

HODGE & LANGLEY LAW FIRM
Parent/Teen Safe Driving Agreement

This contract is designed to be a mutually agreed by all parties involved, Parents AND the New Driver.

By signing this agreement, both parties agree to obey all the rules and conditions stated in this contract.

We understand bad things happen, mistakes are made and things spoken are sometimes misunderstood, but by signing this contract and agreeing to the rules, we agree that we will obey the rules and will stand by the consequences should any rules be broken.

In addition, this is an evolving contract and can be reviewed and renegotiated at any time between:

_____ and _____
Parents New Driver

PARENTS' PLEDGE

I promise to help my New Driver learn how to drive by using love, patience and support. I understand and accept that this is a learning process and promise to be a good role model and understanding instructor. I also pledge that I will be encouraging rather than critical and try not to complain. I will be patient and allow my New Driver to progress at his/her own speed and will not try to rush or hurry the process. I recognize that learning to drive is a mental AS WELL AS a physical skill that needs to be nurtured and practiced – in a loving and supportive manner.

NEW DRIVER'S PLEDGE

I understand that permission to drive is a privilege given to me by my parents. And as a privilege, it is their right to take that privilege away at any time they think is necessary. I will abide by the rules and regulations established by my parents, and if I break a rule, I will willingly face the consequences we have agreed upon.

PARENT AND NEW DRIVER HEREBY AGREE:

- “Forgetting” any part of the contract is not an excuse.
- I will obey all driving laws and observe and abide by posted speed limits.
- I will obey all rules established by my parents. I recognize this is for my protection and the protection of others.
- I understand that the car I drive is the property of my parents. As such, I will drive the car only with my parents’ permission.

New Driver's Initials _____ **Parent(s) Initials** _____

- I understand that the terms of this agreement may be changed based on how I handle the freedom and responsibility of driving.
- If, for any reason whatsoever, the rules are broken, the car keys will be forfeited with no argument or debate.
- Refusal to immediately surrender the car keys will result in the car being taken away. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- If I drive in defiance of my parents' order not to drive, my parents may take appropriate action up to and including making a call to the police.
- If the New Driver drives any car without or in defiance of the parents' order, this contract will be cancelled and no driving will be permitted for at least one year.
- If the New Driver is involved in an accident, no matter how minor, the New Driver will not leave the scene of an accident without the permission of police officers.

THE FUNDAMENTAL RULES

Violation of any of the following rules will result in a suspension of all driving privileges.

• Permission to Drive

The New Driver MUST ask for permission to drive each time he/she wants to drive. The only exceptions to the rule are for normal trips back and forth to school, work and weekly/daily meetings already agreed upon.

Trips other than the agreed-upon locations will be discussed prior to leaving the locations and route agreed upon. The New Driver will make sure he/she contacts the parents and lets them know where he/she is. The New Driver will not make any unscheduled stops or side trips.

• Breaking Curfew

The New Driver may not drive after _____ p.m. The New Driver MUST be home at or before this agreed-upon time.

• Limit of Passengers

I will not be allowed to have any passengers without specific permission.

Exceptions include: _____

New Driver's Initials _____ **Parent(s) Initials** _____

- Areas that Are Off-Limits

I will not drive in any areas that are designated as off-limits, and I understand these areas will be expanded once I gain more experience and show that I am honoring this contract. For the time being, the following roads and areas are to be avoided:

This portion of the contract will be reviewed in ____ days, and at that time, new areas may or may not be included as safe driving areas.

- No One Else Will Drive Our Car

The New Driver will not allow ANYONE to drive the car without the parents' specific permission for each specific case.

- Car Radio/CD Player/Pandora/Etc.

I understand how distracting music can be in driving. After receiving the permission of my parents, I can use the radio but will not make any adjustments other than changing volume.

- Texting, Cell Phones, GPS System

Under no circumstances will I use a cell phone, text messages, or any other electronic device while driving. I will pull over for other operations of cell phones and electronic equipment.

- Weather/Road Conditions

I will respect all weather and road conditions, slowing down as needed for safety, and I will contact my parents to discuss weather or poor road conditions when I am out driving.

- Emotional Driving

I will not drive when I am upset or angry as I know this affects my judgment and driving skills. If I'm upset for any reason, I will contact my parents for transportation.

- Taking Care of Vehicle

It is my responsibility to protect the car I drive. I will keep it reasonably clean and maintained.

- Passenger Behavior

I will not allow my passengers to behave in such a way as to distract me while driving.

New Driver's Initials _____ **Parent(s) Initials** _____

- Seatbelts

I will wear my seatbelt at all times and insist that all passengers wear theirs.

- Friends Ride Only with their Parents' Permission

If a situation arises that my parents have agreed to my having a friend ride with me, I will make sure that my friend's parents have given their permission to ride with me.

- Thank You for Not Smoking

I will not allow smoking in the car.

- No Eating and Driving

I will not eat while driving.

- No Rushing or Hurrying

I am aware that a majority of accidents occur when a driver is rushing or in a hurry. Therefore, my parents reserve the right to not allow me to drive if I'm running late. If I cannot leave within their timeframe, my parents will attempt to provide alternative rides.

- Attention to Driving

I will not do things while driving that distract me from the road. No applying makeup, getting things in and out of a purse or back-pack, etc.

- Tickets and Moving Violations

Any tickets or moving violations will result in the suspension of my driving privileges for a period to be determined by my parents. My parents have no obligation to pay my fines for driving-related tickets.

- In-the-Car Supervision

My parents have the right to insist on additional in-the-car supervision while I am driving. This can be in response to an incident, or just to check on the development of my driving skills.

- Financial Responsibility.

I agree to the financial contributions regarding driving and the car as explained below:

New Driver's Initials _____ **Parent(s) Initials** _____

THE FOLLOWING VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN A COMPLETE LOSS OF ALL PRIVILEGES

I understand that I will lose all my driving privileges if any one of these is violated even once.

- No Alcohol Use/Abuse

While I hold the keys to the car, whether I'm driving or not, I will NEVER drink ANY alcohol.

- No Drug Use/Abuse

I will not drive for 72 hours after using any "substance," including medicine, that may impair my driving ability. If I need to driver prior to the 72 hours, I will inform my parents of any medications I have taken and let them make the decision if I'm capable of driving.

- No Riding with Others Who Have Used Alcohol or Drugs

I will not ride as a passenger with any driver who has used alcohol or any substance that impairs their driving ability. I will not ride with anyone I think may have used alcohol or drugs.

- Alternatives to Riding with Others Who Have Used Alcohol or Drugs

If I find myself in a situation where I may be riding with someone who is under medication or has used alcohol or drugs, I will contact my parents or another designated adult to arrange for a ride. No matter the time, no matter the situation, parents will understand that calling for a ride is more important than making a risky choice and therefore will not unduly punish the New Driver for acknowledging safety is a priority.

- No Alcohol or Drugs in Car

I will not allow any alcohol or illegal drugs in the car. This includes over-the-counter medications when I have reason to believe someone has them in their possession for purposes of abuse. My parents will hold me responsible for any alcohol or drugs in the car, even if they don't belong to me or it is the fault of someone riding in my car.

- No Thrill-Seeking/Stunts

I will not engage in any thrill-seeking behavior while driving. I will not drive for recreation. I will not drive too fast, participate in racing of all kinds, or any kind of "stunt" that involves a car. Driving is for transportation ONLY.

New Driver's Initials _____ Parent(s) Initials _____

- No Driving With Passengers Who Are Not Wearing Seatbelts

This includes driving for any distance.

- Informing Parents about Accidents and Police Encounters

I will inform my parents about any and all tickets, accidents, and encounters with police (including warnings).

- No Firearms or Other Weapons

I will not drive with any guns or other deadly weapons in the vehicle.

SUMMARY AND REVIEW DATES

- Summary

I agree to follow and obey the rules in this contract and will accept the consequences and penalties if I do not. I recognize my parents' authority in deciding if I may or may not drive, and that the final authority is my parents.

- Reviewing this Agreement.

Both parents and New Driver agree that this agreement will be reviewed on _____ (date) or earlier.

Signatures

NEW DRIVER _____ (date) _____

PARENT(s)/Guardian(s) _____ (date) _____