



Safe Driving Tips

Passengers for Teen Drivers

Did you know that 59% of teenage passenger deaths occur in vehicles driven by another teenager? Nearly half of all teen crashes involved vehicles with one or more teen passengers. Fatal crashes involving young drivers are much more likely to occur when other teenagers are in the car, and the risk of a crash increases in proportion to the number of teenage passengers.

Why? Other teen passengers are distractions to the driver and cause a loss of focus on driving. In addition, peer pressure from the passengers can cause teen drivers to take actions they wouldn't take if they were driving alone or with adults. Teenagers drive faster and take more risks when carrying peers than when carrying adults especially if the peers are young men. Given that behaving unconventionally can be a way to establish credibility with peers, the requirement for drivers to exhibit safe driving behavior can create significant social pressure on a teen driver. For example, everyone else can act silly or crazy in the vehicle, but the driver can't. Even more worrisome are acts of disruption that directly interfere with driving, such as a passenger grabbing the steering wheel or nudging a driver.

In **Illinois**, teen drivers are limited by law on the number of passengers in their vehicle:

While holding a permit: Number of passengers limited to one in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat.

During the Initial Licensing Phase (age 16-17): For the first year of licensing, or until the driver is age 18, whichever occurs first, the number of passengers is limited to one person under age 20, unless the additional passenger(s) is a sibling, step-sibling, child, or step-child of the driver. After this period, the number of passengers is limited to one in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat.

In **Connecticut**, teen drivers are limited by law on the number of passengers in their vehicle:

Learner Permit Restrictions for 16/17 Year Olds: Only a parent, legal guardian or qualified trainer for the duration of the permit.

Driver License Restrictions for 16 and 17 Year Olds who Obtained a Driver License on and after 8/01/08: For the first 6 months after obtaining a driver license, may only drive with parents or legal guardian at least one of whom holds a valid driver license Licensed driving instructor or a person providing instruction who is at least 20 years old, has held a license for at least 4 years with no suspensions during the last 4 years. For the second 6 months, may drive with the above people and may also drive with immediate family (e.g., brothers, and sisters).

In **Ohio**, teen drivers are limited by law on the number of passengers in their vehicle:

Teen drivers under the age of 17 may not carry more than one passenger that is not an immediate family member unless they are accompanied by their parent or legal guardian.

Michigan (has no restrictions)

What can you do as a parent? Make sure you and your teen know the law. Define the consequences of breaking the law in your Parent-Teen Driving Contract. Encourage your teen to be a well-behaved passenger especially when riding with a teen driver and to help "co-pilot" if the driver is losing focus.

Drive Safely!



We teach *Driver Intelligence*