How to Utilize the Graduated Driver's Licensing Law Effectively_{Rev. 6/10}

Car Crashes are the LEADING cause of death for teens

Parents hold the <u>KEY</u> to Teen Driver Safety!









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Why Parent Participation is Important

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Research shows that when parents do not limit *when, where, and how frequently* a teen can drive, teens' traffic violations and car crashes increase. Research also shows that although parents are in a prime position to influence the teens' driving behaviors, many parents are less involved than they could be.

According to a recent study by the NICHD, researchers found that teaching parents <u>how to set limits</u> on their teen's driving greatly reduces the teen's chances of risky driving behavior that could lead to crashes. Whenever youth learn a new skill, it is always advisable for parent(s) / guardian(s) to actively support and encourage the youth's progress.

Research concludes that the *key* to increased safety in families *requires parental* awareness and involvement. It is *essential* parents have an *immediate* plan of response upon a teen's *first* violation or crash.

Children observe parents from the day they are born. Much of their attitude—in life and behind the wheel—establish early in their lives by the parents' behaviors. Parental modeling of seat belt use and safe, law abiding and polite driving is essential.

Adolescence can be a confusing time when many issues, ideas and opinions are developed. Driving is not the time to work through one's frustrations, disappointments or impatience with a situation of the day.

We encourage parents to enroll their teen in a professional driving school or the school Driver Education course however <u>not be</u> fooled into believing the child is an expert driver simply by attending the class. Continued practice <u>after</u> taking the course is essential.

The Graduated Driver License (GDL) Law

GDL is the acronym for Graduated Drivers License. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, GDL is systematic and progressive, allowing the young driver to develop driving skills and maturity at a rate that meets individual levels of capability. In Oregon, the GDL law went into effect in March 2000.

Reasons for the GDL law: Car Crashes are responsible for 37% ('07 stat) of teen death!

- 16-19 year olds have more crashes than the elderly.
- 16 year olds have the **highest** number of crashes.

The driving *privilege* requires personal integrity that develops in the prefrontal cortex. The expected personal integrity standard is defined by "how one conducts oneself while no one is watching". If a teen is unable to meet this standard, driving and social training must continue until maturity is better developed.

Can you guess how many skills a driver uses while behind the wheel? Approximately 1,500! These skills include: observation, perception, interpretation, and anticipation—all occurring in the prefrontal cortex! Teens are capable of operating a vehicle, but DISADVANTAGED simply because of the way the human brain develops.

GDL is effective only if parents understand, support and know how to implement it, and if youth have well-practiced driving skills, experience, maturity and a highly developed personal integrity.

Teen: Driving inexperience and immaturity are the main contributors to young driver citations and crashes, but there are other issues to consider too!

- Speed, peer pressure from other passengers and night driving—not alcohol or bad weather are the biggest contributors to teenage car crashes.
- Fatigue: This age group actually doesn't recognize they are tired.
- Over-confidence: Teens tend to exhibit over-confidence in the 2nd year of licensure.
- Inconsistently follows traffic laws.
- Does not hold lanes.

Veterans & Teens

- Complacency: Contributes to driving citations and crashes for <u>veteran</u> drivers who tell themselves, "My car knows the way."
- Car Cell phone: Every driver should restrict cell phone use while driving to emergency calls or letting someone know you will be late. Using a cell phone while driving reduces the number of *required* driving skills by 50% and responsible for 40% ('08 stat) of fatal crashes!

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Recommends:

200 hours or 6000 miles of driving practice before licensing a teen, plus an additional 500 miles of supervised driving <u>after</u> licensing to be logged by the teen <u>before</u> being granted the privilege as principle driver. It takes 5-7 years to become driving proficient.

Beginning

While a Parent is driving, ask the teen questions about the driving environment to begin broadening his/her observation skills. *Example: Did you see that driver did not signal before changing lanes? (28 Traffic Safety Questions available on page 16)*

Parents should periodically ride with the young driver after licensing to be sure good driving habits have not been replaced with dangerous habits.

Crashes are NOT accidents! We use the term CRASH because collisions are usually not some incident from out of the blue. Ninety percent of crashes and injuries are avoidable! Crashes occur because people do not follow some of the simplest laws to obey—traffic laws. This means these crashes and injuries are EASY to prevent.

FYI: Parents <u>are NOT required</u> to sign the documents to grant their children the *privilege of driving prior to the youth's 18th birthday.* To enhance a youth's maturation and driving experience, it may be advisable for the youth to get a driving permit and practice driving for <u>two years</u> before being licensed.

ADHD youth need EXTRA support, practice and maturity before licensing.

Updated Information

Safety Restraints for Children: New Law effective July 1, 2007 ORS 811.210 and 811.215

- A. Child passengers under one year of age, regardless of weight, or a child who weighs 20lbs or less, must be properly secured in a child safety system in a rear-facing position.
- B. Child passengers who weigh 40lbs or less must be <u>properly</u> secured in a child safety system.
- C. Children weighing more than 40lbs and who are 4' 9" or shorter, must ride in a child safety system which elevates them (i.e. booster seat) so the lap and shoulder belt fit them <u>properly</u>.
- D. Children eight years or older must be <u>properly</u> secured with a safety belt or safety harness.

IMPROPER use of a child safety system or safety belt leads to injury or death!

There are a number of teen driver monitoring devices and services available.

- Monitoring 'services' i.e. a bumper sticker asking for a report on the teen's driving behavior and reported through a specified email address or phone number
- GPS devices connected with the teen's cell phone or to the vehicle the teen drives
- Cost for these services or devices run from \$25 per year-\$500 + service fees and contracts

Our position is that if a Parent feels the need to 'monitor' the Teen's driving behavior, the Teen is NOT adequately experienced with good driving skills and does not have the emotional maturity to be licensed. Instead, investing in building good driving skills, and experience and give the youth enough time to develop the maturity required to be a reliable and safe driver with pay a higher RETURN ON INVESTMENT.

Oregon GDL: The Basics & Beyond

Law: Curfew between midnight and

driving unless it is work-related, to

5:00 a.m. during the first year of

or from a school event or with a

licensed driver 25 or older.

The Law	Beyond The Law
Law: Six months of driving with an instruction permit.	Parents may want to extend this period and have the power to delay licensing until youth turns 18 (do not license youth who refuse to wear safety gear)
Law: 50 hours of adult-supervised (older than 21) training plus complete an ODOT approved safety course, or an additional 50 hours of adult-supervised training and a driving log certifying the hours. 100 certified hours without a safety	Parents riding with a young driver for required hours who continually needs cautioning about speed, signals, tailgating, traffic conditions, weather conditions, should delay licensing and work with the young driver until he/she no longer needs to be reminded of safe driving habits.
course.	
Law: Driving Log-used for certification of meeting the 50/100 hr. supervised driving requirement	Note day, time, year, traffic and weather conditions. When the weather changes, check the log to determine if the teen needs more practice.
Law: In the first six months after licensing, a teen can carry no one younger than 20 years old except immediate family.	Drunks are the most difficult passengers to controlsiblings may be the second hardest. Parents can expand beyond the law and NOT allow siblings to be transported for the first 2-6 months after solo driving. Reminder: Licensing a teen to make life more convenient for parents is not advisable
Law: In the second six months after licensing, no more than three passengers younger than 20, except family.	When adding passengers, parents can expand beyond the law to allow ONLY ONE passenger for 3 months and add additional passengers SLOWLY. For example: One passenger for 3 months, 2 passengers after 6 months, 3 passengers after one year and consider 3 peer-age passengers the maximum transported at any time. 65% of fatal

TYI about DUII Drivers: Every weeknight from 10:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m., 1 out of 13 drivers are drunk. On weekends from 1:00 a.m.-6:00 a.m., 1 out of 7 drivers are drunk. 10:00 PM is a *reasonable* curfew for anybody of any age—to avoid being the target of a drunk driver.

teenage crashes involve a teenage driver.

Forty-one percent of crashes involving teenage

drivers occur between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Parents may want to set a curfew of "dark" during

summer months and before 9:00 p.m. in winter. In

Oregon a large number of crashes occur between

Building a Driving Contract

A driving contract is an effective barometer to determine a beginning driver's level of driving skill, experience and maturity. A contract can be useful in other ways:

- It can help to define expectations and eliminate any confusion.
- If the teen has difficulty keeping the contract, it may be written in such a way that it
 does not meet the appropriate maturity or experience level of the young driver or
 there may be other underlying reasons, *i.e.* alcohol or drug use (an addict cannot
 keep a contract). Teenagers can follow rules for responsible driving, but first, they
 have to know the rules.

Parents & Youth

- It is suggested that parents and youth draft and share copies of similar guidelines with other family members and the families of friends so that ALL drivers connected with one another have *uniform* expectations and consequences. Include any relatives, neighbors and family friends with children of similar ages who might ride with your teen.
- Adopt the family rule to greet and assess <u>everyone</u> every time he/she comes to the house to transport family members in a vehicle.

Issues/Agreements Teen-Parent Contract

Set a firm time to design the driving contract. Teens and parents can review the following sample contract, noting points to consider at the beginning of the discussion. Contract Building will take approximately a week.

Spell out precisely family driving rules and agreements and any consequences for breaking the rules.

A simple teen driving contract might read as follows:

Parent agrees to pay for all/portion of vehicle insurance, gas and upkeep in exchange for Teen agreement to: 1. Retain a 3.0 grade average; 2. No involvement with alcohol or other drugs; 3. No driving citation or crash that is his/her fault, otherwise the driving privilege is revoked until the teen is grown and moved out of the home.

A comprehensive teen driving contract can be a good start to a great dialogue and understanding between Parents & Teen drivers.

The American Medical Association (AMA) studies show the Prefrontal Cortex of the brain begins to function in a human being around the age of 12-13 years and reaches full maturity near the mid-to-late 20's. Parents sometimes ask teens, "Why would you do something like this?" and a teen responds, "I don't know!" Guess what? They don't know because the immature brain can send some confusing messages at times.

Ways to measure developing maturity:

• **Consistently** wearing safety equipment <u>correctly</u> when going faster than running or walking (properly positioned, secured and used with or <u>without</u> parental supervision)

<u>Issue 1</u>: *Grades*—if the teen's grades drop below minimum levels to keep insurance premium benefit, does the teen pay the total amount of the premium increase or a

- Successfully keeping agreements
- Money management and organizational skills
- Offering to help with home chores and projects without request
- Taking responsibility for school homework and chores without reminding
- **Increased** cooperation
- Do NOT license Youth suffering from Behavioral Problems

Teen Driver Contract

percentage? What is the impact on driving privileges? Reduced? Limited? How long? Remember: do not confuse <i>maturity</i> to be equal with <i>intelligence</i> .
Rule: When
Agreement: Then
Information regarding DUII Drivers: Every weeknight from 10:00 p.m1:00 a.m., 1 out of 13 drivers is drunk. On weekends from 1:00 a.m6:00 a.m., 1 out of 7 drivers is drunk. 10:00 PM is a <i>reasonable</i> curfew for anybody of any age—to avoid being the target of a drunk driver.
<u>Issue 2</u> : <i>Curfew</i> —what is the expectation and strategy? Oregon GDL curfew is between midnight and 5 AM.
Rule: If I stay out past the curfew of our home or beyond the GDL limits when unrelated to my job or school activity for which I will have a permission statement, then

<u>Issue 3</u> : Safety belts—when discussing this issue, remember to include the car environment; pencils, cups, etc. In addition to properly wearing safety belts low and tight across the lap, keeping feet on the floor and the seat back in the upright position while driving or riding, safety belts should remain buckled when sitting in a car in a parking lot or on the side of the road.
Rule: When driving/riding in a vehicle, I will always
<u>Issue 4:</u> <i>Operating Expenses</i> —does the teen pay a percentage, a usage rate, or all? FYI: Youth expected to invest in driving expenses have a better understanding of the responsibilities of the driving privilege.
Example: Paying for car, gas, insurance, etc. Rule: Teen agrees to pay 10% or other % of monthly expenses, including car payment, fuel, maintenance costs, insurance premiums, registration fees, etc. Agreement: Failure to make agreed upon payment by the last day of the month will result in suspension of car privileges. If only half the amount due is paid driving privilege and use of car reduces by half.
Rule: When
Agreement: Then
<u>Issue 5:</u> Distracted driving—Cell Phone: In Oregon cell phone use while driving is illegal for drivers under age 18. Texting while driving is a prohibited behavior because a driver must keep visual connection with the road. As of 2010, drivers over 18 are required to use a hands-free device while driving; however the data does NOT show any reduction in crashes/violations when using a hands-free device while driving. The required numbers of safe driving skills are reduced by 50% when a cell phone is used while driving. Additionally, playing the car stereo and eating while driving are distractions for every driver. Draft a strategy for each.
Cell Phone:
Music:
Food:
Other:

<u>Issue 6</u> : A Peer passenger—the GDL allows 3 peer passe months of licensure, but is it safe? Remember, 61% of fat involving a teen had another teen driving. A driver is responded by the consider: Will you explain to your passengers your expectation the car? Will you wait until they misbehave and then tell the subsequent consequence? What will be the expectation/consequence?	al crashes (based on 2009 data) nsible for passenger safety. Justions for the teen driver to Attions before you let them into Justion the expectation and
a. I will begin with peer passengers.	
b. I will add peer passengers 1 at a time in: \square 1 month \square 2 i	month 6 month increments
c. If I determine that I am unable to handle two passengers	, I will reduce the number of
passengers I transport until I feel comfortable.	□ Agree
d. I will postpone transporting 3 peer passengers until I have	e been driving for two years
without any incidents	□ Agree
e. I expect my passengers to	
f. If my passengers misbehave, I will do the following: g. If I determine I am unable to transport siblings and peers	
Issue 7: Restricting driving limits when first licensed—Institute for Highway Safety recommends restricting long driving years of licensure. Design a strategy for driving under haza weather, construction zones, peak traffic hours. A 3-5 mile beginning of solo driving. Immediately upon licensing, teen from driving at night for the first two years of licensure a supervised night driving experience.	istance driving for the first two irdous conditions; inclement radius is adequate at the drivers should be restricted
When weather is hazardous, then	
When traffic is heavy, then	
When I have driven supervised for at least 500 miles after	licensed, then I

When I have driven supervised at night for at least 100 hours after licensed, then I
Issue 8: Sleep deprivation/Mood/Running late—Suggestions: Set a clock ahead 10 minutes; Pack book bags and cars and organize clothes the night before to help avoid rushing around or speeding. Studies show Teens need at least 9 solid hours of sleep before driving. You may want to limit sleep over occasions to children of elementary school age or disallow driving by the teen following a sleep-over.
When/If I am too tired to drive, then
When/If I am running late, then
My strategy for being on-time is
If I am in a bad mood, sad or too happy, then

<u>Issue 9</u>: *Incidents or crashes*—Most moving violations are intentional--speeding, running stop light or sign, failing to yield, etc., vs. mechanical failure or parking violations. Suggestion: For moving violations, return to a 'modified GDL' i.e. Siblings and peer passengers should be suspended and added back slowly. Recommendation: 1 week of supervised driving for every mile *over* the speed limit for which the teen is cited or at least 1-2 months of supervised driving, then allow one peer passenger, adding each passenger in 1-2 month increments, reduce driving destination and suspend night-time driving. Consider how the teen pays the fine: through job income, savings, or sweat equity?) Will the driving privilege be suspended until expenses are paid in full?

Remember, if a teen is not allowed to drive for more than two (2) weeks, most of the driving acuity is lost therefore *requiring* supervised driving until he/she can drive without being cautioned about driving skills, observations, and responses before being *allowed* to drive solo again.

Keep in mind the insurance deductible when constructing this portion of the contract. Is the teen expected to pay 10%, 25%, 100% of the deductible because he/she is expected to return the vehicle to the undamaged condition? Decide a response for each circumstance.

A.	Citation which is my fault	
1.	Driving privilege is: Revoked □ Supervised □ for (how long)): <u>wks./mos.</u>
2.	Passengers are limited to family-only for (how long):	wks./mos.
3.	Peer Passengers are: Suspended for (how long):	wks./mos.
4.	Then, reduced to one □ reduced to two □ for (how long):	wks./mos.
5.	I am responsible for paying the fine: \$: Through: cho	ores 🗆 job 🗆
	savings sweat equity other other	
6.	I understand I will need to pay any increase in car insurance	□ Agree
В.	Crash which is my fault	
1. F	Pay 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% of deductible	□ Agree
2. I	Pay portion or all of the damages \$	□ Agree
3. I	will lose my driving privilege until	□ Agree
C.	Crash for which I am not at fault	
1. I	Pay 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% of deductible	□ Agree
2. I	Pay portion or all of the damages \$	□ Agree
and	If the vehicle I drive is damaged, then I understand I am respons d will:	
	Pay 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% of deductible	□ Agree
	Pay portion or all of the damages \$	□ Agree
	Other: Breaking GDL law	
	er Limits: If I have peer in my car <i>before</i> the first six months of i	my licensure is

Parking Violation/Mechanical Failure: When/it			
Then			
Teen is responsible for paying the fines, making repairs, etc. and agrees to pay \$: Through chores □ job □ savings □ sweat equity □ other □			
Rule for peer moving violation/crash—develop a policy to refuse to ride with an offending driver in the future. How long will you refuse to ride with that driver? How will you determine when it is safe to accept a ride from that cited peer? Will you inform your parents of your friend's violation or will you try to handle it yourself? Should your parents and your friend's parents discuss the situation and draft an outcome? Suggestion: After a peer is cited have a response when offered a ride. Remember: A driver not taking personal safety seriously will not keep you safe either.			
Policy:			
Peer Rule: When			
Peer Agreement: Then			

The PBS series THE SECRET LIFE OF THE BRAIN describes the kind of activities chosen by teens *determines how* the Prefrontal Cortex develops. If a chemical is introduced during these formative years, *it will inhibit the development of the Prefrontal Cortex*. If teens choose healthy activities and build new skills during this period, the brain develops ways to hold on to the information and remembers how to learn.

<u>Issue 10:</u> Alcohol or drug use or emotionally impaired driver—what is the impact to the driving privilege if the teen is: cited for minor-in-possession; discovered to be using alcohol/drugs, or accepts a ride with someone who is impaired from alcohol/drugs or extreme emotion? Develop strategies for each situation. Remember, a teenager who refuses or cannot follow the rules of the home, especially about alcohol or other drugs, are unreliable to obey traffic laws. The teen needs more time to mature before allowed to drive a car.

Once the youth can be determined to be <u>clean and sober for a minimum of a year</u>, start the GDL process again. Draft a No-Use & Escalating Consequences Agreement (available from TNTT 503-413-4960); if the teen is unable to keep either agreement, call your pediatrician to schedule an assessment and develop a treatment plan. Keep in mind that some of the teen's friends need avoiding. Help the youth develop <u>alcohol/drug free</u> activities and keep a family event alcohol/drug free. Parents and youth face liability exposure. Develop strategies for your son/daughter to help friends stay safe too.

Rule: If I am discovered to be using, then			
If I receive an MIP, then			
	driver under the influence of alcohol or other re:		
	accepting a ride with someone under the		
If Peer is using, then			
If peer receives MIP, then			
Strategy for peer who needs to return hor	me safely:		
be the same for participating as the drive this dangerous activity does <i>not</i> have suf understand the seriousness of driving. R of racers <u>and</u> spectators. Parents of youth	emember, law enforcement can impound cars who street race or take a vehicle without permission is/her person, suspend all driving practice for a portex maturity and work with the youth for an iring licensure.		
Agreement: Then			
Additional Comments and Agreements:			
Signature of Teen Driver	Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)		
Date:			
	Date:		
Consider additional signatures by significant othe standardize expectations and consequences three			
Date:	Date:		

Tips for Parents (Allstate Insurance Company)

"Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers" (U.S. Department of Education)

Is your teen fully prepared for the responsibilities of driving? Has your teen driven extensively in all kinds of weather conditions, under varied traffic situations, and at night? Does your teen follow the rules of the house? Before you hand over the keys, both of you need to feel comfortable.

Dad or Mom? Sometimes one parent is a better teacher than the other. Parents and youth should practice together to determine which parent:

- Remains calm, cool and collected while driving
- Always practices safe, lawful and courteous driving
- Knows the traffic laws well, or takes time to refresh the information
- Takes a 'logical' approach to driving lessons. As an example, youth may have trouble disassociating hands from eyes—in other words, where they look is where they steer the car. In this case, the 'logical' solution is for the youth to continue driving in a parking lot until the skill can be mastered before going out on the road!

After Licensure

- Teen will continue to get plenty of supervised driving—even after being licensed
- Unsupervised driving at night is prohibited until night driving experience is well practiced
- Children will not ride in cars full of other teens
- No use of radio or CD player for the first six months of solo driving

Working Together!

To create a positive driving experience for teen and parent, practice the following to foster cooperation.

Parents

Make a calendar to practice driving to accommodate schedules. Stick to the schedule or pre-arrange any changes.

Make it a rule to <u>greet and assess</u> every driver every time he/she comes to the house to transport a family member.

Focus only on issues of driving lessons. Do *not* discuss disappointments, chores, grades, Etc., during driving practice. Your teen will concentrate better on driving if he/she does not feel 'trapped'.

Practicing courteous and helpful commentary is imperative.

If the atmosphere begins to tense, pull off the road to calm down and resolve the situation. Stop for a soda or go home and set another practice date.

Teens

Make sure your friends know your driving practice rules and help them follow those rule so your parents do not have to mention it.

Complete chores, homework or other expectations *before* getting behind the wheel for driving practice. Your parents will appreciate your consideration and will consider your cooperation as a point of maturity.

Keeping cool attitudes and respectful comments will contribute to a successful driving session. If nervousness or anger sets in, take time to regain your composure or request another date to practice. It just might be a bad day to drive and it is good to recognize that fact. Pay close attention to how you are feeling, what you are thinking and if you are making too many mistakes. Realizing that you may be too tired or distracted to concentrate is part of being mature.

The Oregon GDL <u>requires</u> driving practice documentation. Varied driving practice is essential. Be sure to practice driving with your teen during both summer and winter weather, in rural and urban areas in light and heavy traffic.

It is recommended that driving practice be focused on daylight driving and supervised night driving begin after the teen has been licensed for 1 yr. without any violations or crashes. Driving at night requires an additional skill set and there is a higher incident of teen crashes at night. Using the log as reference to determine when a teen needs updated driving practice if long periods have transpired between lessons is a good strategy. Consider making a copy of the log for each driving lesson.

Driving Log

Date	Time of Day	Weather/ Traffic Cond.	Hours Practiced	Supervising Adult Signature

Legal Consequences and Parental Liability of a Child's Actions (The following information provided by Safeco Insurance)

It's not what you didn't know, but what you should have known that can make the difference.

<u>Parent Negligence:</u> A parent can be liable for any negligence on their part that causes the child to harm another person. A parent has a duty to exercise *reasonable* care to control a minor child and to prevent the child from harming others. Examples of this are negligent supervision and negligent entrustment.

<u>Negligent Supervision</u>: This type of claim occurs when someone is injured when your child is unsupervised. In particular, this type of claim can arise when a child has access to guns, alcohol or other hazards.

<u>Negligent Entrustment:</u> This claim arises when you allow your child to use a car, gun or other "dangerous instrumentality" without using reasonable care, <u>i.e.</u>, you allow use of your car knowing the child has a poor driving record, or you allow use of a gun knowing the child has not been taught gun safety.

<u>Parent as an accomplice:</u> Parents can also be held liable for harm caused by their child if they directed, encouraged or ratified the conduct. For example, allowing a child to furnish alcohol to minors at a party in your home, *whether or not* you are actually present.

<u>Caveat</u>: Oregon law limits a parent's liability for a child's reckless or intentional act to \$7,500.00. There is no such limit for a *negligent* wrong or civil liability suits. Parents providing primary means of support for children over the age of 18 can still be held liable for negligent or intentional wrongs, <u>i.e.</u>, when the child is away at college, the parents pay for the purchase of a car, its insurance and/or maintenance, and the parents continue to claim the child as a dependent tax deduction.

<u>Child's Liability:</u> A child (under the age of 18) can be sued for negligent or intentional wrongs, and a money judgment can be obtained against a child. Judgments are collectible for up to *20 years*.

FYI: As of January 2002, Oregon law changed for youth 14-18 years old and allows a driver's license to be restricted for 90 days following two driver improvement violations, two preventable crashes or a combination of violation and crash, including seat belt violations. Driving privileges will be suspended for one year following the third violation or crash if the incident occurs before one's 18th birthday.

2007 Oregon Legislature voted to restrict cell phone use while driving by any driver under age 18 yrs. old.

2009 Oregon Legislature voted to restrict hand-held cell phone use while driving for every driver. Hands-free cell phone use allowed for drivers over 18 yrs. Old.

28 Traffic Safety Driving Awareness Question

PARENTS! Young drivers DO NOT constantly scan the entire driving environment with the vigilance of veteran drivers. To help build driving awareness, when you are driving <u>with</u> the youth take advantage of the opportunity to point out your 'driving' observations, assessment, reasons for positioning your vehicle and any other driving response you make.

- 1. What is the FIRST thing we do **before** we start the car? (buckle safety belt)
- 2. Why is it important to behave in the car? (to avoid distracting the driver)
- 3. What is the meaning of each signal light? (red—stop; yellow—stop safely; green—go cautiously)
- 4. Why is it important to use the turn indicator? (to communicate accurate information to other drivers)
- 5. Why should hands be positioned on the steering wheel with an airbag at 3 & 9 or 4 & 8? (the airbag deploys at 200mph and can break thumbs if positioned at 10 & 2)
- 6. Why is it important to wait 3 seconds while completely <u>stopped</u> at a Stop Sign? (it takes that long for observation information to reach the brain and then to conscious thought)
- 7. Why is it important to keep the volume low on the radio? to hear sirens, car distress noises & prevent early hearing loss)
- 8. What action is to be taken if we hear or see an emergency vehicle with flashing lights? (move to the right as soon as it is safe to do so and STOP)
- 9. Why do we wait for pedestrians in the crosswalk or at corners before continuing to drive? (so they will be safe and we do not hit them)
- 10. How often do car mirrors need to be checked while driving? (every 20 seconds)
- 11. Why do we follow every traffic law consistently? (so every other driver can 'depend' on us)
- 12. Why is it <u>especially</u> important to drive the speed limit in neighborhoods and school zones? (to protect children, the elderly & pets)
- 13. Why is it important to wear safety belts properly? (to avoid a broken back, neck or head injuries)
- 14. When is it safe to unbuckle a safety belt? (once the vehicle is parked and passengers can get out safely)
- 15. Up to what age do youth safely sit in the back seat properly safety belted?(15)
- 16. Why do we keep our eyes on the road? (because we must watch other driver's behavior and keep our own car on the road)
- 17. Why do we leave 4 seconds worth of space between our car and the car in front of us? (to give ourselves a cushion for avoiding or stopping safely without hitting the car in front of us)
- 18. Why don't we talk on a cell phone, read a book, or groom while driving? (In Oregon, cell phone use by drivers under age 18 is against the law. Regardless of age, cell phone use in a car is responsible for 40% of fatal crashes and reduces by 50% your ability to perform the number of required skills needed at all times to drive safely—reading or grooming means we are not looking at the road—distraction is a MAJOR contributor to fatal and injury crashes)
- 19. Why is it unsafe to wear a back pack while riding in a car? (the weight of the back pack can break your back if you are in a crash or make a sudden stop)
- 20. Did you see that driver didn't signal to tell us where he wanted to move his car?
- 21. Did you see that driver didn't wait for the pedestrian?
- 22. Did you see that driver speed up to go through the yellow light?
- 23. Did you see that driver up ahead has begun to brake?
- 24. Did you see that pedestrian did not use the crosswalk?
- 25. Did you see the little child on the sidewalk, in the driveway, etc.?
- 26. Did you see that driver signal but made a different maneuver?
- 27. What is wrong with the way that person is driving?
- 28. Did you see or hear the emergency vehicle?

Resources

Additional information provided by:

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, American Medical Association (AMA), National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD) AAA Oregon/Idaho, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Allstate and Safeco Insurance Companies, THE SECRET LIFE OF THE BRAIN-Oregon Public Broadcasting

Information listed offered as starting places—not as endorsements

MADD National

1-800-GETMADD www.madd.org

AAA-Driving CD-Rom/Video

503-222-6702

www.aaaorid.com/About/about_education_road.asp
To download copy of GDL Handbook

Oregon Traffic Safety Education Association (State approved Driver's Education Course Provider) www.otsea.org To download copy of the GDL Handbook

Used Car History Information www.carfax.com

Oregon Department of Transportation-click on Driver Education icon www.odot.state.or.us/transafety

Missing Children's Clearing House

1-800-282-7155

- Report *any* missing child within 12 hours. Once found, police can hold a child for only 3 hours unless special arrangements made.
- Regularly photograph your child.
- Know you child's friends and parents; have all phone numbers and addresses on hand.

Oregon Liquor Control Commission

503-872-5070

- Report all stores not requesting and checking for proper Identification of persons looking younger than 26 years of age purchasing alcohol.
- Report all adults furnishing or buying alcohol for anyone younger than 21.

AAA Oregon/Idaho

503-222-6734

Trauma Nurses Talk Tough

503-413-4960

Legacy Emanuel Hospital, 2801 N. Gantenbein, Rm. 2011, Portland, OR 97227 Click on www.legacyhealth.org/tntt to down load a complete copy of this handbook or to copy and fill out your contract via computer.