belt at all times, when driving or riding as a passenger;
- () require that every passenger wear a safety belt;
- () keep my doors locked while driving;
- () always drive at safe speeds for the conditions — at or below the speed limit;
- () obey traffic laws.

The terms of this contract may change based on how I handle my responsibilities as a driver. However, some rules are non-negotiable. My driving privileges will be suspended indefinitely if any of the following rules are violated:

I WILL NOT:

- () drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs;
- () be a passenger in a car driven by someone under the influence of alcohol or other drugs;
- () allow alcohol or other drugs, or weapons in the car;
- () engage in thrill-seeking, stunts, or any form of racing;
- () conceal any tickets, warnings, or collisions from parents/guardians;
- () allow anyone else to drive the car;
- () allow passengers, other than parents, until that privilege is given by my parents.

General Rules

(to be agreed upon by both parents and teen)

Our family agrees that our teen won't drive at night between the hours of _____ to _____ for a period of at least _____ months. We will work as a group to make sure that they are able to attend all school, social and work activities during that time.

Our family agrees that our teen won't drive with other teen passengers or be driven by a teen driver for a period of at least _____ months.



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DRIVING CONTRACTS

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Parental Commitments

(parents to initial all that apply)

- () We will provide and maintain a safe vehicle.
- () We will pay for driver training classes/materials.
- () We will be available to ride with you so you can fulfill your graduated licensing law requirements and gain experience in a variety of conditions and locations.
- () As your passenger, we will share observations and coaching in a calm, respectful manner.
- () We are there when you need us. We will pick you up or arrange for your safe transportation home, regardless of the situation or time of your call.
- () We will be role models and lead by example.



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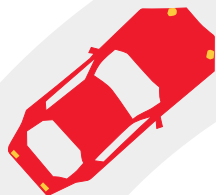
Courtesies and Considerations

(teen to acknowledge with initials)

As a new driver in our family, the teen driver agrees to comply with the following courtesies and considerations. I, _____

_____ understand each violation represents a forfeit of privileges:

- () I will provide my parents with my destination and time of return.
- () I will call home if I feel I will not make curfew.
- () I will not make unnecessary side trips or stops.
- () I will not drive outside of agreed upon territories or boundaries.
- () I will not eat, drink or smoke in the car.
- () I will pull over and park the car before using my cell phone, pager, or any electronic devices.
- () I will not affix stickers or decals without permission.
- () I will always treat pedestrians, cyclists, and other motorists with courtesy.



Privileges and Responsibilities

(parents to check all that apply)

Our family agrees that driving is a privilege linked to satisfactory behavior at home and school, including:

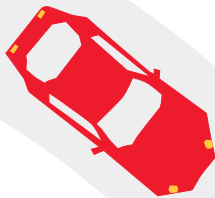
- () complying with family rules;
- () completing duties at home properly and on time;
- () showing proper respect for parents and others;
- () maintaining attendance, conduct, and effort at school.

Mileage Linked to GPA

(parents to fill out miles/frequency)

We further link the maximum number of times our teen can drive each week to grade point average:

- A** _____ miles per week _____ times per week
- B** _____ miles per week _____ times per week
- C** _____ miles per week _____ times per week
- D** _____ miles per week _____ times per week
- F** _____ miles per week _____ times per week.



Operating Our Car

(parents to check all that apply)

Our family agrees that our teen driver will perform the routine upkeep and maintenance of tasks indicated. If not checked, we the parents agree to perform the task:

- () clear and clean windows and mirrors every time the vehicle is driven.
- () inspect and check tire pressure every time the vehicle is driven.
- () check fluids at each fill-up.
- () wash vehicle and keep interior clean.
- () report when fuel is less than 1/4 tank.
- () report unusual performance.
- () have routine maintenance/checks performed.

Expenses

(parents to write in percentages)

Our family agrees that our teen driver will pay the indicated percentage of expenses related to the following responsibilities:

- _____ Cost of vehicle
- _____ Parking fees/decals
- _____ Vehicle registration
- _____ Damage due to abuse
- _____ Cost of fuel
- _____ Collision damage
- _____ Cost of insurance
- _____ Tickets, fines, penalties
- _____ Maintenance costs
- _____ Cost of insurance if grade point average drops below "B"



Loss of Privileges

(parents to fill out days)

We jointly agree that a citation for speeding of less than 10 mph over the limit shall result in a suspension of driving privileges for ____ days. For a violation in excess of 10 mph over, the suspension shall be ____ days.

For other traffic violations, the suspension schedule shall be:

Parking ticket ____ Days suspension
Careless driving ____ Days suspension
Reckless driving ____ Days suspension
Following too closely ____ Days suspension
Failure to yield
right-of-way ____ Days suspension
Failure to signal ____ Days suspension
Running a stop light ____ Days suspension
Running a stop sign ____ Days suspension

Any "at-fault" collision resulting in \$500 damage or more shall result in a suspension of ____ days.

The frequency and severity of infractions will also result in the loss of driving privileges for an agreed upon duration. This will be added to the violations as cited above.

First offense ____ Days suspension
Second offense ____ Days suspension
Third offense ____ Days suspension
Preventable crash ____ Days suspension
Serious violation ____ Indefinite suspension
Alcohol/drug use ____ Indefinite suspension

Shared Commitment



Our family pledges its support of our newest driver. We will do everything we can to promote safe driving and responsible behavior.

On the first of every month, we Parents/Guardians and Teen agree to have a meeting to discuss driving performance. These meetings are to provide helpful answers to any questions, comments or concerns our teen may have. Further, we Parents/Guardians will provide feedback on our teen's driving performance at this time.

Additionally, there will be four random performance review dates throughout the course of one year. We Parents/Guardians will ride along with our teen driver and assess his or her driving performance. Some of the key behaviors are listed but not limited to:

- safety belt use
- signal use
- braking
- stopping
- mirror use
- turning
- speed
- lane maintenance
- passing
- following distance.

It is recommended that each review vary the time of day, type of roadway and other conditions for a more comprehensive assessment. Parents/Guardians are to provide a written assessment of teen driving performance and go over the issues identified with the teen. Parents/Guardians may determine an appropriate increase or decrease in driving privileges.

Teen: *In initialing terms and signing this contract, I acknowledge that I understand my legal responsibilities and commitment to my family as a driver. I agree to abide by the terms of this contract and accept the forfeit of privileges if I fail to comply.*

(Teen's name)

(Date)

Parents/Guardians: *We, as parents or guardians and owners of the family vehicles, agree to serve as good role models in our own driving. We will encourage safe driving practices by our teen by fairly and consistently enforcing the terms of this contract.*

(Name)

(Date)

(Name)

(Date)

Signed on: _____

Review date: _____



**Making sure teens become
safe, knowledgeable drivers
takes time and patience.**



AAA's Teaching Your Teens to Drive is there to help
with a colorfully illustrated handbook and
live-action 60-minute DVD.

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AAA Parent-Teen Driving Agreement

Learning to drive can be both exciting and stressful for a teenager — and his or her parents. AAA has developed this parent-teen driving agreement to help families work together to safely navigate the learning process. The agreement helps establish rules and consequences for teens, but also places responsibilities on parents. Safe driving generally requires much more than what state laws call for, and signing an agreement before the teen starts driving can be helpful in establishing expectations for the whole family. By working as a team, parents and teens can accomplish their shared goal — a safe, successful teen driver. **Note: Driver licensing requirements vary by state and should be considered a *minimum* for teens. Find state-by-state requirements and a full-length driving agreement at AAA.com/publicaffairs.**

Non-Negotiable Rules for Everyone

Parent(s) and teen will:	Parent(s) and teen will NOT:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear seat belts and require all passengers to wear seat belts Obey all traffic laws Drive at safe speeds for road conditions — at or below the speed limit Be a courteous driver Agree to meet at least once per month to discuss the teen's driving performance and plans for the next month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or ride with an impaired driver Engage in racing, stunts, or other thrill-seeking while behind the wheel Conceal tickets, warnings, or crashes Allow anyone else to drive the car

Learner's Permit

Parents and teens should practice a minimum of two hours each week for at least six months (several states require longer) to ensure the teen gains ample experience in a range of driving conditions before solo driving.

Parent(s) will:	Teen will:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide and maintain a safe vehicle Pay for driver training classes and materials Be available for practice driving above and beyond what is required by law Provide practice on a variety of road types and driving conditions Share observations and provide coaching in a calm, respectful manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively participate in driver training classes Make time for practice driving Not drive without parent(s)

Intermediate License/Solo Driving

Driving without a parent poses new challenges for a teen. Crash rates are especially high during the first year of driving. Research shows that teens have fewer crashes when there are limits on solo driving that gradually relax as they gain experience. The table below is based on research and modeled after the National Institute of Health's Checkpoints program. Suggestions are provided in the boxes below; check that the rules you set meet requirements in your state. Breaking rules, at-fault crashes, and moving violations should result in reverting to an earlier phase for a pre-determined time. Critical violations (racing, reckless driving, drinking and driving, etc.) should result in license suspension for a pre-determined time.

	First Two Months	Months 3-6	Months 7-12
Start date	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___
No driving after	8 p.m. or dark	9 p.m.	10 p.m.
Passengers	No one under 25	No other teens	No more than one
Roads	Local	No highway	Most
Weather	Dry	Moderate	Most

Parent(s) will:	Teen will:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide practice on a range of road types and in various driving conditions Consider appropriate exceptions when asked in advance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always tell parent(s) where he/she is going and with whom Always call home if going to be late Always call home if it's not safe to drive or ride Pull safely off the road before using a cell phone or other electronic device

Signatures

Teen: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____