

THE LAWS

Graduated Driver's License Law

GDL is a system designed for drivers under age 18 (Junior drivers) to receive senior driving privileges in 3 stages,

- Learner permit
- Junior license
- Full senior license



General GDL Junior Driver Rules

- 50 practice hours
- 15 hours must be at night
- No electronic devices while driving (including hands-free)
- Must wait 6 months after obtaining learners permit before taking road test
- Must bring completed DMV Form 262, signed by parent/guardian to road test

General GDL Junior Driver Restrictions

- No more than 1 passenger under age 21 unless parent, guardian, or driving instructor is also in vehicle (Exception: immediate family member)
- When supervision of Junior Driver is required, only supervising driver may ride in front seat
- Supervising driver must be at least 21 years old and have valid driver license

***Refer to NYS DMV for all Young Drivers website for Long Island regional restrictions

NYS Seatbelt Law

Senior Drivers:

- Front Seat – Everyone must wear a seatbelt
- Back Seat – Everyone under age 16 must wear a seatbelt
- All children under age 8: Must ride in federally – approved child safety seats

Junior Drivers:

- Everyone in vehicle, regardless of age, must wear seatbelt



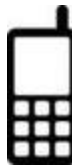
NYS Distracted Driving, Talking &

Texting Law: It is illegal for drivers to use handheld electronic devices while their vehicle is in motion. Cell phone use requires a hands-free device.

The current NYS distracted driving law includes a **\$150 fine** and **3 points** on your license.

Illegal distracted driving activity includes holding an electronic device and:

- Composing, sending, reading, accessing, browsing, transmitting, saving, e-mailing, or text messaging
- Viewing, taking, or transmitting images
- Playing games



NYS Zero Tolerance Law

No Drinking Alcohol

Under Age 21

The Law:

- Under 21 and have a BAC of .02% or more, but less than .07%, you are in violation of the Zero Tolerance Law



The Consequences:

- DMV hearing before Administrative Judge for having consumed alcohol while driving under age 21
- Arrest for Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI) or Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)

Nassau County:

- Zero Tolerance – .02% to not more than .07%
- DWAI – greater than .05% and less than .08%
- DWI – .08% or higher (nationwide)
- Aggravated DWI – .18% or higher

CONTACT INFORMATION

Community Parent Center

Director: Wendy Tepfer
Consultant: Tom Gilberti
Retired NCPD

1260 Meadowbrook Road
Brookside School Rm 31
North Merrick, New York 11566
516-771-9346

cpc1260@hotmail.com

www.communityparentcenter.org

Nassau County

Traffic Safety Board

1194 Prospect Avenue
Westbury, NY 11590
516-571-6808

Nassau Pediatric Society

1 Stonehenge Road
Great Neck, New York 11021
516-482-4158

www.ny2aap.org/npsindex.html

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<http://www.safeny.ny.gov/>

This brochure is for information purposes only, not to be used for legal or judicial determinations. The entire Vehicle & Traffic Law, sorted by section number, is available from the New York State Legislative Bill Drafting Commission.



INFORMATION & RESOURCES FOR TEENS AND PARENTS

FACTS LAWS SAFETY TIPS



FOCUS ON

SAFE TEEN DRIVING

BASIC FACTS

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S teens, accounting for 36% of all deaths in this age group.

- 14 teens age 16 to 20 are killed each day
- 5,000 teens are killed every year
- 300,000 teens are seriously injured annually
- 80% of all traffic fatalities occur within 25 miles of home, at speeds under 40mph
- Over 50% of teen deaths from car crashes occur between 3 p.m. & midnight
- 54% of teen crashes occur on Friday, Saturday or Sunday
- Most teen crashes are due to inexperience, driver error, and usually involve a single vehicle
- The first 1,000 hours behind the wheel are the most dangerous for teenagers
- 1 in 3 teens will have a crash during their first year of driving
- Teens have the lowest rate of seat belt use
- MRI research: poor teen driving; linked to immature prefrontal cortex
 - Area not fully developed until ~age 25This part of the brain responsible for:
 - Planning
 - Impulse control
 - Decision-making



DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracted Driving: Refers to operating a motor vehicle while also engaging in any non-driving activity that takes the driver's attention off the road.



These activities can distract from the primary task of driving and greatly increase the risk of an accident.

There are 3 main types of distraction:

1. Visual — taking your eyes off the road
2. Manual — taking your hands off the wheel
3. Cognitive — taking your mind off driving

The presence of passengers strongly increases the risk that a teen driver will be involved in a crash.

More Passengers = More Risk of a Crash

- Risk of crash doubles with 1 passenger
- Risk of crash increases 5 times with 2 or more passengers

IMPAIRED DRIVING

Impaired Driving: Refers to driving under the influence after consuming alcohol and or any other drugs resulting in poor decision making and inadequate judgment

All drugs alter perception, cognition, attention, balance, coordination, and other faculties required for safe driving. It is estimated that 1 in 3 people will be affected by impaired driving in their lifetime.

Teens are at risk from:

- driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- riding with drivers under the influence of drugs or alcohol

Cell phone use is the **NUMBER ONE** source of driver inattention behind the wheel.

When You Text Message While Driving:

- Your eyes are off the road for about 5 seconds
- At 55 mph, its like driving the length of a football field **blindfolded**
- It's like driving with a BAC of .08 which is legally intoxicated =DWI

Driving Behavior—Increase Crash Risk

Texting	23 times
Reaching for an object in the car	9 times
Using a cell phone	4 times
Driving drowsy	4 times
Looking at an object outside the car	3.7 times
Reading	3.7 times
Applying makeup	3 times

The Facts:

- Alcohol use is involved in 1/3 of all fatal teen crashes
- In the U. S., alcohol-related crashes cost the public more than \$51 billion yearly
- Marijuana & other drugs affect many skills required for safe driving; alertness, the ability to concentrate, coordination & reaction time
- Drugs other than alcohol (e.g., marijuana & cocaine) are involved in about 18% of motor vehicle driver deaths
- Other drugs are often used in combination with alcohol



TEN WAYS TO STAY SAFE



1. Always wear a seatbelt
2. Limit number of passengers
3. Restrict night driving
4. No alcohol or other drug use
5. No cell phone or text messages
6. Avoid distractions: eating, CDs, iPods
7. Keep eyes on road & hands on wheel
8. Obey traffic signs, signals & markings
9. Know the driving laws
10. Drive a safe car

TEEN DRIVING RESOURCES

NYS DMV for all Young Drivers
<http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/youngerdriver/>

Governor's Traffic Safety Committee
<http://www.safeny.com/>

NYS Department of Health
<http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injuryprevention/teens.htm>

Official US Government Website For Distracted Driving
<http://www.distraction.gov/>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/teendrivers/>

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute
<http://www.teendriversource.org/>

"Impaired driving is no accident. It is a serious and deadly crime. In the U.S impaired driving kills someone every 30 minutes and injures every 2 minutes."