TEEN DRIVING

Stay Safe Behind the Wheel

To a teenager, driving means more freedom. Learning to drive is a big step toward becoming an adult, but teens are not adults. Teens need extra driving rules and supervised practice to protect themselves and others on the road with them.

Know the Risks* and Laws** for Being on the Road

Age – Risk: Teens are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers.
Arkansas Law: A teen may obtain a learner's license at ages 14-15, an intermediate license at ages 16-17, and a full license at age 18.

Seat Belt Use – Risk: In 2008, more than half of the teens killed in motor vehicle crashes were not wearing their seat belt.
Arkansas Law: The primary seat belt law states that **any** driver and front seat passenger can be ticketed for not wearing a seat belt. All passengers must wear a seat belt when riding with a teen driver with a learner's or intermediate license.

Cell Phone Use – Risk: Using a phone while driving is a serious risk for teen drivers, forcing them to take their eyes off the road and at least one hand off the steering wheel.
Arkansas Law: Teen drivers ages 14-17 are restricted from using cell phones except for emergency purposes.
Texting and driving is illegal for all drivers.

Nighttime Driving – Risk: Four out of every ten crash deaths occur at night.
Arkansas Law: Teen drivers with an intermediate license are prohibited from driving between the hours of 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. unless accompanied by a licensed adult age 21 or older, or if driving to or from a school activity, church-related activity, or job.

Passengers – Risk: Teen drivers with two or more teen passengers increase the chance of a fatal crash by five times.
Arkansas Law: Teen drivers with an intermediate license are prohibited from having more than one unrelated minor passenger unless accompanied by a licensed adult age 21 or older.

Underage Drinking – Risk: Each year thousands of teens are killed or injured in crashes as a result of underage drinking.
Arkansas Law: Teens driving with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) between .02 and .07 can be ticketed for Driving Under the Influence (DUI). Teens driving with a BAC of .08 or greater can be ticketed for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). It is also illegal for adults to provide alcohol to minors or allow minors to drink alcohol on their property.

Arkansas Children's Hospital® UAMS University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
In Cooperation With: AHTD Arkansas State Police Arkansas Highway Safety Office

Statewide Injury Prevention Program

(501) 364-3400 or (866) 611-3445 • www.archildrens.org/injury_prevention

Sources: American Academy of Pediatrics, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, *National HIghway Safety Administration, **Arkansas State Legislature

CREATE A TEEN DRIVING CONTRACT

Teens need adults to set an example and help lay down some rules. Rules work better when both sides agree on what they are and what happens if the rules get broken. Sit down with your teen and talk about the dangers listed in the first column. In the second column, write down the agreement you make. In the third column, write down what will happen if the rule gets broken.

Condition	Agreement	Consequence for Violation
Seat Belts: Using lap/shoulder belts cuts the risk of dying in a crash nearly in half.		
Cell Phones: The risk of having a crash is four times higher when the driver is on a cell phone.		
Speeding: Speeding makes it harder to steer or stop your car. It also gives you less time to react to danger.		
Impaired Driving: Drunk driving is the cause in one of every four fatal teen crashes.		
Distractions: Eating and drinking, adjusting the radio, or texting while driving can cause anyone to crash. For teens, the risk is even higher.		
Teen Passengers: Just one passenger increases the risk of crash by 40 percent; two passengers double that risk and three passengers quadruple the risk.		
Nighttime: Four out of every ten crash deaths occur at night.		

Teen's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____