

Parent-Young Person Safe Driving Agreement





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In Australia young drivers under 21 have the highest crash risk of any age group. Per kilometre travelled, they have the highest rates of involvement in all types of crashes, from those involving only property damage, through crashes causing injury, to those that are fatal. The problem is worst in the first few years of driving, when limited driving experience, and sometimes risk taking behind the wheel can result in disaster.

The Roads 2 Survival™ Program was developed by young people, parents and other concerned community members to help families discuss and manage issues involving young drivers and road crashes. The cornerstones of the program are discussion, family, trust, responsibility and choice. The Roads to Survival™ Program provides a framework for your family to help you to discuss safety on the roads. Parents, you are showing trust in your child who is taking on the adult responsibility of driving. Young people, you are showing trust in your parents to support you when you need it.

The Roads 2 Survival™ Safe Driving Agreement

also allows your family the choice to set your own conditions. Importantly it asks for commitments from the parent(s)/guardian(s) as well as from the son/daughter. You should complete the agreement together, discussing each issue, and deciding which ones you agree on by initialling or checking the box beside the item. You may omit or jointly modify any items as you feel appropriate.

It is your choice.



Car crashes are the leading cause of death and permanent injury in the young. Young people under 21, especially young men, are at least 3-4 times more likely to be involved in a car crash than any other age group.

Roads 2 Survival™ Safe Driving Agreement

Parents/guardians, please remember that your son/daughter has usually had, and still has, ample opportunity to watch your driving. Your son/daughter may view any unsafe driving practices, that they see you do, as acceptable for them. He/she will note any differences between what you say and what you do. Whatever you expect of him/her, he/she should be able to expect of you. Please consider the example you would like your son/daughter to follow.

When you sign each area of this agreement you are also agreeing to follow the same guidelines which your son/daughter are agreeing to follow.

Many jurisdictions now use graduated licensing programs. It would be sensible to review/redo this agreement at the beginning of each stage of such a graduated program.

Please note there are a number of areas covered in this agreement. More details regarding each area, as well as a list of frequently asked questions and their answers, are available on the Roads2Survival™ website at

<http://www.roads2survival.com.au>

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

I/we acknowledge that the right to drive involves responsibilities.

I/we also acknowledge that as parent(s) or guardian(s), I am/we fulfill a role model for driving behaviour and will therefore drive in a responsible manner.

I/we agree to trust my/our son/daughter and help him/her through any difficult situations in a calm and non-judgmental manner.

I/we will follow our family's mutually agreed decisions as outlined in this agreement

Parent's Name.....

Parent's Name.....

Son/Daughter

I acknowledge that the right to drive involves responsibilities.

I agree to accept the adult responsibilities and consequences of driving.

I agree to trust my parent(s)/guardian(s) to provide help when I need it. I will follow our family's mutually agreed decisions as outlined in this agreement.

Son/Daughter's Name.....



Tick and/or initial the items that you agree on.

Safety is our top priority.

Unqualified help

Parent/Guardian's Promise to provide unqualified help:

My/our son/daughter's safety is of overriding importance to me/us. I/we will provide my/our son/daughter with money to enable him/her to take a taxi home if he/she feels this is the safest option. If ever my/our son/daughter feels that he/she is in a difficult or potentially dangerous situation, I/we agree to accept a call at any time and to ensure safe transport for him/her. I/we agree that this will be done in a calm and non judgmental manner.

- Parent

Son/daughter's Promise to request help when necessary:

If I find myself in a difficult or potentially dangerous situation I agree to ring for assistance at any hour. I understand that my request for assistance will be met with in a calm and non judgmental manner.

- Young Person

Fatal crashes are more likely with young drivers when other teenagers are in the car. The risk increases with each additional passenger.

Teenage Passengers

We agree to limit.....'s number of passengers to.....

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree the limit on passengers and night time driving hours will be reviewed as driving experience develops.

- Young Person
- Parent

Date of passenger limit review.....

In Australia over 25% of crashes causing injury are rear end collisions.

Defensive Driving

We agree to allow for a safe margin of space between vehicles, adjusting for road conditions.

- Young Person
- Parent

In particular, we agree not to "tailgate".

- Young Person
- Parent

We acknowledge that there are more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. We will look out for them.

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree that all vehicle occupants will wear seatbelts correctly at all times.

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree that all children/infants will use appropriate and correctly fitted child seats/infant capsules at all times.

- Young Person
- Parent

Driving between the hours of midnight and 6:00am greatly increases crash death rates for new young drivers.

Night Driving Hours

We agree.....will be restricted from driving between the night time hours of..... and.....

- Young Person
- Parent

Date of night driving hours review.....



Distractions are a common cause of crashes. We agree to keep our minds on the road, and our hands on the wheel.

Distractions

We agree to pull over to use a mobile phone to talk, or to send or receive text/video messages.

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree to keep interior volume to a level that allows outside sounds, in particular sirens, to be heard.

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree not to smoke while driving.

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree not eat or drink beverages while driving.

- Young Person
- Parent

In Australia, hospitalized road crash victims have over 20 times the frequency of alcohol and illicit drug use when compared with other road users.

Drugs/Alcohol

We will not drive if we have been drinking alcohol or using drugs which might affect our driving.

- Young Person
- Parent

We will only be a passenger in a vehicle where the driver is apparently sober and drug free.

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree that someone will always be a “designated driver/skipper”.

- Young Person
- Parent

Australia has long driving distances and fatigue is a recurrent factor in crashes. Fatalities occur each year as a result of drivers falling asleep.

Fatigue/Mood/Physical-Health/Environment

We agree to plan and take breaks during long trips as a part of fatigue management.

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree to stop driving immediately and rest, regardless of trip length, if we should start to doze while driving.

- Young Person
- Parent

We understand that being tired, upset, angry, late, sick or injured can affect our driving capability.

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree not to drive if our physical, emotional or psychological condition impairs our driving.

- Young Person
- Parent

We will be aware of weather/road conditions that may affect our driving and will adjust our driving or pull over, as necessary.

- Young Person
- Parent



In Australia, after alcohol, speed is the next most common factor in fatal crashes.

Speed limits and other road rules

We will not exceed marked speed limits. We will adjust for road conditions/weather when necessary.

- Young Person
- Parent

We will obey all road and traffic laws.

- Young Person
- Parent

Legally, "road rage" can be classed as "common assault". We will not engage in "road rage" behaviour.

- Young Person
- Parent

If an infringement occurs while we are driving, we accept full responsibility for any penalties/fines.

- Young Person
- Parent

We acknowledge that we are legally required to stop immediately and to render assistance in the event of a crash. We are also required to exchange details with any other driver involved. We are responsible for contacting the local police as required by law.

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree to be responsible for the car's ongoing care

Maintenance

Maintenance: We agree that the most recent driver, or the named person(s) (choose option) accepts responsibility for:

Petrol (who?.....)

- Young Person
- Parent

Services (who?.....)

- Young Person
- Parent

Fluid levels (who?.....)

- Young Person
- Parent

Tyre pressure (who?.....)

- Young Person
- Parent

Tyre condition (who?.....)

- Young Person
- Parent

Cleanliness (who?.....)

- Young Person
- Parent

Other (who?.....)

- Young Person
- Parent



Registered Vehicle Owner

We agree that the registered owner will be informed as soon as possible if any damage should occur to the car.

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree that we will not allow anyone to drive the car without the specific permission of the registered owner of the car.

- Young Person
- Parent

We agree that the care and control of the car may be transferred to another responsible person, without the registered owner's specific permission, if it is required in an emergency situation and/or to maintain one's safety.

- Young Person
- Parent

Parent/Guardian's Promise to ensure vehicle is safe to drive

I/we will ensure the car is in proper mechanical condition (including its tyre condition) before allowing its use by my/our son/daughter. I/we will ensure there is an emergency road kit in the car and that any used items are restocked immediately.

The following emergency road kit items are suggested by police and driving instructors. Please check the items you feel are necessary:

- mobile phone
- first aid kit
- pen/paper
- water
- jack
- spare tyre
- jumper cables
- assorted tools
- fire extinguisher
- drivers license
- car registration
- blanket

Other:.....

- Parent



Agreement

We agree to accept the terms of the agreement as indicated by the statements and checked boxes.

Signature of Young Person.....Date.....

Signature of Parent/Guardian.....Date.....

Signature of Parent/Guardian.....Date.....

Review

We agree to review the terms of this agreement on a regular basis during the first three years of driving. (3-6 monthly is recommended, or at the time of changes in a Graduated Licensing program.)

Date of Next Review.....

Signature of Young Person.....Date.....

Signature of Parent/Guardian.....Date.....

Signature of Parent/Guardian.....Date.....

This Australian program has been based on a number of previous similar initiatives from Australia and around the world. It has been developed in Australia to address Australian issues. It is not currently affiliated with any other similar program. It was initially trialed in Australia at Prince Alfred College (PAC) in South Australia. It has now been used in multiple other schools. Please contact Dr Bill Griggs (wgriggs@bigpond.net.au) or see the website below for more information if required.

<http://www.roads2survival.com.au>
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