

Talking Points for Parents

As a parent, you can make a difference. Here are some suggest approaches for to open discussion about safety with your teen driver or soon-to-be teen driver:

- Be proactive in enforcing the laws at home before the police do on the road. Know all the laws. We have teen driving restrictions – passenger restrictions for newly licensed teens and curfews for all 16 and 17-year-olds in Connecticut. Know them. They can be found at the Governor’s Task Force on Teen Driving web site – ct.gov/teendriving.
- Talk about speeding - it is a serious cause of teen driving accidents.
- Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is not only illegal, but could be deadly for their and their passengers.
- Insist on them always wearing a seat belt.
- Remind them it is illegal to use a cell phone to talk or text message while in the car.
- Remind them of the perils of distracted driving when they are allowed to legally have their friends in the car with them.
- When driving with your teen, take a second or two to explain some of the ways to be a safe driver.
- Warn them that you will take away those keys to the family car if you see unsafe behavior.
- Also explain to them the safety aspects of the vehicle your teen is driving.
- Design a parent-teen driving contract or use the one featured on the dmv web site.
- Hold firm on any rules you set with your teen driver.