

## **NEW DRIVERS**

### **HOW'S MY KID DRIVING?**

#### **A NEW SOLUTION THAT ACTUALLY LET'S YOU FIND OUT**

**BILL SEYMOUR:** Welcome to DMV Infocast, an audio production of the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. This is Bill Seymour, Infocast Editor.

Parents of teen drivers often want more eyes in more places on their teens to see their driving behavior behind the wheel. There are global positioning satellites that are attached to cell phones that can watch the car, black box recorders, and even bumper stickers from reportmyteen.com where people can call a phone number and report a teen's behavior.

In this report from NBC news, it examines the benefits of this approach.

**BRIAN WILLIAMS:** For every parent out there who's wondered, how's my kid driving? A new solution that actually lets you find out.

**ANNOUNCER:** From NBC News world headquarters in New York, this is NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams.

**BRIAN WILLIAMS:** If you have a teenager with a license, then you know it is harrowing, and short of being in the car there with them, it's simply nerve wracking because we know car accidents are the leading cause of death for teenagers. But now these days, there are ways to check up on how they're doing and what they're doing behind the wheel though, fair warning, your kids might not love it. Here is NBC's Ron Allen.

**RON ALLEN:** When Stephanie Green got her driver's license, her mom surprised her with a present.

**STEPHANIE GREEN:** My mom told me I was getting a cool bumper sticker, but she didn't exactly tell me what it was.

**RON ALLEN:** That bumper sticker from reportmyteen.com has a number to call when Stephanie drives badly.

**MRS. GREEN:** She thought it was a joke at first, and she realized it wasn't a joke when she got the first phone call.

**RON ALLEN:** Someone caught Stephanie speeding.

Traffic accidents like these during a safety study caused 6,000 teenage deaths every year. That's 16 everyday. And that's why parents are looking for more eyes in more places, such as GPS tracking devices in cell phones linked to home.

**MRS. GREEN:** And I can scroll down and see how fast she was going on the interstate.

**RON ALLEN:** Or small black box recorders hidden under the dash. However, what some teens see as spying and embarrassing stickers get mixed reviews.

**VOICE:** Yeah. I think parents should learn to trust their kids.

**VOICE:** I think the black box and the bumper stickers are good ideas. I mean, I know I wouldn't be too thrilled about it.

**RON ALLEN:** And many experts warn there is no substitute for parents spending more time in the vehicle teaching driver safety and then enforcing certain rules with their teenagers.

**VOICE:** Forbidding them from traveling with other teens when they're learning to drive, preventing them from using cell phones in the car, and emphasizing the importance of buckling up.

**RON ALLEN:** Meanwhile, after a few more calls to her mom, Stephanie admits she's now a better driver.

**MRS. GREEN:** I told her that if we got another one that she's going to lose her car.

**RON ALLEN:** The sticker, she says, is like always having her mom in the back seat.

Ron Allen, NBC news, Leonia, New Jersey.

**BILL SEYMOUR:** Thank you for listening. This has been an Infocast from the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. This is Bill Seymour, Infocast Editor.