

**TEACHING**  
**MY**  
**TEENAGER**  
**TO DRIVE**

## **DIRECTIONS AND SAFETY**

Give your son/daughter a grade for each skill they practice

E= Excellent

G=Good

S=Satisfactory

PM=Practice More

Remember to stay calm and have patience with their mistakes.....and they will make mistakes. Remember this is new to them.

Remember to explain why something is wrong and how it can be corrected.

Refer to the State Driver's manual for various questions.

In an emergency you can: shift to neutral and/or take control of the steering wheel.

# GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Be a good role model. Your son/daughter is constantly watching your driving behavior. If you speed, tailgate, or become aggressive they will do the same.
2. Be positive. Avoid bringing negativity into the practice sessions. Don't discuss bad grades/behavior while practicing.
3. Give constructive criticism. Always follow it with a positive.... "but you signaled at the right time."
4. Have time scheduled each week for practice and stick to it. If you think practice driving is important then your son/daughter will think it's important. A day/time with less traffic is the best time to start (Sunday?). Don't forget about empty parking lots.
5. Give directions well in advance.
6. Never assume they know what to do.
7. Avoid loud confrontational statements when they make mistakes such as "Oh no, why did you do that? You could have killed us."
8. Practice in all driving environments (day, night, rain, snow, etc.)
9. Make it a fun family experience.....go for ice cream during the practice drive.
10. Always wear your seatbelt.
11. Break up sessions into 30-60 minute sessions.
12. Your son/daughter should be driving constantly (more than 65 hours). They should be driving every chance they can during "non scheduled practice times." The more they drive, the better drivers they will be.

It is your responsibility to teach your child to be safe. Always be proactive. When your child was a toddler you didn't let them touch the hot stove and then teach them the dangers of a hot stove....you were proactive and didn't let them get close to the hot stove. You should take the same approach with your child when it comes to driving. Be proactive....make them wear their seat belt, constantly monitor their driving, and set a good example.

# THE LESSONS

## PART 1: 6 HOURS

- A. Car controls – turn signals, defroster, windshield wipers, etc.
- B. Accelerating and braking – parking lot
- C. Steering – forward – parking lot
- D. Right and left turns – parking lot (figure 8's)
- E. Right and left turns – light traffic on local streets (do not cross the center line)
- F. Basic traffic laws

## PART 2: 6 HOURS (RURAL DRIVING)

- A. 2-4 second following rule
- B. Following and being followed
- C. Passing and being passed
- D. Avoiding common hazards – farm equipment, etc.
- E. Speed control – consistent speed up and down hills
- F. Emergency stops – tire blowout, brake failure, etc.

## PART 3: 6 HOURS (CITY DRIVING)

- A. Right and left turns – medium and heavy traffic
- B. 2-4 second following rule
- C. Stopping distance – behind cars, trucks, bus, etc.
- D. Signaling in advance
- E. Parallel parking
- F. Turning right on red
- G. Multiple lanes – Eisenhower Drive
- H. Changing lanes
- I. Using mirrors/checking blind spots

#### PART 4: 6 HOURS (FREEWAY/HIGHWAY DRIVING)

- A. Entering a highway – Route 15/Gettysburg
- B. Exiting a highway – Route 15/Gettysburg
- C. 4-6 second following rule
- D. Changing lanes
- E. Using mirrors/checking blind spots
- F. Passing and being passed
- G. Speed control
- H. Where to steer in an emergency
- I. What to do if being tailgated
- J. How to avoid an erratic or aggressive driver

#### PART 5: 3 HOURS (PARKING LOT – empty and busy)

- A. Backing and turning
- B. Perpendicular parking
- C. Angle parking
- D. Downhill and uphill parking
- E. Speed limit
- F. What is a space? Handicapped spaces?

#### PART 6: 15 HOURS (ADVERSE CONDITIONS)

- A. Starting, stopping and steering in the rain
- B. What to do if hydroplaning
- C. How to determine if the road is icy
- D. Starting, stopping, and steering in snow/sleet/ice
- E. Getting out of a skid in snow (parking lot)
- F. Driving in the fog

#### PART 7: 10 HOURS (NIGHTTIME DRIVING)

- A. Practice parts 2,3,4,5, and 6 at night

#### PART 8: 20 HOURS

Continue driving practice at various times – especially weak areas

## PART 9 – 1 HOUR

Practice for state driver's test – Gettysburg/York course or South Western course

## PART 10: 2 HOURS (CARE CARE)

- A. Checking fluids
- B. Checking tire pressure
- C. Changing a flat tire
- D. What to do if you break down
- E. How to jump start a vehicle
- F. What to do if you get stuck
- G. Filling the gas tank

## **AFTER YOUR TEENAGER RECEIVES HIS OR HER LICENSE:**

- Limit the number of passengers.
- Enforce a curfew.
- Signed contract: rules, expectations, and consequences should be clear.
- Gradually increase the amount of time you allow your teen to drive.
- Gradually increase the distance you allow your teen to drive.
- Do not allow your teen to eat or drink while driving.
- Do not allow your teen to use a cell phone while driving.
- Enforce observance of speed limits and other rules of the road.
- Do not allow your teen to drink and drive. Drinking under the age of 21 is illegal.
- Ride with your teen occasionally to monitor his or her driving skills.

*Your job as a parent is not over once they get their license. The most dangerous time is the first 6 months after they get their license.*