



## Parent-Teen Driving Agreement

As a parent or caregiver, it's important for you to take the time to create a driving agreement with your teen to help you both make safe decisions when he or she is behind the wheel or riding with friends as a passenger in a vehicle.

### **I agree to always drive safely and make good choices behind the wheel.**

- Obey all traffic laws and the teen Graduated Driver Licensing Laws
- Always wear a seat belt and make sure all my passengers buckle up
- Follow posted speed limits and never engage in racing or peer pressure to drive fast
- Pay attention to street signs, traffic lights, stop signs, and always obey them
- Never give someone a ride who you don't know personally

### **I agree to keep my eyes on the road and stay focused on driving.**

- Always stow my phone out of sight or out of reach and on silent
- Only use my phone to send a message, read, or use social media when my vehicle is turned off and safely parked
- Never talk on the phone while driving (including speakerphone or hands-free)
- Drive with my left hand between 7 and 8 o'clock, and my right hand between 4 and 5 o'clock
- Never eat, drink, groom, change the radio station or GPS, etc. while driving
- Only drive when I am alert and emotionally stable

### **I agree that I will not use alcohol/drugs or put myself in unsafe situation.**

- Always drive alcohol and drug free
- Never allow alcohol or drugs in the car, or allow anyone who has been using alcohol or drugs to ride in the car
- Never ride as a passenger with someone who has been drinking or using drugs
- Always call a parent for a safe ride home if I or my driver breaks these rules or if I'm being pressured to use alcohol or drugs

### **I agree to be a responsible driver and to follow the driving rules set by my parent/caregiver:**

- Drive only during the time I have been given permission
- Only allow passengers to ride in the vehicle when I have permission from you and his/her parents
- I will not allow anyone else to drive the vehicle unless I have permission
- Only drive someone else's car if I have parental permission
- Let my parent/caregiver know if I get a ticket or traffic citation
- Pay all traffic citations or parking tickets
- Maintain the following grades in school: \_\_\_\_\_
- Contribute to the following vehicle costs: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please refer to the next page for young driver restrictions and to sign the agreement.**

## What You Need to Know About Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL)

The Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) is a three-stage licensing systems that includes a learner or supervised practice driving phase, an intermediate stage that allows for unsupervised driving but includes restrictions that address risk, and a full licensure stage where all provisions are lifted. **Studies have found that the following restrictions work to reduce young driver crashes and help save young lives:**

### Curfew Restrictions

If you are under 18 and hold a driver's license, you cannot drive from midnight to 4 A.M, except:

- In case of an emergency; When traveling to and from work or a school-sponsored event; When accompanied by a parent or other adult acting in place of a parent;
- When responding to an emergency call as a volunteer firefighter or rescue squad personnel.

### Passenger Restrictions

If you are under 18, you may carry only one passenger under age 21 for the first year after receiving your driver's license, unless accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian. Passenger restrictions do not apply to family members. After you have held your license for one year, you may carry only three passengers under age 21 until you reach age 18.

### Cell Phone Restrictions

If you are under 18, you may not operate a motor vehicle in Virginia while using a cellular telephone or other wireless communication device.

### Seat Belt Use

Virginia's seat belt law requires anyone younger than 18 years of age who is occupying the front and/or rear seats of a vehicle to use safety belts. A driver transporting anyone younger than 18 must ensure that those passengers are properly restrained regardless of where they are seated; and drivers will be ticketed for passengers under 18 who are not restrained.

### Consequences for Agreement Violations

#### **Violation:**

#### **Penalty: No Driving For...**

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Used phone while driving   | _____ day (s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Got a speeding ticket or other traffic citation  | _____ day (s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drove after drinking alcohol or using drugs  | _____ day (s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ignored <a href="#">curfew restrictions</a> and drove between midnight and 4 A.M.      | _____ day (s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ignored <a href="#">passenger restrictions</a> and drove with more than one passenger. | _____ day (s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drove and/or rode in a vehicle without a seat belt or allowed my passengers.           | _____ day (s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disobeyed other terms of the agreement   | _____ day (s) |

### Agreement

I agree to follow the rules and restrictions outlined in this agreement in order to keep myself and others safe on the roads. I understand that failure to follow these rules and restrictions will lead to penalties such as the loss of my driving privileges. I understand that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens (15-19) in Virginia and the United States, and the greatest risk factors for teens include: impaired driving, not wearing a seat belt, distracted driving, speeding, and driving with too many passengers.

Name and Signature of Teen Driver: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent/caregiver, I also agree to drive safely, be an outstanding role model for safe driving, help you meet all of your Graduated Driver Licensing requirements, provide continued driving instruction, and to continue with you the conversation about safe driving behaviors.

Name and Signature of Parent/Caregiver: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_