

## TIME TO DRIVE? . . .

**Establish family's rules.** Complete a Parent-Teen Driving Contract that outlines rules about when, where, how, and with whom your teen may drive — and consequences for breaking them.

**Remember that you're a role model.** New drivers learn a lot by example, so practice safe driving. Take an active role in this important milestone, read and share this brochure with your youth.

**Require safety belt use.** Insist on using belts all the time.

**Restrict passengers.** Teen passengers in a vehicle can distract a beginning driver and/or lead to greater risk taking. The best policy is to restrict teen passengers, especially multiple teens, all the time.

**Restrict night driving.** Most young drivers' nighttime fatal crashes occur from 9 p.m. to midnight. Late outings tend to be recreational, and even the best teens can be easily distracted or encouraged to take risks.

**Choose vehicles for safety, not image.** Teenagers should drive vehicles that reduce their chances of a crash and offer protection in case they do crash.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

**Foster parents willing to sign** a youth's application for a learner permit and driver license may be reimbursed for the additional cost to their automobile insurance of the minimum Utah No-Fault liability coverage by providing that insurance coverage for the youth.

**Reimbursement is limited** to the Utah No-Fault Insurance limits and to the availability of funds appropriated from the Utah State Legislature. Foster parents may choose to carry additional automobile insurance at their own expense, such as liability coverage that exceeds the minimum of Utah's No-Fault insurance liability limits, collision insurance, or comprehensive insurance; however, they will not be reimbursed for any deductibles associated with collision or comprehensive insurance in the event of an accident or other damage to their vehicle.

**Foster parents will need to provide** Form Letter TR01: Shelter/Foster Placement Verification and Medical Authorization Letter when signing for the learner permit and documentation from their insurance agency for the additional insurance cost.

**Contact your caseworker for more information or the State Finance Analyst at 801-538-4100.**

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# Time 2 Drive?

## Foster Parent Guide to Teen Driving



## A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER . . .

**Opportunity to complete driver education training.** Youth in the custody of Child and Family Services should have an opportunity to complete driver education training while in foster care. Obtaining a driver license may be an objective of the Child and Family Plan.

**Know the law.** Enforce the rules. Learn about Utah's driving laws and No-Fault Insurance.

**Young drivers highest crash risk.** The problem is worst among 16 year olds, who have the most limited driving experience and an immaturity that often results in risk-taking.

**Characteristics of fatal crashes** of 16-year-old drivers include: Driver error, Speeding, Single-vehicle crashes, Passengers, Alcohol, Night driving, Low seatbelt use

**Perceive ticket to freedom.** Teens view a driver license as a ticket to freedom. It's momentous for parents, too. Though parents are often aware of 16 year-olds' high crash risks, they're relieved not to have to chauffeur their children around anymore. But the price is steep.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW . . .

**Youth may enroll in driver education** at their local high school when they have reached 15 years of age or older and obtain a learner permit.

**School Fee Waiver.** Youth who attend a driver education course in public high schools are eligible for a school fee waiver.

**To obtain the learner permit.** Youth will need to have their Social Security card plus proof of residence. A \$15 fee is required to obtain the learner permit, and the learner permit is only valid for 1 year.

**Utah requires learner permit for 6 months.** Youth 17 years of age or younger must hold the learner permit for 6 months before applying for a driver license and limited to driving with an adult over the age of 21 years of age.

**Age of 17 years and 6 months.** Youth over the age of 17 and 1/2 should be encouraged to take driver education whether or not they have a responsible adult willing to sign for a learner permit or driver license.

## GETTING READY TO DRIVE . . .

**Decide if your teen is ready.** Not all teens should drive solo when the law says they can. Some characteristics to look for when determining if your teen is ready for a license:

- good judgment in general
- ability to resist peer pressure
- control of emotions
- ability and willingness to follow state driving laws and your rules
- comfort and self-assurance (not overconfidence) behind the wheel

**Signature required to obtain learner permit or driver license.** A foster parent or responsible adult needs to be willing to sign for the youth and legally assume financial responsibility for the youth's driving privilege.

**Supervise practice driving.** Take an active role in helping your youth learn to drive. Plan a series of practice sessions in a wide variety of situations, including night driving. Supervised practice should be spread over at least 6 months and continue even after a teenager graduates from a learner permit to a full driver license.

