

Help Younger Drivers Stay Alive



Help your younger driver understand the risks of being a new driver. Teach them to be safe and responsible.

During their first year of unsupervised driving, younger drivers are at highest risk. In New York State, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional deaths and hospitalizations for drivers ages 16 to 17.

Talk about risky behaviors.

- **Avoid distractions** - Cell phones, other passengers, and music can impair driver reactions.
- **Don't drive impaired** - Using alcohol/drugs, and driving drowsy affects driving abilities, reaction time, and judgment.
- **Use seat belts** - Not using a seat belt greatly increases the risk of injury and death.
- **Drive the speed limit** - Ignoring speed limits and driving too fast are leading causes of crashes.
- **Never drive recklessly** - It's extremely dangerous to do stunts like doughnuts, drifting, weaving, social media challenges, and imitating movie stunts/computer-generated imagery (CGI).

Follow safety tips to prevent crashes.

Enroll your younger driver in a training course before they get their license.

- Talk with your younger driver about risky behaviors.
- **Be a role model.** Model safe driving behaviors. They learn from you.
- **Know the NYS Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) laws.** Make sure younger drivers follow the correct laws for your region (Upstate NY, Long Island, or New York City).
- **Set expectations for driving.** A driving agreement is one tool to help you set and enforce driving rules during the first year of unsupervised driving.
- **Withdraw consent.** Legal guardians can withdraw consent for any driver under age 18. When consent is withdrawn, the driver's license or permit is canceled by submitting the Department of Motor Vehicles' form MV-44 or MV-44S.



Crashes are preventable!

For more information visit
www.health.ny.gov/youngerdrivers

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