



AVON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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"To Protect and To Serve"

MARK RINALDO
CHIEF OF POLICE

Press Release

National Teen Driver Safety Week

The week of October 20 – 26, 2013 is National Teen Driver Safety Week. This year's theme is "It Takes Two: Shared Expectations for Teens and Parents for Driving". The Avon Police Department has partnered with Avon High School to encourage teen drivers to sign an agreement with their parents to practice safe driving habits. The Teen-Parent Driver Agreement, prepared by the Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner's Advisory Committee on Teen Safe Driving and sponsored by AAA, can be found on the Avon Police Department website http://www.town.avon.ct.us/Public_Documents/AvonCT_Police/police. The Avon Police Department will be collecting signed agreements starting today, October 22, 2013 until October 26, 2013 in our lobby. The 50th student to return their signed form by both parent and teen will receive a private lunch, during school hours, with four of the winner's friends. (Private lunch is sponsored by the Avon Police Department.)

Car crashes are the No. 1 killer of teens. Communication between parents and teens is crucial in addressing this serious issue. In fact, statistics show that teens with involved parents are:

- Twice as likely to wear seat belts,
- 70 percent less likely to drink and drive,
- Half as likely to speed, and:
- 30 percent less likely to drive while on the phone.

Parents and teens, please take the time to discuss the Teen-Parent Driver Agreement together and then sign it. Spread the word to friends and family and help the Avon Police Department create safer roads for our teens and our community.

Anyone looking for additional information is asked to contact the Lt. Kelly Walsh at 860-409-4241 or kw Walsh@town.avon.ct.us.

Statistics provided by: <http://www.ppbh.com/it-takes-two-shared-expectations-for-teens-and-parents-for-driving/>

Teen-Parent Driver Agreement

Teen-Parent Driving Agreements are a proven way to raise awareness of the dangers of teen driving and reduce a teen driver's crash risk. Motor vehicle crashes remain the #1 killer of teens. This Agreement spells out safety risks and what happens if the teen driver violates his/her obligations. Complete and sign this Agreement when your teen obtains a learner's permit, and review it again when your teen obtains a license.

Safety Risks *(check-off after discussing)*

- Driving is especially dangerous for teens because the human brain does not fully develop its ability to assess risk and danger or control impulse until we reach our mid-20s. Teen driver training cannot overcome this condition.
- Passing a training course and obtaining a driver's license means that a teen is only a beginner; ***it does not mean that a teen is a safe driver.***
- Failure to follow state driving laws can cause injury, death, damage to property, and can result in criminal and civil penalties.
- Speeding, reckless driving, alcohol or drug use, not using seat belts, illegal or distracting electronic devices, illegal passengers, and/or driving while fatigued risk the life of the driver, passengers, other drivers, and pedestrians.

Supervising Adult's Obligations *(to be initialed)*

____ I am a role model, and I will teach safe driving habits and be a safe, responsible driver at all times. I will obey all traffic laws, always wear my seat belt, never drink and drive, and not use illegal or distracting electronic devices.

____ I will, at any time and for any reason, give my teen a ride to avoid a dangerous driving or other situation. I agree that a call from my teen to provide a ride will not count as a violation of this Agreement.

Tips for Supervising Adults

Is your teen ready to drive?

Connecticut allows 16 year olds to obtain a learners permit, but an adult must decide if a teen is ready to drive. Some teens are not. Connecticut allows parents to block teens from getting a license.

Understand the dangers of texting and cell phones.

Texting is a major cause of motor vehicle crashes. Texting takes the driver's eyes off the road and eliminates the time needed to avoid a crash. Teen drivers should not use any illegal or distracting electronic device.

At least 100 hours on the road before solo driving.

Connecticut law requires a minimum of 40 hours of supervised driving practice prior to getting a license. It is recommended that a teen have at least 100 hours of supervised driving practice before getting a license and driving solo.

Sponsored by



Z-30 Rev. 3-12

Teen Driver Obligations

- Supervising Adult:** My driving will be supervised by one or more adults who will decide, day by day, whether it is safe for me to drive.
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- Driving Plan:** I will get permission from the supervising adult every time I drive, and we will agree on my route, destination, time of return, and passengers. Joyriding, (driving with no destination or reason) is not allowed.
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- Seatbelts:** I will wear my seatbelt and I will make sure that every passenger in my car, of any age, wears one.
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- Electronic Devices:** Driving while texting, or talking on a cell phone (even hands-free) is illegal. I will not use any illegal or distracting electronic device while my vehicle is in motion.
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- Curfews:** I understand that in Connecticut I may not drive between 11pm and 5am, except for school, a job, a medical or religious reason, or a Safe Rides program, and I will not do so.
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- Passengers:** For my first six months with a license I may carry one adult who is supervising my driving. In the next six months I may add immediate family, but I may not transport friends until I have had my license for one year.
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- Alcohol or Drug Use, Fatigue:** I will NEVER drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or when I have not had sufficient rest. I will call my supervising adult for a ride if I find myself in need of avoiding a dangerous driving situation.
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- Speeding:** I will obey speed limits, stop signs, traffic signals, and the rules of the road. I will drive at a reasonable speed and adjust my speed based on road conditions (i.e., weather, turns, hills, visibility, and unfamiliar roads).
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- Suspension of Driving:** IF I VIOLATE ANY OF THESE OBLIGATIONS, MY DRIVING PRIVILEGES WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR _____ DAYS. Violations may be reported by law enforcement, neighbors, school personnel, or friends. This suspension will be in addition to state law requirements. If I drive while my privileges are suspended, they will be suspended indefinitely.
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- Finances:** During this Agreement, costs of insurance, gas, and maintenance will be divided:
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- Time Period:** This Agreement will remain in effect until

12 months at a minimum, or until the age of 18, whichever is later.

Commitment to Safety:

By signing below, we commit ourselves to the safe driving requirements and understandings stated in this Agreement.

Teen Driver

Date

Supervising Adult

Date