

INSURANCE TIPS FOR YOUNG DRIVERS

THINK YOU ARE READY TO DRIVE?



Most teens can't wait to earn the privilege to drive alone and away from their parents' protective eyes. But allowing your teen to drive alone can bring with it risks. Statistics show that **teenagers are at the highest risk of a crash or injury** during their first two years of driving. Lack of experience and driver error caused by distractions, such as talking on a cell phone, sending or reading text messages, conversing with passengers, smoking, eating or listening to music, are two major causes of crashes involving teens. Purchasing insurance can help protect you and your teen financially.

DID YOU
KNOW?

Q. Did you know that lack of experience, combined with any driving violations, can greatly affect your family's auto insurance premiums?

A. Parents may add their teen driver to their policy by listing them as a driver, or if the parents' name(s) are listed on the title of the teen's vehicle, by adding the vehicle to their policy. Either way, the bottom line is this the parents' rates will increase.

3.6x #DYK Teen Drivers *with passengers* are **3.6x** more likely to be involved in a *fatal crash*?

WHAT AFFECTS AUTO INSURANCE COST

Rating factors are characteristics that place you within a group of drivers with similar risk-related characteristics. Insurers set rates for each group based on the claims paid for the policyholders in that group. Some common rating factors include:

- **Driving record**
- **Age** (As young drivers haven't yet had the time to accumulate a safe driving record, their insurance rates, as well as their parents,' will be affected by both age and driving record.)
- **Gender** (Young males up to age 26 generally pay higher rates than same-aged females.)
- **Address or zip code** where the vehicle is primarily garaged
- **Vehicle.** The make, model, year and value of your vehicle can affect the premium. Generally, sports and high performance cars cost more to insure.

Insurers may consider more than one factor when determining your rate. For more information about factors that may affect your rates, please read the Maryland Insurance Administration's "**Consumer Advisory: What Factors Can Affect My Automobile Insurance Rates**", which can be accessed at:

<https://insurance.maryland.gov/Pages/newscenter/NewsDetails.aspx?NR=2013150>



97% of teens say texting while driving is dangerous, but 43% admit to doing so anyway.

TIPS FOR REDUCING AUTO INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Here are some tips to help teens maintain lower rates:

- **Keep a clean driving record.**
- **Carefully choose the vehicle you drive.**
- **Drive a vehicle with safety features.**
- **Maintain a good credit history.**
- **Keep your grades up.**

For more information about reducing auto insurance premiums, please read the Maryland Insurance Administration “**Consumer Guide to Auto Insurance for Teen and Young Adult Drivers**”, which can be accessed at:

<https://insurance.maryland.gov/Consumer/Documents/publications/teenautoinsguide.pdf>

INFORMATION ABOUT THE BENEFIT TO DRIVE

- If you have a provisional license and are under 18 years of age, state law prohibits you from:
 - using a wireless communication device while driving,
 - driving between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. unless: you are driving to, from or during work, a school sponsored event, an athletic event or training session, or an organized volunteer activity; or are accompanied by licensed driver who is at least 21 years’ old that has driven for three or more years and is seated beside you; or having a passenger under the age of 18 unless you are accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old, has driven for three or more years, and is seated beside you.
- If you are 18 years of age or older and have a learner’s instructional permit or a provisional driver’s license, **you may not use a handheld telephone** while operating a motor vehicle.
- To be eligible for a full driver’s license, a driver cannot have a conviction for a moving violation in the past 18 months while on a provisional license.
- If you are under 18 in Maryland, a parent, guardian or other qualifying adult must cosign your driver’s license application to allow you to drive. Remember, a cosigner can write a letter and withdraw his/her consent, allowing the MVA to suspend your license.
- Police officers are authorized to stop and detain anyone if they reasonably believe the individual is, or has been, driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol (blood alcohol concentration of between 0.04 or 0.08), drugs, controlled dangerous substances or driving while intoxicated (blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or higher).

CONTACT MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION

The Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) is the state agency that regulates the business of insurance in Maryland. If you want to learn more about Auto Insurance for Teens and Young Adult Drivers, the MIA’s “**Consumer Guide to Auto Insurance for Teen and Young Adult Drivers**” is a good first step, which can be accessed at:

<https://insurance.maryland.gov/Consumer/Documents/publications/teenautoinsguide.pdf>