

Parent/Driver Agreement (For parents and drivers under age 19)

◆ **As a parent/guardian, I will:**

- Try to remember that I was a new driver once too.
- Be fair and reasonable in my evaluation of your driving privileges.
- Try to be a better driver and listen to your constructive comments.
- Be patient and understanding.
- Give driving directions clearly, calmly and well in advance of the maneuver.
- Communicate the fact that I care about your safety in a calm and non-emotional way (especially behind the wheel).
- Listen and try to understand your point of view and concerns.
- Positively recognize your use of good judgment.

◆ **Other parent/guardian pledges:** _____

◆ **As a newer driver, I will:**

- Remember that I don't have a lot of experience, and I need to learn.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or ride with a driver who is.
- Not let anyone else drive my car, unless it is an emergency.
- Take good care of the car.
- Always wear my seat belt and insist that passengers do the same.
- Recognize that any and all traffic or parking tickets I receive are my responsibility.
- Call you if I'm going to be late or if my plans change.
- Call home for a ride if I am ever not in a condition to drive (fatigued, emotional or impaired).
- Pull over to a safe location if I have to use my cell phone for calls, texting, or other applications.
- Limit distractions in my vehicle.

◆ **Other newer driver pledges:** _____

◆ **We both agree to the above behaviors, privileges and restrictions.**

Driver's Name: _____

Parent or Guardian Name: _____

Date: _____

→ **Safe Driver Pledge** (For drivers age 19 and older)

Please read the Safe Driver Pledge and sign it before you start the Steer Clear program.

- I will be aware of what's going on around me.
- I will never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I will always wear my seat belt and insist my passengers wear theirs in my car.
- I will be courteous and not let my mood affect my driving.
- I will pull over to a safe location when I need to use my cell phone for calls, texting, or other applications.
- I will not drive if I am too tired.
- I will always obey the driving rules and traffic laws.
- I will limit distractions in my vehicle.

Driver's Name: _____

Date: _____

→ **Safe Driving Tips & Facts**

Take a few minutes to read through these tips about safe driving. Though you may have heard it all before, when it comes to safety and taking proper precautions, it never hurts to review the facts. Because sometimes, the facts are scary, and hopefully that alone will remind you to always drive responsibly.

◆ **Always Wear Your Seat Belt**

FACT: Almost 2 out of 3 teens killed as occupants of motor vehicles are unrestrained.¹

◆ **Stay Within the Speed Limit and Adjust to Driving Conditions**

FACT: In 2005, 38 percent of the male drivers, ages 15 to 20, who were involved in fatal crashes, were speeding at the time of the crash.²

◆ **Know That Cars Can Crash Anywhere – Not Just on the Highway**

FACT: In 2005, 86 percent of all speeding-related fatal crashes occurred on non-interstate roads and highways.³

◆ **Stay Focused on Driving – or Get Out of the Driver's Seat**

FACT: Nearly 80 percent of crashes and 65 percent of near-crashes involved some form of driver inattention within three seconds before the event. Driver inattention includes distracting activities, such as cell phone use and drowsiness.⁴

◆ **Whenever You Drive, You Should Scan the Road Constantly**

FACT: About 44 percent of crashes involving younger and less experienced drivers involve a failure to correctly scan ahead, to the side or the rear.⁵

Sources:

¹ Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (2007) *Driving: Through the eyes of teens; A research report of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm Insurance.*

² National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2006). Traffic Safety Facts, 2005 Data: Speeding, DOT HS 810 629.

³ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2006). Traffic Safety Facts, 2005 Data: Speeding, DOT HS 810 629.

⁴ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2006). NHTSA, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Release Findings of Breakthrough Research on Real World Driver Behavior, Distraction and Crash Factors, media release dated Thursday, April 20, 2006.

⁵ McKnight, AJ and McKnight, AS (2003) Young drivers: careless or clueless? In *Accident Analysis and Prevention* 35 (2003) 921-925.