

PARENT GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING A PARENT – TEEN DRIVING AGREEMENT

1. BE A GOOD EXAMPLE

- Behavior is learned.
- It is unreasonable to expect your teenager to behave differently than you when driving or caring for a vehicle.

2. BE CLEAR ABOUT CONTRACT

- Go over the contract word for word with your son or daughter.
- Fill in the blanks where applicable.
- Explain the regulations.
- Listen to your teen's point of view.
- Link driving privileges to school performance and overall behavior.
- Emphasize consequences of failure to meet contract provisions.
- Emphasize that you will not tolerate irresponsible behavior.

3. BE POSITIVE AND EMPHASIZE:

- Your concern for your teen's welfare and safety.
- Your hopes for the future.
- Your expectations concerning responsible behavior.
- That driving is a privilege and a reward for responsible behavior.

4. BE VIGILANT

- Check compliance with maintenance requirements.
- Check tires for abusive use and proper inflation.
- Check fuel level and mileage before and after the use of the vehicle.
- Inspect vehicle for damage.
- Check vehicle for clues of alcohol or drug use.

5. BE PROMPT

- Act promptly if there is an infraction of the agreement.
- Delaying consequences would be a sign of weakness.

6. BE FIRM

- Do not negotiate consequences for infractions.
- Do not change your mind or terms of agreement.
- If your teen is not accustomed to obeying rules, they may protest loudly when sanctions are imposed. Do not cave in.

7. BE CONSISTENT

- Punish each infraction the same each time it occurs.
- Both parents/guardians must provide a united front.
- Your credibility and the power of the agreement will be weakened if you aren't consistent in your enforcement.

8. BE FAIR

- Get all the facts before you take action.
- Inform your teen other families are using the parent – teen agreement. They are not alone.

9. BE GENTLE

- Express disappointment when rules are broken.
- Let your anger show, but don't allow it to take over.
- Loud accusations cause resentment and alienation.

10. BE FLEXIBLE

- Zero flexibility could lead them to drive recklessly to meet deadlines.
- Be careful not to allow exceptions too frequently, otherwise the exceptions become the rules.
- Be aware of the trade game. "I'll not drive next Friday, instead of this Friday."

11. BE IN CONTROL - NO EXCUSES

- On strike. I won't study if you won't let me have the car.*
- Nobody likes me. This is the only way I can make friends with the group.*
- The tickets are already bought. Now you'll make us waste our money.*
- Nobody else can drive. You are spoiling the fun for all of us.*
- His car was out of gas. I had to go pick everybody up.*

12. BE FORGIVING

- Your love must be unconditional.
- The contract withholds privileges, not love.