You’ve spent a lifetime helping your child grow and learn while most importantly—keeping them safe. A right of passage as they get older is the freedom and independence of having a driver’s license. However, with it comes a tremendous amount of risk and potential disaster. Have YOU prepared them for this challenging time? Have you done everything you could? Have you sought out sound advice about the dangers of driving as a teen driver before they hit the road alone?

Their life could depend upon it.

**Parent’s Behind The Wheel Fears**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weather Conditions</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving While Intoxicated</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speeding</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distracted Driving</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Drivers</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Do You Know Why They Crash?**

**LACK OF EXPERIENCE**
Don’t perceive risks
Minimal hands-on supervised practice

**Distractions:**
- Multiple teen passengers
- Cell phone/electronic devices
- Music
- Eating/Drinking

**Overconfidence**

**Impaired (alcohol/drugs)**

**Drowsy Driving**

**Speeding**

**Emotionally Charged (anger)**

**Various road types/conditions**

**Overcorrecting**

**Do You Know Where They Crash?**

**Rural roads** (includes gravel)
(single vehicle lane departures)
80% of IA roads considered rural
**Urban roads** (intersections)
Predominately at night

**Sources**: NHTSA/FARS

**What You Can Do NOW To Help**

Talk to your teen about safe driving;
Set a positive example; Be a role model;
Don’t take their abilities for granted;

**Your Responsibilities:**

**Before Driver Education:**
- Talk safety/traffic laws
- Set the example
- LET THEM DRIVE
- Mentor/coach them
- Set rules/boundaries

**During Driver Education:**
- LET THEM DRIVE
- Meet the Driver Education instructor
- Talk traffic safety & discuss what they’re learning
- Mentor/coach them
- Be an active supporter

**After Driver Education:**
- LET THEM DRIVE
- Ride with them
- Talk traffic safety/traffic laws
- Stay engaged with them

**Beyond the Intermediate License:**
- Stay current with traffic laws
- Ride with them
- Talk traffic safety/laws
- Reinforce good driving behavior

Don’t take their abilities for granted.
Iowa Traffic Laws
(Iowa Code 321)

Current Seat Belt Law:
- Mandatory for all front seat occupants & rear passengers under 18 years old

Electronic Devices (cell phones, etc.)
- No electronic devices used (under 18)
- No wireless or corded connections with radios (under 18)
- Only manufacturer equipment used
- No texting (all ages)

Graduated Driver License (GDL):
- 3 stage licensing program
  - Learner’s Permit (age 14-16)
    - Must be held for 12 months
    - Supervised driving required (20 hrs - at least 2 hours at night)
    - Must have prior to driver education
  - Intermediate License (16-17 yr. old)
    - Supervised driving required (10 hrs - at least 2 hours at night)
    - Passenger restriction
      - Only 1 unrelated teen passenger for the first 6 months *
      *(Waiverable by parent/guardian)
    - Restricted driving times (curfew)
  - Full License (18 years +)
    - Full driving privileges with no restrictions.

PARENTS........
YOU HOLD
THE
KEYS TO YOUR TEEN’S
SUCCESS AND SAFETY!

Reality Check:
Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 20 year olds.
Nearly 50% of fatalities are NOT buckled.
Multiple teen passengers is the main distraction for young drivers.
You model behavior for teens.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT WITH TEEN DRIVERS

CAUTION TEENAGE DRIVER
Coming to a road near you soon!

What you need to know and do to help your teen survive the drive.

Iowa Department of Public Safety
Governor’s Traffic Safety Bureau