

Did you know?

- In 2010, there were more than 35,000 crashes that involved teen drivers, resulting in more than 11,000 injuries and 95 fatalities.
- The majority of teen crashes occur between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- The three most common contributing factors of teen crashes include, failure to yield, failure to reduce speed and driving too fast for conditions.
- In 68 percent of teen crashes, the teen driver was named at fault for the crash.
- Traffic crashes and citations can impact your insurance premium for 3 years.

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Teen Driving Safety



North Carolina Department of Transportation
Governor's Highway Safety Program

Underage Drinking & Driving

The Zero Tolerance Law makes it illegal for anyone under age 21 to drive after consuming alcohol or drugs. If you are under age 21, it is illegal to:

- Drive while consuming alcohol.
- Drive while any amount of alcohol you previously drank is still in your system.
- Drive while drugs you previously consumed remain in your system, unless the drugs were lawfully obtained (prescribed to you) and taken as prescribed.

If charged with alcohol consumption of more than 0.0, an immediate revocation of license for 30 days and a \$100 reinstatement fee.

What if you are underage and convicted of drinking alcohol?

- Drinking by a person under age 19 is a Class 1 Misdemeanor, and punishment can include a fine at the discretion of the judge, community service hours and a \$250 fee or jail, plus court costs of \$143.
- Drinking by a person age 19 or 20 is a Class 3 Misdemeanor which punishment can include a fine of up to \$200 and community service hours and a \$250 fee, jail, plus court costs of \$143.
- Attorney's fees: \$300 to \$800.

**BOOZE IT
& LOSE IT.**



What happens if you are under age 21 and convicted of driving after consuming alcohol or drugs?

- One-year driver license revocation.
- Limited driving privilege available only if 18, 19 or 20 years old at the time of charge and no prior conviction for this charge. There is \$100 fee to obtain a limited driving privilege, which limits time and location of driving.
- Punishment as a Class 2 misdemeanor.
- Community service hours and \$250 fee or jail time.
- Court cost: \$143.
- Fine: up to \$1,000.
- Attorney's fees: \$500 to \$1,000.
- Insurance premiums can increase by 400 percent.

All fees are subject to change based on legislation. Visit <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/> for up to date law and statute information.

In North Carolina, the law now requires ALL persons in a vehicle wear seat belts. There are no longer age exceptions for passengers in the back seat.

Drive safe, sober and buckled.

Teens and Cell Phone Use

It is against the law in North Carolina for drivers under the age of 18 to use a mobile phone or any technology associated with a mobile telephone while a vehicle is in motion.

Exceptions include:

Talking to an emergency response operator; a hospital, physician's office, or health clinic; a public or privately owned ambulance company or service; a fire department; a law enforcement agency or the operator's parent, legal guardian or spouse.

Penalty:

A \$25 fine. In addition to mobile phones, the law also stipulates the use of "other technology" that provides access to digital media such as a digital camera, email, music, the Internet or games.

No driver license points, insurance surcharge or court costs are assessed as a result of a violation of this law.

Teens and Texting

North Carolina prohibits ALL drivers from texting or reading a text message while a vehicle is in motion.

Exceptions include:

Those performing in official duties such as a law enforcement officer, a member of a fire department or the operator of a public or private ambulance.

Penalty:

A \$100 fine plus court fees of at least \$141. The violation will not add points to your driving record and an insurance surcharge will not be assessed.

Speeding

- For every 10 miles per hour you drive over 50 mph, you double your chances of death or serious injury.
- Driving privileges will be revoked for at least 30 days if convicted of:
 - Driving any vehicle more than 15 mph over the speed limit, if you are driving at a speed higher than 55 mph.
- It will be taken for 60 days if you are convicted of:
 - A second charge of speeding over 55 mph and more than 15 mph above the speed limit within one year; or speeding plus reckless driving on the same occasion.

Crash Safety

If you are involved in a crash, as a driver or a passenger, it is important to remember these important steps in order to stay safe after the crash:

- Before exiting your vehicle, watch for oncoming traffic.
- Check for injuries. If no one is injured, move your vehicle out of the roadway to a safer place, as far off the road as possible, where you can exchange information with the drivers of other vehicles involved in the crash.
- If you cannot move your vehicle, protect the scene with flares or by raising your hood and move any persons to the side of the roadway. If after dark, leave car lights on.
- Exchange contact information, vehicle identification and license plate numbers, driver's license information.
- Never leave the scene of a crash without exchanging information or calling the police, when appropriate. If you hit a vehicle that is parked, find the driver, or write your information in a note that you leave with the vehicle.



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Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among American teenagers, killing between 5,000 and 6,000 teenagers every year.