



Parenting Teens Through the Dangers of Driving

Tim Hollister

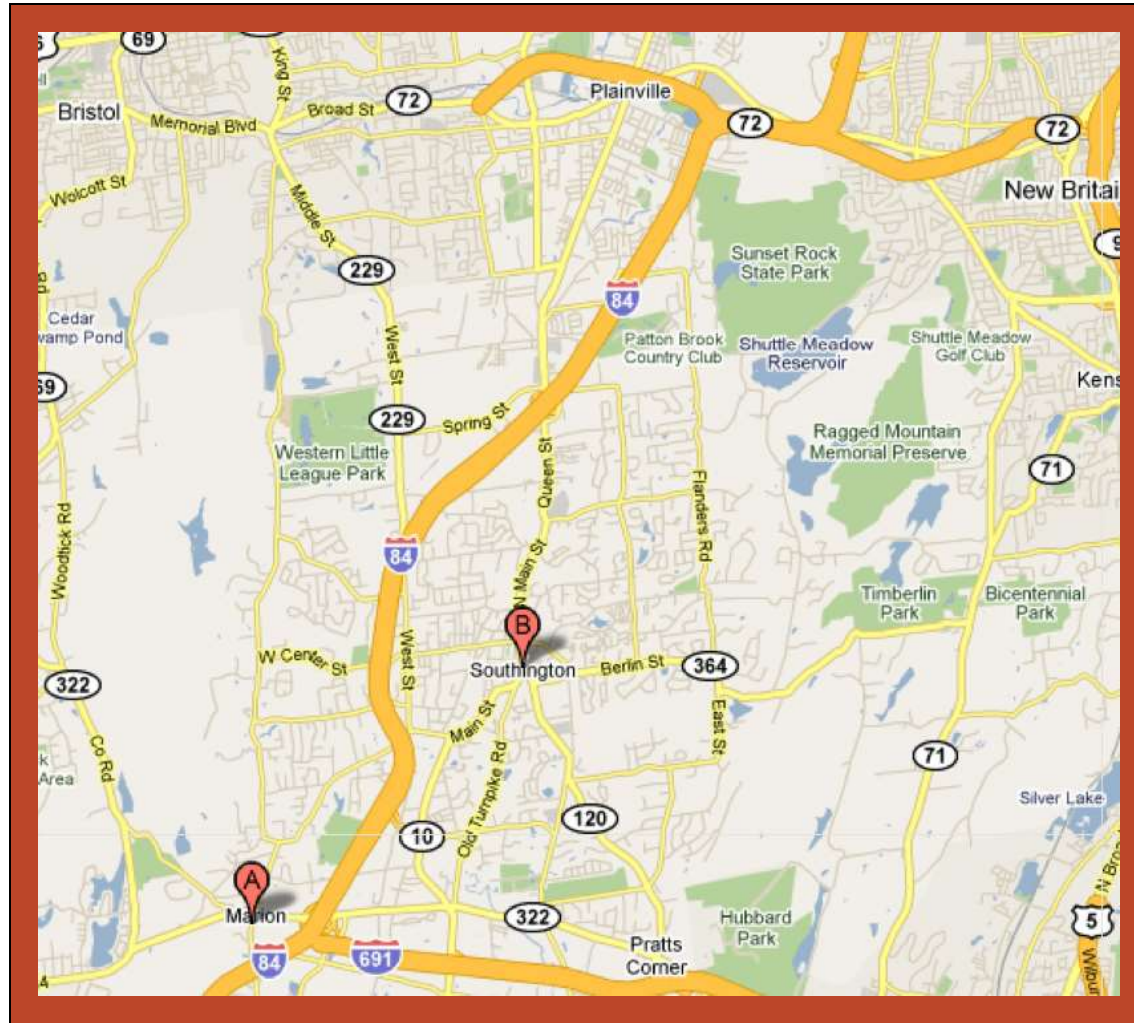
Hartford, Connecticut

Blog: www.fromreidsdad.org

Website: www.nsfteendriving.com

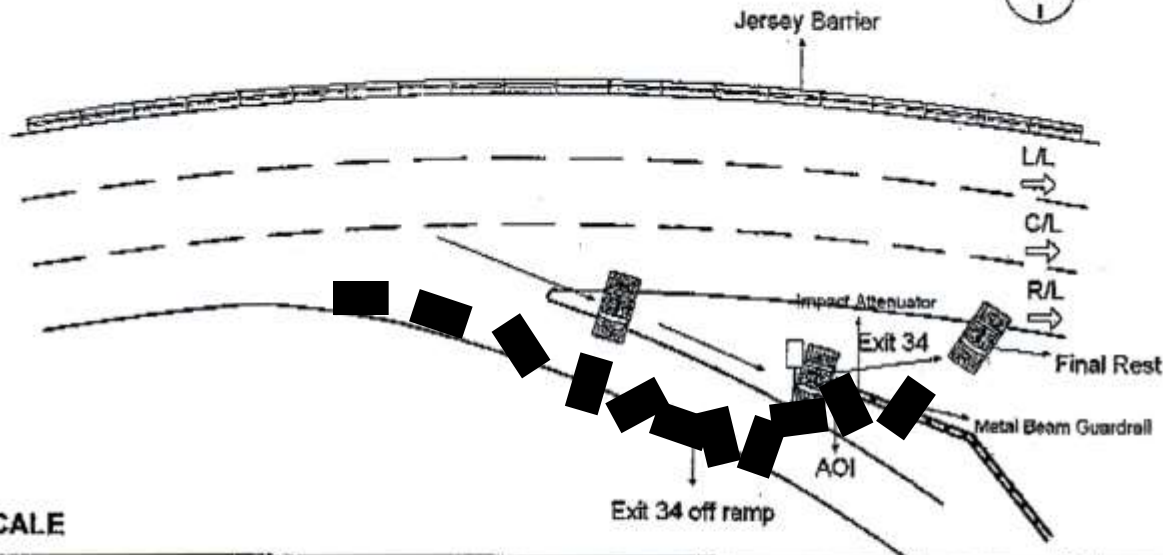
E-mail: tim@fromreidsdad.org

I-84 East, Southington / Plainville, Connecticut



ACCIDENT DIAGRAM

I-84 Eastbound Exit 34 in
the Town of Plainville



MAP NOT TO SCALE

TRAFFIC UNIT # 1 TRAVELING
East On I-84

TRAFFIC UNIT # TRAVELING
On

Based on the evidence found during this investigation it is my conclusion that Reid Hollister was at fault for this accident. Reid Hollister was at fault for the accident for 14-218a*: Traveling too fast for Conditions and 14-236: Failure to Maintain Lane. Also Reid was not wearing his seatbelt at the time of the accident. Due to the fatal injuries sustained by Reid Hollister there will be no enforcement action taken.

Case Closed.



- 3,000,000 new teen drivers each year
- Teen driver crash rates are 4x that of safest drivers
- Teen driver crashes kill and injure more passengers, other drivers, pedestrians than teens
- “Nowhere else do we mingle so freely with others as when driving.” - *Tom Vanderbilt*

Connecticut Governor's Teen Safe Driving Task Force 2007-08

- 2006: 49 teen-driver related fatalities in Connecticut
- August 2007: 4 teens in Bristol, CT
- October 2007: 3 teens in Wolcott, CT
- December 2007: Task Force appointed
- Connecticut's teen driving laws among weakest in the United States



Parent Emails to the Task Force - 2008

- “While the intention is to reduce the incidence of horrific accidents that maim or kill multiple teens, the fact is that teens need to rely on each other for transportation, and these laws would cause a huge inconvenience.”
- “The fact is that our children have to grow up, and to do that they have to make mistakes, and some of those mistakes will be fatal.”

Connecticut 's Teen Driving Law, Adopted August 2008

- 40 hrs, including 8 hr safety class, 2 hrs with parent/guardian
- No electronic devices (not even hands-free)
- All occupants wear seat belts
- First 6 months: only passenger is a supervising adult. Next 6 months, immediate family only.
- Curfew 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. with exceptions for school, employment, medical, religious.
- Mandatory license suspensions
- On-the-spot 48 hr revocation/impoundment

FROM REID'S DAD

A BLOG FOR PARENTS OF TEEN DRIVERS

[Home](#) [Blog](#) [About Me](#) [Contact](#) 



If you are the parent of a teenage driver and want:

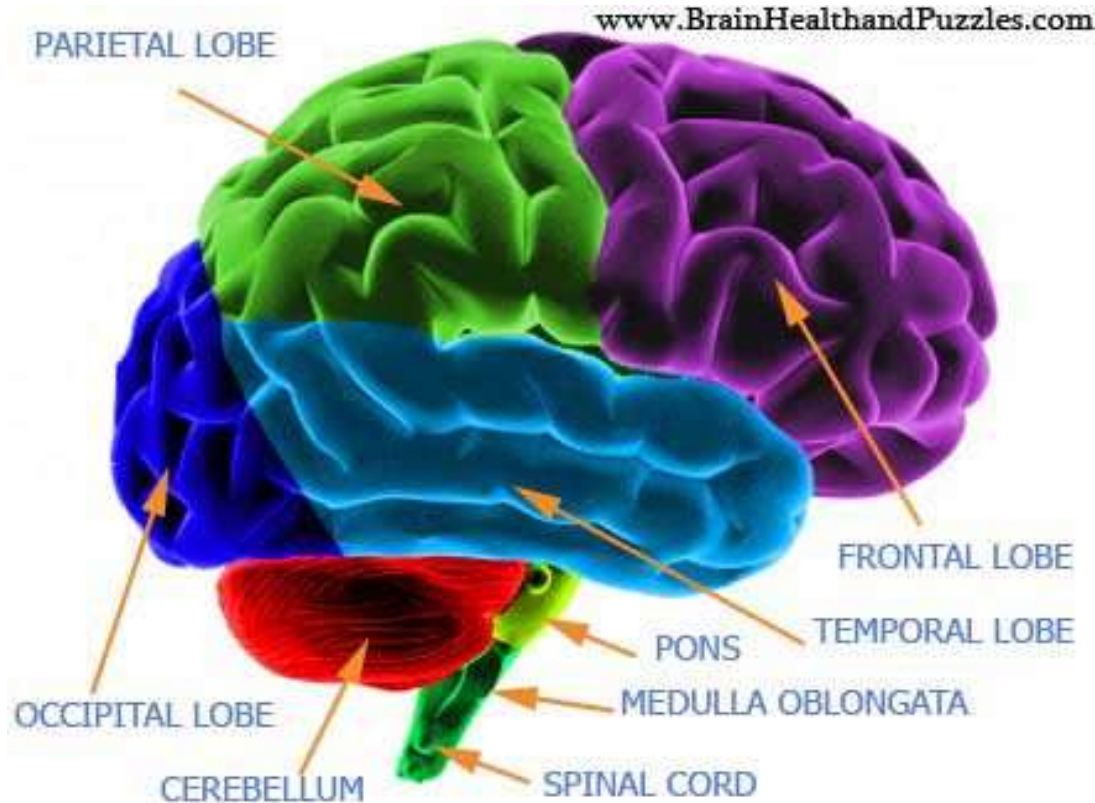
A better understanding of the dangers and risks.

The knowledge to make better decisions about when to entrust your teen with car keys.

The courage to say "no" to your teen when necessary.

This blog is for you

There Is No Such Thing As A Safe Teen Driver



Becoming a relatively safe driver takes YEARS; no shortcuts.

Treat Driving Like Flying: Act Like An Air Traffic Controller



- Destination?
- Route?
- Timetable?
- Equipment check?
- Communications plan?
- Passengers?
- Rested and alert?
- Contingency plan?

The Drivers' Ed Paradox



- Driver education is essential: it provides basic instruction about rules of the road and how to operate a vehicle

BUT

- It does not overcome causes of teen driver crashes

Factors that Increase Risk

- Impaired driving (alcohol, drugs)
- Distracted driving (electronic devices)
- Speeding, racing, misconduct
- Fatigue
- Night Driving
- Bad weather
- Joyriding
- Passengers
- Any combination





- Purposeful: driving with a destination, reason to arrive safely and on time, route, and arrival time
- Joyriding / "recreational" driving: distraction, peer pressure, risk-taking, misconduct

Passengers



Alcohol

- One-third of 35,000 +/- traffic fatalities in U.S.(adults and teens) are alcohol-related
- Alcohol illegal for under age 21, but in 2011, ONE THIRD of teen driver fatalities involved alcohol
- Parents/adults who provide alcohol to teens can be held criminally responsible
- Zero tolerance, stated in a Teen-Parent Driving Agreement
- Parents: explain risks, talk often, monitor friends, make alcohol unavailable, have a code word.



Most Dangerous Times



Texting/Cell Phones

- Texting is driving blindfolded
- 3 steps to avoid crash: perceive, act, slow/stop/redirect vehicle
- Average text 5 seconds PLUS several seconds to regain “situational awareness”
- Texting eliminates reaction time
- The only standard: ***ZERO TOLERANCE***
- “No driver of a vehicle in motion shall use an **electronic device** to text, type, read, watch or take a photo or a video, or make a phone call.”



Other Electronic Devices



- Multi-tasking is a myth: we SWITCH
- Hands-free and voice-activated devices also risky, cause “cognitive blindness.”
- GPS: “Turn left here” doesn’t mean safe to do so
- Headphones/earbuds: Ears are essential safety equipment
- Parents as role models

Seat Belts

- 2012 Study: more than 50% of teen driver fatalities were unbuckled
- Proven to be best way to protect yourself from injury or death
- Absolute rule, stated in Teen Parent Driving Agreement: every driver and passenger buckled
- “Parents become role models when the car seat starts facing forward.”



Parent School Transportation Permission Forms

Parent Permission Form Page 1

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

This form covers four separate areas: rules and regulations, automobiles, meals coverage, and school trips. Please complete each section. Both parents are required to sign each section.

I. Rules and Regulations

We have read the "Handbook Highlights" and will access the full copy of the handbook in the online parent community.

We understand and will support the academic, discipline, and dress regulations contained therein. We understand that our child is required to obey the Rules and Regulation of the school and that failure to do so may result in disciplinary actions, including dismissal. We also understand that we are bound by the financial obligations of the school's Enrollment Contract.

2. Student may ride to school function in a car driven by another student.

3. Student may drive other students to games, field trips, and school-related functions.

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____
Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____

3. Student may drive other students to games, field trips, and school-related functions: ____ Yes ____ No
Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____
Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____

4. Student may drive other adults to games, field trips, and school-related functions: ____ Yes ____ No
Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____
Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____

Teen Driving Contract

Rev. 01/12

Model Teen Driving Agreement

source: "From Reid's Dad" blog, www.fromreidsdad.org

Teen driving agreements are a proven way to raise awareness of the dangers of teen driving and reduce crash risk. This Agreement spells out safety risks and what happens if the teen driver violates his/her obligations. This is a national model that needs to be consistent with, or stricter than, your state's law. Complete and sign this Agreement when your teen obtains a learner's permit, and review it again when your teen obtains a license.

CAUTIONS FOR SUPERVISING ADULTS

- State laws allow teens to obtain a learner's permit, but parents and guardians may prohibit those under 18 from starting to drive. *Review the safety risks stated below and use your judgment.*
- Teen drivers *should not use any electronic device*, at any time that the vehicle is not in Park, to text, type, read, watch video, or communicate with someone outside the vehicle.
- You are a *role model for your teen driver*, and need to teach safe driving habits by being a safe, responsible, defensive driver at all times.

SAFETY RISKS OF TEEN DRIVING (teen and supervising adult(s) to initial each)

INITIALS

____ Driving is especially dangerous for teens because *the human brain does not fully develop its ability to assess risk and danger or control impulse until the mid-20s. No amount of teen driver training can overcome this limitation.*

____ Passing a driver training course and obtaining a driver's license only means that a teen is a beginner. *It does not mean that your teen is a safe driver.*

____ A teen driver violating state laws can cause *injury or death to people and damage to property, which can result in criminal and civil penalties and financial liability for parents or guardians.*

____ Speeding, reckless driving, alcohol or drug use, not using seat belts, illegal or distracting electronic devices, illegal passengers, or driving while fatigued *risk the life of the driver, passengers, other drivers, and pedestrians.*

TEEN DRIVER AGREEMENTS

1. **Time Period:** This Agreement will remain in effect until *(unintended: one year or 18th birthday, whichever is later)* _____.
2. **Supervising Adult:** My driving will be supervised by one or more adults who will decide, day-by-day, whether it is safe for me to drive.
3. **Driving Plan:** I will get permission from one of my supervising adults every time I drive, and we will agree on my route, destination, time of return, and passengers. Joyriding (driving with no destination or purpose) is not allowed.
4. **Seatbelts:** I will wear my seatbelt and I will make sure that every passenger in my car, of any age, wears one.

Model Teen Driving Agreement

5. **Electronic Devices:** Unless my vehicle is in Park, I will not use any electronic device, even in hands-free mode, to text, type, read, watch video, or communicate with a person outside the vehicle.
6. **Curfew:** I understand that I may not drive between the hours of *(fill in state curfew, or stricter hours)* _____, except for *(fill in state law exceptions)* _____. If I need to rely on an exception for an extended time (such as a job or school activity), I will get written permission and carry it in my vehicle.
7. **Passengers** *(must be consistent with state law; may be stricter; unenforced three states):* For my first _____ months with a license, I will carry only an adult who is supervising my driving. In the next _____ months, I will carry only a supervising driver and immediate family. I will not transport anyone else until I have had my license for *(unintended one year)* _____.
8. **Alcohol or Drug Use, Fatigue:** I will never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or when I have not had sufficient rest.
9. **Speeding:** I will obey speed limits, stop signs, traffic signals, and the rules of the road. I will drive at a reasonable speed and will adjust my speed based on road conditions (i.e., weather, turns, hills, visibility, unfamiliar roads).
10. **Suspension of Driving Privileges:** Violations of this Agreement or state laws may be reported to one of my supervising adults by law enforcement, neighbors, school personnel, or friends. ***IF I VIOLATE ANY OF THESE OBLIGATIONS, MY DRIVING PRIVILEGES WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR _____ DAYS.*** This suspension will be in addition to state law requirements. If I drive while my privileges are suspended, they will be suspended indefinitely.
11. **Call for Safe Ride:** At any time and for any reason, I may call for a safe ride to avoid a dangerous situation. My reasons for requesting the ride will not be a violation of this Agreement.
12. **Finances:** During this Agreement, costs of insurance, gas, and maintenance will be divided: _____.
13. **Technology** *(Specify any device that will be installed or used to track information about the teen's operation of the vehicle.)* _____.
14. **Mediator** *(optional):* We appoint _____ to serve as mediator. If a dispute arises about this Agreement, we will ask our mediator for advice. (Contact number: _____).

BY SIGNING BELOW, WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE SAFE DRIVING REQUIREMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS STATED IN THIS AGREEMENT.

Teen Driver _____ Date _____

Supervising Adult _____ Date _____

Supervising Adult _____ Date _____

Model Teen Driving Agreement

2

Parent Prevention Priorities: PACTS

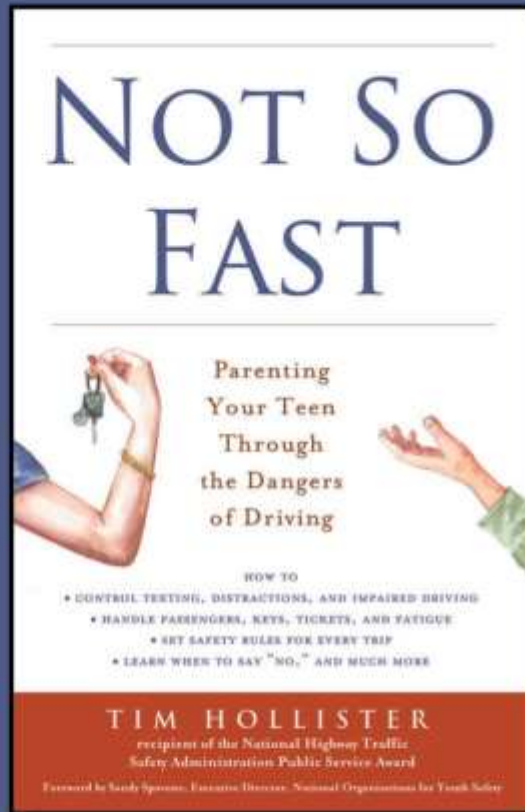
Passengers

Alcohol

Curfews

Texting

Seat belts



“A concise, practical and potentially life-saving book that should be required reading for every parent before their teen gets behind the wheel.”

PublishersWeekly, 7/15/13

Tim Hollister
Hartford, CT

Blog: www.fromreidsdad.org
Website: www.nsfteendriving.com
E-mail: tim@fromreidsdad.org