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FOR FAMILIES IN
KENTUCKY & INDIANA

A FAMILY AGREEMENT FOR SAFE DRIVING

Teen Safe Driving Contract

This is an educational family agreement, not a legal contract, and not legal advice. Provided as a community safety resource by the Karl Truman Law Office, Louisville, Kentucky and Jeffersonville, Indiana, trumanlaw.com.

This agreement is a conversation starter, not a rulebook handed down. Parent and teen should read it together, talk through each section, fill in the blanks, and sign it as partners in safety.

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for American teenagers, and most teen crashes come down to a few preventable things: inexperience, distraction, speed, passengers, night driving, and not buckling up. Every promise below targets one of those risks.

01	02	03	04	05	06
Inexperience	**Distraction**	**Speed**	**Passengers**	**Night driving**	**Not buckling up**

Revisit this agreement every few months. As your teen earns experience and trust, privileges can grow.

01 Read it together

Talk through each section, the teen promises and the parent promises alike.

02 Fill in the blanks

Set your family rules and agree on consequences before anything happens.

03 Sign and revisit

Sign as partners. Review every few months as experience and trust grow.

PART 1

Teen Driver Promises

I understand that driving is a privilege my parents trust me with, not a right. Each time I drive, I promise to:

- [ ] **Put the phone away.** No texting, calling, scrolling, or social media while the car is moving. Phone goes on silent and out of reach, or in Do Not Disturb While Driving mode. I set my GPS and music before I shift into drive.
- [ ] **Buckle up, every trip.** I wear my seat belt and make sure every passenger wears theirs before I move the car.
- [ ] **Obey the speed limit.** I drive at or below the posted limit and slower in rain, fog, snow, construction zones, and school zones.
- [ ] **Never drive impaired.** I will never drive after drinking alcohol or using marijuana or any other drug, including medicine that makes me drowsy. I will never ride with a driver who has.
- [ ] **Never drive drowsy.** If I am too tired to drive safely, I will call for a ride.
- [ ] Follow the passenger limits we agree to in this agreement and those set by law.
- [ ] Be home by curfew and let my parents know if plans or destinations change.
- [ ] Keep my hands on the wheel and eyes on the road: no eating, grooming, or adjusting things that take my attention away.
- [ ] **Leave space.** I keep a safe following distance and never tailgate.
- [ ] **Stay calm.** I will not race, show off, or respond to aggressive drivers.
- [ ] **Watch for others.** I yield to pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcycles, and I slow down and move over for emergency vehicles on the roadside.
- [ ] **Report problems.** I will tell my parents about any ticket, crash, or close call, even a small one.
- [ ] **Know what to do after a crash:** stop, check for injuries, call 911, take photos, exchange information, and call my parents. I will not argue about fault or admit fault at the scene.

PART 2

Parent Promises

Teens learn to drive by watching us long before they take the wheel. As a parent, I promise to:

- ☐ **Set the example.** I will not use my phone while driving, I will always buckle up, obey speed limits, and never drive impaired.
- ☐ **Provide practice.** I will ride along regularly, in different conditions (highway, city, night, rain), and help my teen build real experience.
- ☐ **Stay calm and coach.** I will give clear, patient instruction and save criticism for after the drive.
- ☐ **Be the safe ride home.** If my teen calls because they or their driver can't drive safely, I will come get them, any time, no questions asked that night. We will talk about it calmly the next day.
- ☐ **Keep the car safe.** I will make sure the vehicle has good tires, brakes, lights, and wipers, and is properly insured.
- ☐ **Be fair and consistent.** I will enforce this agreement the way we wrote it, and reward good judgment with more freedom.
- ☐ Not call or text my teen when I know they are driving.

PART 3

Know the Law in Kentucky and Indiana

Both states use graduated licensing, which limits new drivers while they gain experience. Your family rules should be at least this strict.

Phones	Both states bar young drivers from using a cell phone while driving, except to call 911 in an emergency.
Nighttime driving	Both states restrict late-night driving for new teen drivers.
Passengers	Both states limit young passengers riding with a new teen driver unless a qualified adult is in the car.
Alcohol	Underage drivers face "zero tolerance": even a small amount of alcohol can mean arrest and loss of license.
Seat belts	Required for the driver and every passenger.

Hours, passenger limits, and time periods differ between Kentucky and Indiana and change over time. Check the current rules for your teen's license at **drive.ky.gov** (Kentucky) or **in.gov/bmv** (Indiana).

PART 4

Our Family Driving Rules

Fill in this table together. Start strict, at least as strict as the law, and loosen rules as your teen shows good judgment.

RULE	WHAT WE AGREE TO
Weeknight curfew	
Weekend curfew	
Teen passengers allowed (number)	
Who may ride with me	
Highway / interstate driving	
Driving in rain, snow, or fog	
Places I may drive without asking first	
Check-in when I arrive	
Who pays for gas	
Who pays for tickets or damage	
Next review date	

PART 5

If the Agreement Is Broken

We agree on these consequences now, so there are no surprises later.

VIOLATION	CONSEQUENCE
Using phone while driving	
Missing curfew without calling	
Extra passengers	
Speeding ticket or other moving violation	
Not wearing a seat belt	
Driving after drinking or drug use	
Not telling parents about a ticket or crash	

PART 6

Questions to Talk Through Together

Use these to get the conversation going before you sign.

01 What is the most distracting thing that could happen in the car, and how will you handle it?

02 A friend who has been drinking offers you a ride home. What do you do?

03 Your friends want you to drive them, but it would break our passenger rule. What will you say?

04 What will you do if another driver is tailgating or acting aggressively toward you?

05 You get a text while driving that seems urgent. What happens next?

06 What would make you feel too tired or upset to drive?

07 Walk me through exactly what you would do after a fender bender.

08 What could you do over the next few months to earn more driving privileges?

09 Parents: what driving habit of yours would you not want your teen to copy?

PART 7

Our Signatures

We have read this agreement together, we understand it, and we promise to keep it.

TEEN DRIVER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

We will review this agreement again on: _____