

**DON'T DRIVE  
STUPID**



**BE SMART. BE SAFE.**

THE TEENS' GUIDE TO SMART DRIVING

[www.DontDriveStupid.com](http://www.DontDriveStupid.com)

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STUPID**





**THE SMARTER YOU ARE. THE SAFER YOU ARE.**

**WHAT IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN TEENS?**

**HERE ARE SOME HINTS:**

- A teen-driver crash occurs in Utah every 35 minutes.
- Utah teen drivers are a small percentage of all licensed drivers, but they cause more than three times as many crashes as the average driver.
- Teens are at the highest risk of getting into a crash during the first two years of driving.

Utah Teen's Guide to Smart Driving outlines specific driving laws as they apply to you. This booklet is a resource for teens so the wrong choice doesn't catch them with a revoked license, or worse, as another fatality on Utah's roads.  
Be Smart. Be Safe. Don't Drive Stupid.

**BE SMART. BE SAFE. DON'T DRIVE STUPID.**



## GETTING YOUR DRIVERS LICENSE

### WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GETTING A DRIVER LICENSE?

Teens must be at least 16 years old, have held a learner permit for a minimum of six months, completed an approved driver education course and passed a road test before getting their license in Utah.

### HOW MANY HOURS DO I NEED TO DRIVE BEFORE I APPLY FOR A LICENSE?

Individuals under 18 years old applying for a driver license for the first time must complete 40 hours with \*a parent, legal guardian or licensed driver education teacher supervising in the passenger seat. At least 10 of those supervised hours must be during night time.

\* Siblings and friends cannot supervise the practice hours, even if they are 21 years or older.

### WHEN CAN I GET A LEARNER PERMIT?

Teens need to be at least 15 years old and pass a written test to apply for a learner permit. With this permit they can drive if an approved driving instructor, parent or legal guardian is in the seat next to them. Applicants 18 years of age or older are not required to hold a learner permit for six months before applying for a license.



### WHAT LAWS APPLY TO LICENSED DRIVERS UNDER AGE 18?

The Graduated Driver License (GDL) program is a group of laws allowing beginning drivers to build driving experience before they are exposed to higher risk roadway situations.

#### GDL NIGHT RESTRICTIONS

A person younger than 17 years cannot drive a motor vehicle in Utah between the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m., except in emergencies.

#### GDL PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS

A 16- or 17-year-old driver may not operate a motor vehicle in Utah with any passenger who is not an immediate family member until six months from the date the person's driver license was issued.

### CAN I DRIVE A FRIEND AROUND IF I'VE HAD MY LICENSE FOR LESS THAN SIX MONTHS?

No. Unless the passengers are immediate family members, it is against the law to drive with others in the car for the first six months of having been issued a driver license. Around 90 percent of teen crashes happen the first months teens have a driver license. Of those killed, a little more than half are the drivers and the rest are passengers.



## MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENT

### DOES MY DRIVER LICENSE ALLOW ME TO RIDE A MOTORCYCLE TOO?

No. Already licensed drivers must receive a special endorsement from the Department of Public Safety to ride a motorcycle. For the first two months, newly endorsed riders cannot ride with a passenger, on roads with a speed limit of more than 60 mph or between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

### DO I NEED TO TAKE A TRAINING COURSE TO GET A MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENT?

You aren't required by law to complete a training course to get a motorcycle endorsement; you only need to pass the written and riding test. However, 92 percent of all motorcycle crashes involve riders who were self-taught or learned from family or friends. Learner permit holders younger than 19 need a motorcycle learner permit for at least two months prior to receiving a motorcycle endorsement.

### HELMETS CRAMP MY STYLE - DO THEY REALLY HELP?

Helmets are required for all persons under the age of 18. On average, half of all motorcyclists killed were not wearing helmets.



## SEATBELTS SAVE LIVES

### CAN I BE STOPPED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT IF I'M NOT WEARING A SEAT BELT?

Yes. You may be stopped and issued a citation for not wearing a seat belt if you are under age 19. Both passengers and drivers can receive tickets. If cited, the maximum fine is \$45.

### INSTEAD OF USING A SEAT BELT, CAN I JUST BRACE MYSELF IN A CRASH?

In a crash, your body weight is multiplied by the speed of the car. For example, if you weigh 150 pounds and crash while traveling 30 mph, your body would hit with a force of 4,500 pounds. There is no way you can brace yourself against that much force, and your chances of being thrown from the car are much higher if you aren't restrained in a seat belt.

> Your chances of being killed in a crash are 23 times greater if you are thrown from the car.

### IF MY SEAT BELT ISN'T COMFORTABLE, CAN I PUT IT UNDER MY ARM OR BEHIND MY BACK?

No. The shoulder belt should be worn properly at all times, over the strongest bones in the body, the hips and shoulders. It also prevents severe organ and spinal damage in a crash.

### IS MY KID BROTHER SAFE IN A NORMAL SEAT BELT?

No. Seat belts are designed to fit adults and can be a danger to young children. By law, children are required to ride in an appropriate child safety seat or booster seat until they are eight years old, unless they are 4 feet 9 inches or taller.





## UTAH'S DUI LAWS FOR UNDERAGE DRINKING AND DRIVING

### ARE THE LAWS FOR DRINKING AND DRIVING THE SAME FOR ADULTS AND PEOPLE UNDER 21?

No! Utah has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for all drivers under the age of 21. That means you cannot have any measurable alcohol—zero, NONE—in your body when you drive a vehicle.

### WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES FOR PEOPLE UNDER 21 WHO DRINK AND DRIVE?

In addition to putting your life and the lives of others in danger, you're going to be in serious legal trouble, too. If you have any alcohol in your body when you drive and you're under 21, you will lose your license for at least 90 days and up to a year. You can be convicted of a class B misdemeanor—that means you have a criminal record! And, the court may order you to get an ignition interlock system on any vehicle that you own or operate.

- Every day, 45 people die on America's roads because of impaired drivers.

### CAN I BE CITED FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUG?

Yes. If you are under the influence of any drug, including over-the-counter medications, you may be convicted of a crime. This could also include substances such as paint thinner, gasoline or other inhalants. If a person has any measurable

controlled substance (illegal drugs), or the metabolite of a controlled substance in their body, the law prohibits them from driving. Metabolites from illegal drugs can be detectable for 30 days or more after you use them.

Possible penalties for these offenses can include: loss of license for 90 days, court fines, mandatory ignition interlock device on your vehicle (paid for by you) and even jail time.

- The total cost of a DUI conviction can be as high as \$10,000.

### CAN I REFUSE TO SUBMIT TO A CHEMICAL TEST?

Yes. However, by signing your driver license application, you are giving consent to a chemical test of your breath, blood, urine or oral fluids. If you refuse to submit to a chemical test, you will lose your license for 18 months on the first offense.





## FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE STUPID

### WHY ARE CRASHES THE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AND INJURY IN TEENS?

Teens tend to drive with multiple passengers, which dramatically increases the number of distractions. At the same time, they have little experience in higher risk driving situations. Crashes in which the teen-driven vehicle contains four or more occupants are five times more likely to be fatal crashes.

### DOES IT REALLY MATTER IF I DO OTHER STUFF WHILE I AM DRIVING?

Distracted driving is a factor in one in four crashes nationally.

### HOW DANGEROUS IS SPEEDING?

One in three fatal traffic crashes in Utah involve speeding. It's better for you to be late for school (or work, or home or the game) than early for your own funeral. Slow down or pay up.

### WHY ARE THE GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE LAWS SO STRICT ON DRIVING AT NIGHT?

Nationally, while only 15 percent of teen drivers' miles occur at night, 40 percent of their fatal crashes take place during this time. Reduced visibility and fatigue can be deadly.

### CAN I TEXT AND DRIVE IF I HARDLY LOOK AT MY PHONE WHILE DOING IT?

No. Distractions reduce your reaction time. A driver traveling 65 miles per hour covers the length of a football field in the same time it takes to check a text message.





## UTAH DRIVER POINT SYSTEM

### IF YOU HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF A MOVING VIOLATION, POINTS WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR DRIVING RECORD AS FOLLOWS:

Reckless Driving.....	80
Speeding (Depending on Severity) .....	35 to 75
Failure to Yield Right-of-way.....	60
Following Too Closely (Tailgating) .....	60
Wrong Side of Road.....	60
Wrong Way on One-way Street.....	60
Red Light .....	50
Stop Sign.....	50
Improper Lookout.....	50
Improper Passing.....	50
Negligent Collision.....	50
Other Moving Violations .....	40

*Note: Points may vary plus or minus 10 percent depending upon severity of the record. Certain serious violations, such as drunk driving, require mandatory suspension or revocation and are not included in the point system.*

### IS THE POINT SYSTEM FOR YOUTH DIFFERENT THAN FOR ADULTS?

Yes. If you are a driver under 21 years of age who accumulates 70 or more points you may have your driver license suspended or denied for one month to a year, depending upon severity of the record.

### WHAT IS THE POINT SYSTEM LIMIT FOR DRIVERS 21 OR OLDER?

A driver 21 years of age or older who accumulates 200 or more points may have his or her driver license suspended for three months to a year, depending upon severity of the record.

### HOW CAN I CLEAR MY POINTS?

The state will remove half of the points on your record if you drive a year without a traffic violation. If you drive two years without a violation, all of your points will be deleted. Points are automatically removed three years after the date of the violation. You can also attend a defensive driving course and may be eligible for a 50 point reduction.





## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I GET IN A CAR CRASH?

### TOP 10 THINGS TO DO AFTER A CRASH

1. If it is clear, safe and legal, stop your vehicle.  
Move the vehicle out of the roadway if necessary.
2. Turn off the ignition of the cars involved.
3. Make sure everyone involved in the crash is OK.
4. Call 911.
5. If you have retro reflective triangles or flares set them around the crash site.
6. Gather the names of all persons who witnessed the crash.
7. Take a picture with a camera and/or draw a quick diagram of where the vehicles' occupants were seated and indicate the vehicles' direction of travel and lane. Also note the date, time and weather conditions.
8. Write down the driver's name, license and/or plate numbers.
9. Exchange insurance information. Do not discuss "fault" or make statements about the crash to anyone but the police.
10. Get a copy of the police report of the crash from the local precinct.



## WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Zero Fatalities: PSAs, safety tips and statistics.

**[www.ZeroFatalities.com](http://www.ZeroFatalities.com)**

Don't Drive Stupid: Resources and sample activities to help teens, teachers and parents implement traffic safety programs.

**[www.DontDriveStupid.com](http://www.DontDriveStupid.com)**

Utah Highway Safety Office: Statistics, educational materials and safety programs.

**[www.highwaysafety.utah.gov](http://www.highwaysafety.utah.gov)**

Utah Safety Council: Alive at 25 - survival course for 15-24 year olds.

**[www.utahsafetycouncil.org/driver\\_education](http://www.utahsafetycouncil.org/driver_education)**

Utah Driver License Division: Licensing information, online practice tests and laws.

**[www.driverlicense.utah.gov](http://www.driverlicense.utah.gov)**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: Statistics, research reports, resources, educational materials and activities.

**[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)**

National Road Safety Foundation: Traffic safety programs, films, PSAs and presentations.

**[www.nationalroadsafety.org](http://www.nationalroadsafety.org)**

AAA - the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety: Research and information.

**[www.aaafoundation.org](http://www.aaafoundation.org)**