



Keeping your Teen Driver Safe Behind the Wheel

- You're a parent first. Your job is to protect your teen. Use this motivation to keep your teen safer as they start navigating their new role as a driver.
- Remind your teen that driving is a privilege, not a right. As the parent, you're in control. If your teen is following the rules of the road, the privilege to drive is there. If they aren't following the rules of the road, they shouldn't be freely given the keys to the car.
- Have a conversation with your teen driver about driving laws and safe driving habits. Your desire to keep them safe never gets old, so make sure the lines of communication are always open. Believe it or not, your teen is listening, and they depend on you to guide them and be there for them.
- Become familiar with nighttime driving restrictions, passenger restrictions, and all graduated driver licensing (GDL) restrictions in Illinois [here](#). Surveys show that teens with parents who set and enforce firm rules for driving typically report engaging in fewer risky driving behaviors and being involved in fewer crashes. By knowing and enforcing the laws with your teen, you proactively promote safer driving for all road users.
- The responsibility for safe road behavior is shared: Be a good role model for your teen driver by demonstrating your own safe driving habits.
- Talk to your teen about cell phone use while in the car. Encourage them to stow their phones while driving, designate a texter or navigator, or pull over before answering phone calls, texting, or engaging with any social media apps. Remind your teen that it's not acceptable to record themselves or post on social media while driving.

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