

## What Safety Means to Teen Driving

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The day a teenager turns 16, their whole life changes, because they can get their license. Having a driver's license is not only a treat, but also a privilege. After being stuck with the rule of only being allowed to drive with a parent or guardian in the car, when a teen finally gets the chance to drive by themselves, they feel free. However, the freedom also requires responsibility, a lot of it too. A teen no longer has their parent in the car to say, turn now, you're too close to the curb, keep both hands on the wheel, etc, etc. All they have is themselves and the road. While driving can be fun, it can also be dangerous, so dangerous, that the road might just become someone's final resting place if they are not careful enough. That's why being careful when driving is so crucial to having a fun, yet safe experience, in the car. The most basic and easiest way to keep a person safe in the car, no matter how old the person is, is to wear a seatbelt. Seatbelts are not put in the car for decoration; they are there to keep everyone in the car safe and alive in case an accident does occur. Another aspect of driving that keeps everyone on the road safe is the simple use of turning signals. That does not mean turning it on 2 seconds before the turn is made, it means putting it on at least 10 seconds before to let other drivers around know that you are going to make a turn. That way, the other drivers will know to yield and watch out for the turn being made. However, to me, safety to teen driving is not only the technicalities of the vehicle; it's also how the driver handles the vehicle. This means knowing how to watch out for danger, or signs of potential danger and knowing how to avoid them. In a nut shell, being a responsible driver. One way teen drivers can to this is by helping the problem, not causing it. They can do that by not trying to drive crazy to impress friends. An example of that would be by

speeding or going around corners fast. According to the Allstate.com teen driving section, teenage drivers account for 6.4% (12.5 million) drivers in the United States. However, according to the same data base, teenage drivers account for 14% of all fatal crashes and 18% in police-involved crashes. Those are quite scary numbers if you ask me. It is my hope that the number of teens involved in crashes will decrease and the number on the road will increase, hence there being more alive. All it takes is an extra 10 seconds to put on your seatbelt, and 15 seconds to turn on a blinker. It also means not showing off in front of friends just to seem cool. If you ask me and probably a lot of other people, I don't see anything cool in driving like a maniac, and taking an innocent life.