

PARENTAL AWARENESS/EDUCATION CLASSES



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**A wife who loses a husband
is called a widow.**

**A husband who loses a wife
is called a widower.**

**A child who loses his parents
is called an orphan.**

**But...there's no word for a parent
who loses a child, that's how awful the
loss is!**

Driver Education Programs



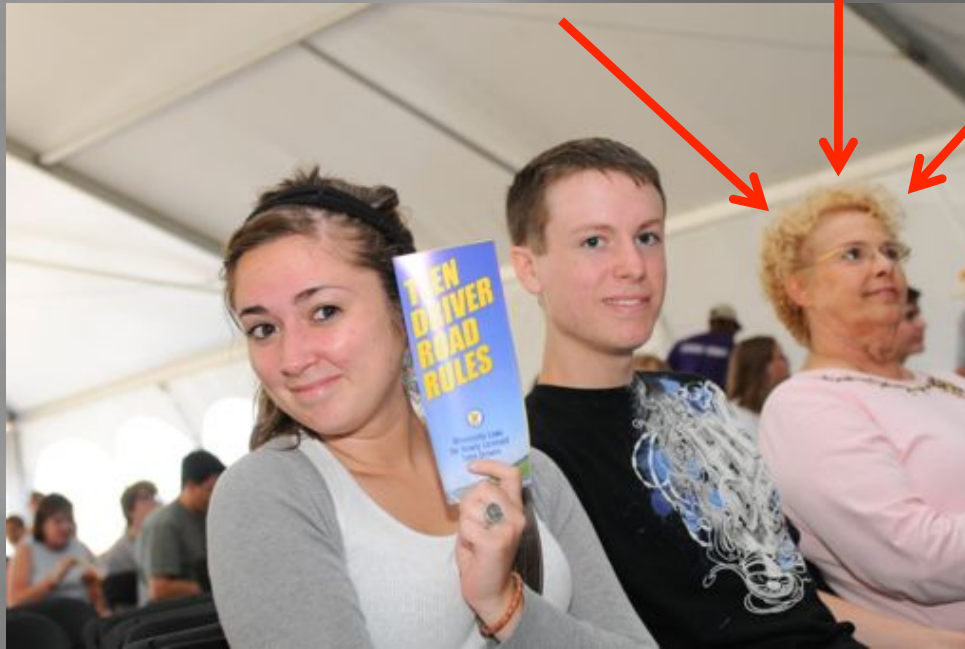
Statewide: 387

South East: 43



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The family is in the best position to have a sustained effect on minimizing the risks faced by inexperienced drivers and encouraging responsible behaviors.



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The Experts Say:

- “More effective parental involvement holds significant promise for further reducing young driver crashes.”

Journal of Safety Research

- “Parent-teen interactions may cut teen crash risks in half.”

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia



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Parents attending a two-hour required parent training session in Connecticut reported the program as:

“Overwhelmingly beneficial and has led them to adopt new safety measures with their teen drivers.”

Connecticut DMV



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Safety
sion

Do we want the public
to continue accepting
that teen crashes, injuries, and fatalities
“just happen”
and there’s nothing more we can do
about it?

**OR DO WE DO SOMETHING
THAT CAN HELP SAVE MORE
YOUNG LIVES?**



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Minnesota Teen Safe Driving Coalition

National Safety Council

Minnesota Safety Council

Allstate Foundation

PRIMARY GOAL:

Reduce teen driver involved crashes,
injuries & deaths by enhancing
parental awareness of teen driver
safety issues.



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Minnesota Teen Safe Driving Coalition

1. Peer-to-peer education module.
2. *Tool kit for teens working with tweens.*
- 3. *Implement a parental education class in 20 to 30 driver education programs in 2011.***



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CLASS OBJECTIVES:

Increase Parent Awareness of:

- “Real” Risks
- Laws
- Important Role of Parents
- Resources for Parents



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PROGRAM MODEL:

- 1.5 Hours
- ***Community Involvement:***
 - Law Enforcement
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Public Health
 - TZD Safe Roads Coalitions
- Localized & Flexible
- Evaluation: Pre- & Post-Class Parent Survey



Emotional Appeal:

Tug at Parents' Heartstrings

 Local Connection

 Video (Mock Crash – Real Lesson)

 Power-Point

 Young Forever Program



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REAL Risks:

INEXPERIENCE

Post-License Period

Night-Time

Distractions

PEER PRESSURE

Invincibility

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Seat Belts

Alcohol/Drugs

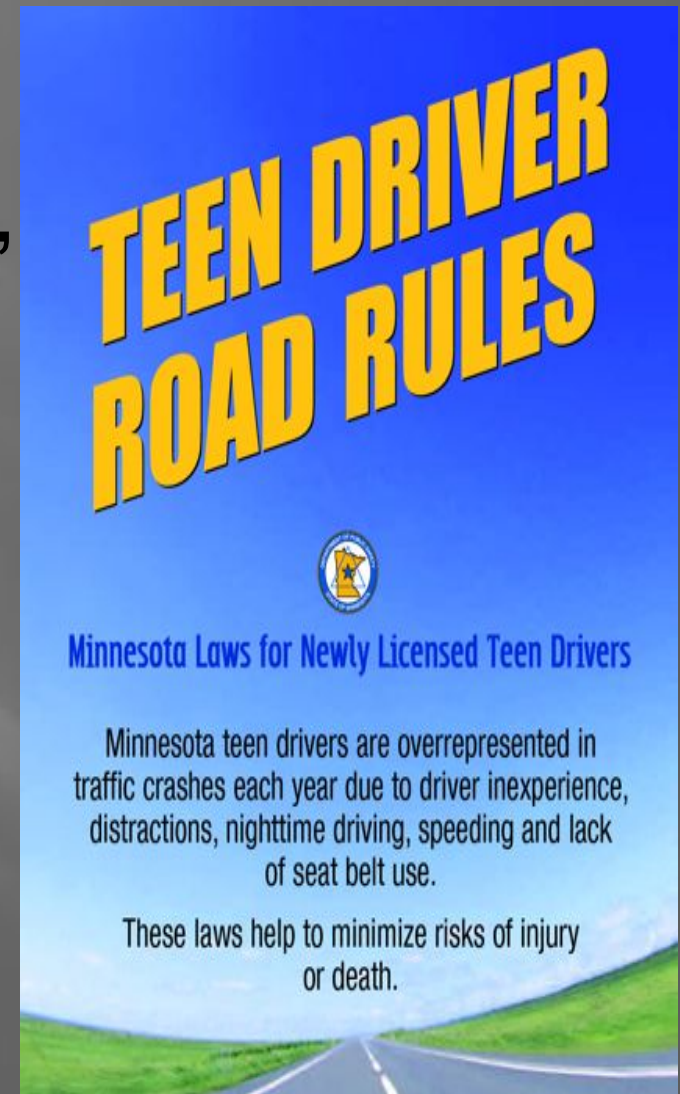
GOOD KIDS MAKE MISTAKES TOO!



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LAWS:

- ü Why they exist
- ü Not all are “Best Practices”
 - Passengers
 - Night Time
 - Cell Use
 - Not-A Drop & DWI



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PARENTAL ROLE:

- D. E. “*Supplements*” What Parents Do
- Practice, Practice, Practice
- Contracts;
 - Family Rules
 - Follow Through with Consequences
 - Earned Privileges

Decisions: Safety Over Convenience



PARENT RESOURCES:

- Teen Driving Laws
- Handling Resistance
- Contract
- Driving Log



Teen Driving Contract

I, _____, agree to the stipulations stated below granting me the privilege of driving. If at any time I violate this agreement, my driving privileges will be forfeited for a time to be determined by my parents.

- I will always have my driver's license, car registration, and insurance card in the car when I am driving.
- Should I get a traffic ticket, I agree to pay for the ticket and traffic school, as well as the difference in the insurance premium for as long as the premium is in effect.
- At no time will I ever drink alcohol and drive, nor to any alcohol or drugs allowed in the car.
- Already in one with drugs or alcohol can ride in my car. If I am driving and they are in my car, it is as if I am in possession of drugs or alcohol. They must either change, or I can wait with them until someone else picks them up.
- I will call, any time of the day or night, my parents or another trusted and responsible person for help in getting home if I am not able to drive both safely and legally. The person called will come and get me immediately. If I call a tow and cannot pay for it, my parents will pay for it. Making the intelligent and responsible phone call will not result in the loss of driving privileges or other punishments.
- Nobody else is allowed to drive my car unless my parents give their permission. I will not drive someone else's vehicle unless I have prior permission from my parents, or unless it's an emergency involving serious illness or injury.
- When I have passed the provisional period of not taking passengers in my car, I will be able to drive friends in my car. Their items are in my hands.
 - No smoking.
 - No spending.
 - No playing music so loud that I can't hear others.
 - Every one has to have their own seatbelt.
 - Pay attention to the roads and the traffic.
 - If my friends cannot behave in the car, they must get out.
- I will not drive until all passengers and I have buckled up.
- I will not have cell phone conversations, dial my cell phone, or send or read text messages while I am driving. I can answer the phone when I am stopped, but I need to tell the person I will call them back once I begin moving. I will safely pull over if I need to use my cell phone.
- I agree to pay the full cost of all damages that result from an accident for which I was responsible. These include damages that are not covered by insurance, as well as the difference in insurance premiums that may result from any accident.
- I will keep the car clean, inside and out, and be aware of needs for gas, oil, and general repairs.
 - I am responsible for noting that the car gas tank does not fall below a quarter full.
 - I am responsible for washing the mileage on the car and letting my parents know when maintenance appointments need to be scheduled.
 - I am responsible for paying attention to the car – listening for odd noises and checking the headlights, oil and brake lights, tires, and the oil and coolant levels.
- Carlow is _____ on weekdays, and _____ on weekends.
- I cannot drive anyone else's car without asking my parents for permission. If Mom and Dad are out of town but another adult is at home, those rules apply to the adult in charge.
- After school, I will come straight home. If I want to go anywhere else, I will let Mom or Dad approve of my plans. If I can't reach them at home or on the cell, I can have a message.
- I know that my parents will always love me and accept me — even if I make a mistake. I also recognize that this love and acceptance require me on both of those to respond to my driving privileges if either fail to be warranted.
- I accept that my parents have more experience than I do on the road and we'll both have to and carefully consider the advice that I am given.

I have read the above agreement and sign it in accordance with the rules.

Signed,

Name of Teen _____

Name of Parent _____

Name of Parent _____

Editor's Note: You may download a copy of this contract in Microsoft Word, which may then be edited by clicking on the link at www.dps.com/parents.htm



PARENT RESOURCES:

**SHOULDER
TO SHOULDER**
Raising Teens Together



www.shouldertoshoulderminnesota.org

Positive Parenting is Ideal

POSITIVE PARENTING

is warm, supportive and encouraging while being firm, consistent and clear with limits and boundaries.

- HIGH** Nurturance
- HIGH** Expectations
- HIGH** Respect

"I'm important in my teen's life. We have some good times & some bad times, but I'm there for the long run."

DOMINATING PARENTING

is harsh, punitive and rigid.

- LOW** Nurturance
- HIGH** Expectations
- LOW** Respect

"I need to really clamp down now that he's a teen.. If you give him an inch, he'll take a mile"

PERMISSIVE PARENTING

is inconsistent enforcement of rules, or no rules at all and a need to be a pal, more than a parent.

- HIGH** Nurturance
- LOW** Expectations
- MODERATE** Respect

"I really want to enjoy parenting my teen. It's important for them to fit in & have what they want, & not have too many rules. We get along better that way."

UNENGAGED PARENTING

is inconsistent presence in a child's life - teens raise themselves.

- LOW** Nurturance
- LOW** Expectations
- LOW** Respect

"It's time to let go now that my child's grown up. It's time to get my needs met. He can take care of himself."



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Evaluation:

Pre- & Post-Class Parent Survey:

10-questions

1. Confidence understanding teen driving laws?
2. Importance of teen driving issues?
3. Understanding GDL provisions?
4. Awareness of greatest period of fatal crash risk?



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ATTENDANCE:

- Required
- Material Incentive
- Financial Incentive

SUSTAINABILITY:

- Fee
- Community Partnership/Co-Branding



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A Parent's Role is Crucial!

Work with your Driver Education Professionals to implement a community-involved parent education class:

- *Emotional Appeal*
- *Risks*
- *Laws*
- *Important Role of Parents*
- *Resources*



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