

Important Notice about Your Teenager's Driving



**From Your Local Law Enforcement Agency
Idaho Transportation Department
and the National Safety Council**



Law Enforcement Agency

Postage

To the Parents of:

Fold Under

To the Parents of: _____ Date: _____

Your teen was stopped today for a traffic violation. Please speak to your teen driver about the responsibility that comes with the privilege of operating a motor vehicle. This brochure contains important information parents should know on how to help make teens safer drivers. It is our responsibility to enforce the law to prevent crashes from happening and we need the cooperation and partnership of parents, teens, and the community to stop needless teen fatalities and injuries before they occur.

Title & Name: _____

Agency: _____

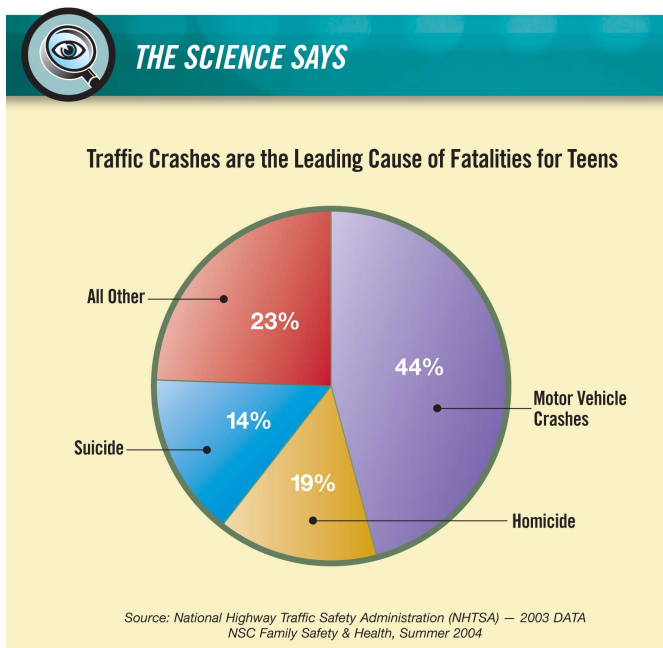
Type of violation: _____

Fold Under

Teens are involved in four times more aggressive driving crashes than all other drivers in Idaho.

Aggressive driving behaviors includes speeding, driving too fast for conditions, following too close, failure to yield, running stop signs, and disregarding signals. Crashes are not random events, science tells us there is a pattern to teen crashes – we now know the when, where, and why. By knowing the 5 points listed below, you as a parent can help reduce your teen’s chances of being in a crash:

1. Teens are at the greatest risk of being in a crash during the first 12-24 months after they get their drivers license.
2. Two conditions are more dangerous for a teen driver, they are: driving with teen passengers, and driving at night.
3. Risky behaviors—not wearing a seat belt, drinking or driving aggressively—are choices drivers make. These behaviors raise the stakes in what’s already a high-risk situation for inexperienced teen drivers.
4. Drivers Education will teach a teen to operate a vehicle and the rules of the road; it takes a combination of practice, gradual exposure to higher risk situations and ongoing parental involvement to reduce a teen’s chance of crashing once they have a driver’s license.
5. The greatest safety benefit comes from parents and teens working together to create a driving agreement. Set clear expectations by listing privileges, restrictions, and what a teen must do to prove he/she is ready for increased driving independence.



A Teen/Parent Driving Agreement is a signed agreement between parents and teens that defines restrictions, privileges, rules and consequences in stages until teens are ready to be an independent safe driver. Below is an example:

Teen/Parent Agreement

Violations

Drove under the influenceLose driving privileges for _____

Ticket for speeding (other)Lose driving privileges for _____

Passengers did not wear seat beltLose driving privileges for _____

Lied about where he/she was with carLose driving privileges for _____

Came home late without callingLose driving privileges for _____

Violated the driving agreementLose driving privileges for _____

Specify _____Lose driving privileges for _____

Consequences

We understand and agree to these driving conditions and rules.

Teen: _____ Parent: _____ Date: _____

Develop Driving Skills in Stages

Stage 1: During the first 1-3 months no driving after sundown or 9 pm, no teen passengers, drive only in dry weather, only on neighborhood roads.

Stage 2: During the first 3-6 months no driving after 10 pm, only one teen passenger during the day, drive only in dry weather or light rain conditions, drive only on local and neighborhood roads.

Stage 3: During the first 6-9 months no driving after 11 pm, no more than one teen passenger during the day and one at night, drive in dry weather or light rain conditions, drive on local roads only, no highways unless an adult is present.

Stage 4: During the first 9-12 months no driving after midnight, up to two teen passengers during the day, only one teen passenger at night, drive most weather during the day and moderate weather after dark, driving on most roads, no highways at night unless an adult is present.