

NEW DRIVER CONTRACT

THE PARENTS AND _____ AGREE on the following ground rules.

WE AGREE on the importance of trust between us, on the responsibilities we each have and the consequences associated with failure to fulfill our individual responsibilities. **WE AGREE** on the following:

- New Drivers have significantly more accidents than experienced drivers.
- Driving is a privilege, not a right
- The use of a car is a privilege, not a right
- Parents take on an awesome financial responsibility when they allow a minor child to use a family vehicle
- Misuse of a vehicle by a minor can result in the destruction of the family's economic health through claims by injured parties that exceed the family's insurance coverage. Families can lose their home and life savings because of auto accidents.

Therefore, in recognition of the gravity and risks associated with granting the New Driver certain driving privileges, the parties make the following stipulations:

As a NEW DRIVER I AGREE to the following rules governing the use of any vehicle:

- I agree to maintain a grade point average of 3.5(can be adjusted) or better, in order to maintain driving privileges.
- There will be no alcohol or drugs permitted in the car at any time. I promise to remove anyone who violates this rule, or to call my parents if I am unable to get the offenders to vacate the car.
- I promise to consume zero alcohol or drugs prior to driving the car. There is no such thing in this agreement as "acceptable blood alcohol limit."
- I will wear seat belts whenever the car is in motion and demand that all passengers do the same.
- **I PROMISE** that for the first 12 months of driving, there will be no minors in the car while driving. Failure to observe this rule without specific permission will result in a suspension of driving privileges for 4 weeks.
- Should I get a traffic violation ticket, I agree to pay for the ticket as well as the difference in the insurance premium for as long as the premium is in effect.
- I will keep the car that I drive clean, inside and out and pay for the gas I use.
- I will inform my parents about where I am driving, when I plan to return, and if I will be late coming home.
- I will not make calls or text on my cell phone, or eat while driving the car.
- I will inform my parents about any and all tickets, accidents, and encounters with police (including warnings.)

WE JOINTLY AGREE

- That whenever _____ deems appropriate, she can call her parents for alternate transportation home to avoid either riding in or driving a car where alcohol or drugs are involved. WE AGREE that such an incident shall not affect future driving privileges.
- _____ will observe all driving laws set forth in state law.

- _____ cannot drive outside Marin County without specific permission to do so. Failure to follow this rule will result in a loss of driving privileges for 2 weeks.
- _____ must be home with the car by 11 p.m. unless there is a specific agreement on an alternate time.
- I will meet with my insurance agent to understand my policy and liability, and read the Fact Sheet for New Drivers.

WE JOINTLY AGREE that a citation for speeding of less than 10 mph over the limit shall result in a suspension of driving privileges for 2 weeks. For a violation in excess of 10 mph over, the suspension shall be 1 month.

For other traffic violations, the suspension schedule shall be:

Careless Driving:	2 weeks
Reckless Driving:	1 month
Following too closely	2 weeks
Failure to Yield Right-of-Way	2 weeks
Running a Stop Light	1 month
Running a Stop Sign	2 weeks

Any At-Fault collision resulting in \$500 damage or more shall result in an indefinite driving suspension until determined otherwise by your parents.

The Parents

Date: _____

The Facts

Initial: _____

- Automobile accidents are the **leading cause of death** of people 16-20 years old.
- I am **more likely to die** in an auto accident than from any other cause
- 56 percent of teens make and/or answer phone calls while driving.
- Answering a phone call will decrease the reaction rate of the average teenager to that of a 70-year-old.
- A teenager is killed in a car crash every 64 1/2 minutes. (NHTSA)
- A teenager is injured in a car crash every 55 seconds (NHTSA)
- Teenagers make up 7% of licensed drivers, but suffer 14% of fatalities and 20% of all reported accidents.
- The driver fatality rate for 16-year-olds is 9 times the rate for drivers 30 to 60 years old.
- 85% of crashes by 16-year-old drivers are attributed to "Driver Error," **Not speed. Not drugs. Not alcohol.**
- In a national survey of more than 900 teens with driver's licenses from 26 high schools, teens rated the following behaviors or activities as "extremely" or "very" distracting:
 - Instant or text messaging while driving - 37 percent
 - [The teen driver's] emotional state - 20 percent
 - Having several friends in the car - 19 percent
 - Talking on a cell phone - 14 percent
 - Eating or drinking - 7 percent
 - Having a friend in the car - 5 percent
 - Listening to music - 4 percent