

# *Driving Contract*

THIS CONTRACT dated \_\_\_\_\_, is between, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, “Driver” and \_\_\_\_\_, “Parents”.

## **General Principles**

Initial each point to show you read and understand it:

\_\_\_\_ I recognize that driving is a privilege, not a right. The State’s role is to determine that I meet the *basic* legal requirements for a license. The privilege to drive is not a legal right: It is granted to me by my parents, who are under no obligation to do so, and who may withdraw the privilege at any time. Because I am a minor, my parents remain responsible for my behavior. I understand that I will only be allowed to drive when I am willing to abide by the rules and regulations established by my parents.

### **I recognize that driving a car is a very serious matter. I recognize that...**

\_\_\_\_ Automobile accidents are the **leading cause of death** of people 16-20 years old.

\_\_\_\_ I am **more likely to die** in an auto accident than from any other cause.

\_\_\_\_ Recklessness or errors that I make while driving **could kill or hurt me**, kill or hurt passengers in my car, and/or kill or hurt people in other cars and pedestrians. Among those that could be victims of my driving mistakes are: babies, children, my friends, my family members, parents of children, and many others.

\_\_\_\_ I will abide by laws regulating driving. I will observe and abide by posted speed limits. I will abide by rules established by my parents. I recognize these are for my protection and the protection of others.

\_\_\_\_ We will review this agreement and perhaps make changes to it on February 1, 2007 or earlier if my parents or I wish to do so.

## **RULES-Category A**

### **Category A rules, if violated, will lead to indefinite suspension of driving privileges.**

1. I will never consume alcohol, drugs or inhalants before driving or while driving – nor will there be open containers of alcoholic beverages (mine or anyone else’s), drugs or drug paraphernalia at any time in the vehicle.
2. I will not ride as a passenger with any driver who has used alcohol, drugs or inhalants.
3. If I find myself in a situation as described in 1 or 2 above, I will contact my parents or another designated adult to arrange for transportation.
4. I will not engage in any thrill-seeking behavior while driving. I will not drive for recreation. Driving too fast or playing around with a car for fun is **NOT ALLOWED**.
5. I will inform my parents about any and all accidents and encounters with police.

## **RULES-Category B**

**Category B violations will lead to suspension of driving privileges for up to three months.**

1. **I must ask permission to drive each time I drive.** Exceptions to this rule will be given for regularly scheduled transportation to school, work, regular meetings, etc.
2. I will ask permission to drive to specific locations and will discuss the route planned. As I begin driving independently, I will be certain that my parents know where I am. I will not make unscheduled stops or side trips.
3. I will not drive anyone else's vehicle, nor allow anyone to drive my vehicle, unless I have prior permission from my parents, or unless it is an emergency involving illness or injury. I will not loan my vehicle to any other person, unless I have prior permission from my parents.
4. I will limit the number of passengers (not counting parents) to ONE as required by State Law.
5. I will always drive with my seat belt properly and securely fastened. I will never transport more passenger than I have seat belts. All seat belts will be in working order. All passengers will wear a seat belt, and all seat belts will be fastened properly and securely before the vehicle moves. If anyone refuses to buckle up, or unbuckles while I am driving, I will stop the vehicle.

## **RULES-CATEGORY C**

**Category C violations may lead to suspension of driving privileges for up to six weeks.**

1. I will respect weather and road conditions, slowing down as needed for safety. I will contact my parents to discuss weather or poor road conditions when I am out driving.
2. Knowing that judgment and driving skills are altered by emotions, I will not drive when I am upset or angry. Under these conditions, I will contact my parents for transportation and I reserve the right to maintain my privacy regarding personal matters.
3. It is my responsibility to service, maintain & protect the car I drive. I will keep it reasonably clean and maintained. Besides the maintenance and cleaning of the vehicle, I will assist in all repairs necessary to the vehicle. Parents will assist as appropriate for the cost of parts for repairs to the vehicle, and for repairs performed by third parties, except those resulting from a violation of this Contract. Parents will also bear the initial cost of insurance, "GOOD STUDENT (or similar) RATES" on the vehicle.
4. I will not allow my passengers to behave in such a way as to damage the car or distract me while driving.
5. When transporting my friends, I will be reasonably sure that they have their parents' permission to ride with me.
6. I will not allow smoking in the car.

7. I will keep my eyes on the road at all time, and – while driving – I will not
  - a. use my cell phone,
  - b. change a CD,
  - c. change mp3 player settings,
  - d. read a map,
  - e. eat while driving
  - f. fish in my wallet or the glove compartment, or
  - g. engage in any other behavior not specified here that prevents me from devoting my full attention to the road.
8. On school nights I will be home by 9:30 PM, whether or not I am driving. On non-school nights, I will be home by 11:30 PM, whether or not I am driving. These times may be extended for specific events with Church, Scouts, or school.
9. Accidents are more likely to happen when I rush. I am more likely to rush when I leave late. Therefore, my parents reserve the right to not allow me to drive unless I leave by a time they specify. For example, if my parents tell me that I must allow 20 minutes to get to something that starts at 7:00, I should leave by 6:40, and I may not leave later than that.
10. A Second Category “C” violation in six months will be treated as a Category “B” violation and appropriate sanction made.

**SPECIAL ITEMS:**

1. Tickets and moving violations will result in suspension of my driving privileges for a period to be determined by my parents.
2. I agree to pay the full cost of any traffic violation tickets, as well as the difference in the insurance premium for as long as the premium is in effect.
3. I agree to pay the full cost of all damages incurred that are not covered by insurance, as well as the difference in insurance premiums caused by the damages.
4. I will make certain financial contributions to the purchase of the car, maintenance of the car, and/or insurance. My contributions are currently as follows: fuel and oil only, subject to reevaluation should financial circumstances change.
5. I will agree to provide transportation to family members at the directive of my parents. Fulfilling these obligations is a condition of my use of a car. Sometimes these responsibilities will override my own desires and interests in using the car.
6. I agree that I must be responsible to drive safely and that my parents must believe I am relatively responsible in order to allow me to drive. They may, therefore, take into account how I handle my general responsibilities, including schoolwork, employment, household duties. I will also maintain a respectful attitude. I will not ask my parents to allow me to drive when I am rude and disrespectful to them or to others.
7. My parents have a right to expect me to be responsible. I have a right to be told what this means. For this reason, I may ask my parents for clarification of their requirement that I "be responsible."

- a. I will maintain a grade point average of not less than 3.0, per grading period and a grade of not less than a “B” in any individual subject.
- b. I will get up in enough time to depart for school in a timely manner, and not later than 7:00 a.m.

**8. I will call – at any time of day or night – a parent or a taxi for help in getting home if – for any reason – I am not able to drive both safely and legally. The person called will come and get me immediately. If I call a taxi and cannot pay for it, my parent will pay for it. Making this intelligent and responsible phone call will NOT result in the loss of driving privileges or other punishment.**

**Summary:** I agree to abide by the rules in this contract and I accept the consequences and penalties if I do not. I recognize my parents' authority in deciding if I may drive. That authority is final until I am an adult living independent of them.

I/We on this day, \_\_\_\_\_, do grant \_\_\_\_\_ access to a vehicle as long as he/she obeys all stipulations noted above.

I/We agree to pick up \_\_\_\_\_ at any time, from any place, if he/she is ever in a situation where he/she or another driver has consumed alcohol, inhalants, drugs or other illegal or inappropriate substance.

We have read the above agreement and agree to the stipulations.

**DRIVER** \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

**PARENT** \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

**PARENT** \_\_\_\_\_ (date)