



## TIPS:

- Emphasize the basics. Your teen should always obey traffic laws, drive sensibly, wear seat belts, and never mix driving with alcohol or drugs.
- Your teen should check in before taking a drive, telling you where they are going, with whom, and when they will return. By doing so, you and your teen will maintain a clear understanding about each other's expectations.

## Part I.

## TIPS:

- Start with fairly strict limits for teen driving under high-risk conditions, particularly for teen passengers and night-time driving.
- Review your teen's progress at pre-set dates to discuss driving privileges and increasing them.
- Strictly enforce the limits on driving conditions in your agreement. Making exceptions for special circumstances, such as work and school activities, are fine, but remember that the limits are in place for a good reason – shielding your teen from high-risk driving conditions.

### Getting Started

The CrossRoads agreement is made up of three sections – Driving Conditions, Driving Rules and Consequences, and CrossRoads Agreement-Signatures. To complete this agreement successfully, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

**Sign It!** Parents and teens should both sign their CrossRoads agreement to show that they understand and agree to follow its terms.

**Follow It!** By consistently following the terms of the agreement, your teen will gain valuable driving experience without being exposed to high-risk situations.

**Review It!** You and your teen should regularly review your CrossRoads agreement to see what progress has been made in developing responsible driving habits.

**Revise It!** When your teen driver has shown significant progress, create a new CrossRoads agreement that allows both a higher level of driving privileges and a greater set of expectations that you both agree to follow.

### Driving Conditions

This first section of your CrossRoads agreement establishes the conditions under which your teen may drive – and creates a set of goals for increasing these privileges.

#### Directions

1. As the sample CrossRoads agreement shows, you and your teen need to establish a set of driving conditions for both day and night, covering such issues as curfew, number of teen passengers, road types, and weather.

2. You and your teen also must decide on a time period that the agreement will be enforced, as well as a specific review date.

3. On the review date, use the following checklist to decide whether a new agreement can be created:

- Were daytime and nighttime driving conditions honored?
- Was there a definite improvement in driving skills and judgment?
- Were all traffic laws obeyed?
- Was there a check-in between teen and parent before each driving event?
- Were all responsibilities met?
- Were driving privileges rarely if ever suspended?

4. If on review, your teen's progress is satisfactory, first offer your congratulations! Then create a new CrossRoads agreement with a more advanced set of driving conditions, along with a time period and review date. Follow this process until you feel your teen has demonstrated the skills and attitude of a responsible driver.

## Part II.

### Driving Rules and Consequences

The second section of your CrossRoads agreement establishes the ground rules for your teen's driving privileges – and the consequences for breaking these rules.

#### Directions

Discuss with your teen and put into writing each driving rule of your CrossRoads agreement. The following are a sampling of rules that you may choose to use.

#### ➔ Rule 1: Obey the Law

- Never use alcohol or other drugs while driving.
- Never ride with a driver who has been drinking or using drugs.
- Obey all traffic laws and signs.
- Never drive aggressively (e.g. follow too closely or cut others off).
- Wear a seat belt at all times, both driver and passengers.
- Learners and Provisional permit holders under 18 are prohibited from using a wireless communication device (including a cell phone) while operating a motor vehicle, with the exception of a 911 emergency call. Violations may result in a suspension of your driving privileges.
- Provisional license holders under the age of 18, during the first 5 months (151 days) of the provisional period are not allowed to have passengers under the age of 18, unless accompanied by a qualified supervising driver or the passengers are direct family members.

#### ➔ Rule 2: Check In

- Check in every time before driving to check out whether trips are acceptable and safe.
- Get permission from a parent before each trip.
- Provide the following information for each trip:
  - Where you are going.
  - Who will be the passengers in the vehicle.
  - When you will return.

#### ➔ Rule 3: Be Responsible

- Be responsible on and off the road to maintain driving privileges!
- Always follow the agreed-upon Driving Conditions in your CrossRoads agreement.
- Never ride with a driver who has been drinking or using drugs.
- Avoid such distractions as cell phone use, smoking, and radio/tape/CD player adjustment while driving.
- Call home immediately if:
  - You are going to be more than (fill in) minutes late.
  - Your plans change while you are out.
  - You cannot get home safely. (Parent will provide a safe trip home.)
- Keep up your everyday responsibilities, including:
  - Home chores, including (fill in)
  - School grades and homework, including (fill in)
  - Vehicle maintenance, including cleaning and (fill in);
  - Financial responsibilities, including cost of gas, maintenance, repair, and (fill in).

#### ➔ Examples of Rules Broken

Discuss and write down examples of broken rules and possible consequences in losing driving privileges for set periods of time. By understanding the consequences of broken rules in advance, your teen will be motivated to maintain responsible behavior.

- Teen was driving while using alcohol or drugs.
- Teen received speeding ticket.
- Teen's passengers were not wearing seat belts.
- Teen lied about where he or she was going with car.
- Teen came home 45 minutes late without calling.
- Teen had (fill in) teen passengers in car.

#### ➔ Examples of Consequences

- Lose all driving privileges until age 18.
- Lose driving privileges for (fill in) days/weeks/months.
- Lose socializing privileges with friends for (fill in) days/weeks/months.
- Other: (fill in).



## The Maryland Parent-Teen Driving Agreement

### Part III. CrossRoads Agreement - Signatures

The third and final section of your CrossRoads agreement makes it official, by both parent and teen signing and dating the document.

Contract Period	Time of Day		Curfew		Teen Passengers		Road Types		Weather	
	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night
Months 1-6										
Months 6-12										
Months 12-18										
Months 18-24										

We understand and agree to these driving conditions and rules.

Parent(s) signature:

Teen signature:

Date: