

## THE LAWS

### Graduated Driver's License Law

GDL is a system designed for drivers under age 18 (Junior Drivers) to receive senior driving privileges in 3 stages,

- Learners permit
- Junior license
- Full senior license



### General GDL Junior Driver Rules

- 50 practice hours; 15 hrs at night
- No electronic devices while driving (including hands-free)
- Must wait 6 months after obtaining learners permit before taking road test
- Must bring completed DMV Form 262, signed by parent/guardian to road test

### General GDL Junior Driver Restrictions

- No more than 1 passenger under age 21 unless parent, guardian, or driving instructor is also in vehicle (Exception: immediate family member)
- When supervision of Junior Driver is required, only supervising driver may ride in front seat
- Supervising driver must be at least 21 years old and have valid driver license

*Refer to NYS DMV website for all Young Drivers for Long Island regional restrictions*

### NYS Seatbelt Law

#### Senior Drivers:

- Front Seat – Everyone must wear a seatbelt
- Back Seat – Everyone under age 16 must wear a seatbelt
- All children under age 8: Must ride in federally – approved child safety seats



#### Junior Drivers:

- Everyone in vehicle, regardless of age, must wear a seatbelt

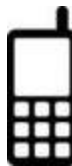
### NYS Distracted Driving, Talking &

**Texting Law:** It is illegal for drivers to use handheld electronic devices while their vehicle is in motion. Cell phone use requires a hands-free device.

The current NYS distracted driving law includes a **\$150 fine** and **3 points** on your license.

Illegal distracted driving activity includes holding an electronic device and:

- Composing, sending, reading, accessing, browsing, transmitting, saving, e-mailing, or text messaging
- Viewing, taking, or transmitting images
- Playing games



### NYS Zero Tolerance Law

#### No Drinking Alcohol

#### Under Age 21



#### The Law:

- Under 21 & have a BAC of .02% or more, but less than .07%, you are in violation of Zero Tolerance Law

#### The Consequences:

- DMV hearing before Administrative Judge for having consumed alcohol while driving under age 21
- Arrested for Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI) or Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)

#### Nassau County:

- Zero Tolerance – .02% to not more than .07%
- DWAI – greater than .05% and less than .08%
- DWI – .08% or higher (nationwide)
- Aggravated DWI – .18% or higher

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### Nassau Pediatric Society

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## INFORMATION & RESOURCES FOR TEENS AND PARENTS

**FACTS**  
**LAWS**  
**SAFETY TIPS**



**FOCUS ON**

**SAFE TEEN DRIVING**

## BASIC FACTS



**Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S teens, accounting for 36% of all deaths in this age group.**

- 14 teens age 16 to 20 are killed each day
- 5,000 teens killed; 300,000 injured yearly
- 80% of all traffic fatalities occur within 25 miles of home, at speeds under 40mph
- Over 50% of teen deaths from car crashes occur between 3 p.m. & midnight
- 54% of teen crashes occur on Friday, Saturday or Sunday
- Most teen crashes are due to inexperience, driver error, and usually involve a single vehicle
- The first 1,000 hours behind the wheel are the most dangerous for teenagers
- 1 in 3 teens will have a crash during their first year of driving
- Teens have lowest rate of seat belt use
- Research indicates: poor teen driving linked to immature brain development responsible for:

Planning  
Impulse Control  
Decision Making



## DISTRACTED DRIVING

**Distracted Driving:** Refers to operating a motor vehicle while also engaging in any non-driving activity that takes the driver's attention off the road. These activities can distract from the primary task of driving and greatly increase the risk of an accident.



### **3 main types of distractions:**

1. Visual — taking eyes off the road
2. Manual — taking hands off the wheel
3. Cognitive — taking mind off driving

**Presence of Passengers strongly increases the risk that a teen driver will be involved in a crash**

### **More Passengers = More Risk of a Crash**

- Risk of crash doubles with 1 passenger
- Risk of crash increases 5 times with 2 or more passengers

Cell phone use is the **NUMBER ONE** source of driver inattention behind the wheel.

### **When You Text Message While Driving:**

- Your eyes are off the road for about 5 seconds
- At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field **blindfolded**
- It's like driving with a BAC of .08 which is legally intoxicated = DWI

### **Driving Behavior—Increase Crash Risk**

Texting	23 times
Reaching for object in the car	9 times
Using cell phone	4 times
Driving drowsy	4 times
Looking at object outside car	3.7 times
Reading	3.7 times
Applying makeup	3 times

## IMPAIRED DRIVING

**Impaired Driving:** Refers to driving under the influence after consuming alcohol and/or any other drugs resulting in poor decision making and inadequate judgment

All drugs alter perception, cognition, attention, balance, coordination, and other faculties required for safe driving. 1 in 3 people will be affected by impaired driving in their lifetime.

### **Teens are at risk from:**

- driving under influence of alcohol and /or other drugs
- riding with drivers under the influence of alcohol and/ or other drugs

### **The Facts:**

- Teen crashes involving alcohol, 1/3 result in fatalities
- Alcohol-related crashes cost the public more than \$51 billion yearly
- Marijuana & other drugs affect many skills required for safe driving; alertness, the ability to concentrate, coordination & reaction time
- Drugs other than alcohol (e.g., marijuana & cocaine) are involved in about 18% of motor vehicle driver deaths



**"Impaired driving is no accident. It is a serious and deadly crime. In the U.S impaired driving kills someone every 30 minutes and injures every 2 minutes."**

## TEN WAYS TO STAY SAFE



1. Always wear a seatbelt
2. Limit number of passengers
3. Restrict night driving
4. No alcohol or other drug use
5. No cell phone or text messages
6. Avoid distractions: eating, CDs, iPods
7. Keep eyes on road & hands on wheel
8. Obey traffic signs, signals & markings
9. Know the driving laws
10. Drive a safe car

## TEEN DRIVING RESOURCES

NYS DMV for all Young Drivers  
<http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/youngerdriver/>

Governor's Traffic Safety Committee  
<http://www.safeny.com/>

NYS Department of Health  
<http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injuryprevention/teens.htm>

Official US Government Website For Distracted Driving  
<http://www.distraction.gov/>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
<http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/teendrivers/>

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute  
<http://www.teendriversource.org/>