

## Step 1: Determine Unsupervised Driving Privileges

- Using the “Unsupervised Driving Privileges” chart, talk to your teen about driving privileges and the importance of gaining experience in lower-risk conditions as they learn to drive independently. Starting with Checkpoint 1, move through one checkpoint at a time until all are completed. You may use the recommendations provided in the chart or replace them with your own privileges. If you choose to modify the chart, be sure that you follow your state’s GDL provisions (at a minimum). If your state’s GDL provisions are more stringent than the recommendations provided in the chart, please modify the chart as needed.
  - Check your state’s GDL provisions on the Governor’s Highway Safety Association website: <https://www.ghsa.org/state-laws/issues/teen%20and%20novice%20drivers>
- After you decide on privileges, determine how long Checkpoint 1 should last. You can use the suggested timeframe provided in the chart or establish your own.
- Consult a calendar and mark a “review date” on the chart when you and your teen will discuss progress. A great place for this chart is on your refrigerator where it is easy to reference.
- On the review date consider if the following criteria have been met: (1) teen gained enough experience in the current checkpoint, (2) teen progressed in driving skills and judgement, (3) driving rules were obeyed [e.g., check in with a parent before driving; see Step 2], and (4) parent has determined that teen is capable of driving safely in the conditions specified in the next checkpoint.
  - If all criteria have not been met, extend the current Checkpoint and mark a new review date on the chart.
  - If all criteria have been met, discuss the next Checkpoint and what privileges it entails. Choose a date on the calendar when you’ll review progress and mark the review date on the chart.

UNSUPERVISED DRIVING PRIVILEGES					
Be sure you know your state GDL restrictions; they may be more stringent than these recommendations.					
PRIVILEGES		CHECKPOINT 1	CHECKPOINT 2	CHECKPOINT 3	CHECKPOINT 4
<b>NIGHTTIME DRIVING</b>		<i>Sundown</i>	<i>Sundown or 8 pm</i>	<i>10 pm</i>	<i>11 pm</i>
<b>TEEN PASSENGERS</b>	<i>Daytime</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2 with parental approval</i>
	<i>Nighttime</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>1 with parental approval</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>WEATHER</b>	<i>Daytime</i>	<i>Dry</i>	<i>Dry, light rain</i>	<i>Dry, light rain, parental approval for moderately poor conditions</i>	<i>Moderately poor conditions, parental approval for adverse conditions</i>
	<i>Nighttime</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Dry</i>	<i>Dry, light rain</i>	<i>Dry, light rain, parental approval for moderately poor conditions</i>
<b>ROAD TYPES</b>	<i>Daytime</i>	<i>35 mph or less</i>	<i>45 mph or less</i>	<i>55 mph or less</i>	<i>All</i>
	<i>Nighttime</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>35 mph or less</i>	<i>45 mph or less</i>	<i>55 mph</i>
<b>Recommended time in effect</b>		First 1-3 months after licensure	Next 1-3 months	Next 3-6 months	Next 3-6 months
<b>Review date</b>					

## Step 2: Establish Driving Rules and Consequences

1. Driving is a privilege. Discuss with your teen driving rules, violations that will trigger a consequence, and the consequences that will result. Some example rules are provided, and blank spaces are included so that you can customize your rules, violations, and consequences.
2. Driving rules are intended to encourage the kind of support teens need as they learn to drive.
3. After agreeing on driving rules, sign the agreement together.
4. At each Checkpoint, discuss how well your teen followed the driving rules.

Driving Rules – Teen Will	Example Violations	Consequence
<b>Always check in with a parent before driving</b> ➤ Tell a parent where you are going, who you are driving with, and when you will be home. Call a parent if plans change while you are out. ➤ Call a parent if you are running more than ____ minutes late. ➤ Call a parent if you can't get home safely. Your safety is very important; a parent will arrange a safe ride home.	Lying about destination	Lose driving privileges for ____ weeks/months Other Consequence:
	Coming home ____ min. late without calling	Lose driving privileges for ____ weeks/months Other Consequence:
		Lose driving privileges for ____ weeks/months Other Consequence:
<b>Obey all traffic signs and laws</b> ➤ Follow agreed-upon driving privileges (e.g., no teen passengers, home by 8 pm). ➤ Do not drive after using alcohol or other drugs. Do not ride as a passenger with someone who has been using alcohol or other drugs. ➤ Always wear a seat belt (as a driver or passenger) and insist that your passengers wear seat belts as well. ➤ Drive safely, not aggressively (e.g., no speeding, tailgating, or cutting others off).	Transporting more passengers than allowed	Lose driving privileges for ____ weeks/months Other Consequence:
	Driving after using alcohol or other drugs	Lose driving privileges for ____ weeks/months Other Consequence:
	Not wearing a seatbelt	Lose driving privileges for ____ weeks/months Other Consequence:
	Receiving a speeding ticket	Lose driving privileges for ____ weeks/months Other Consequence:
		Lose driving privileges for ____ weeks/months Other Consequence:
<b>Do not take unnecessary risks while driving</b> ➤ Do not drive distracted (e.g., no cell phones, limit teen passengers). ➤ Do not drive when you are overly emotional (e.g., angry, upset) or tired. ➤ Avoid driving in adverse weather conditions when it can be avoided.	Using a cell phone while driving	Lose driving privileges for ____ weeks/months Other Consequence:
		Lose driving privileges for ____ weeks/months Other Consequence:
<b>Driving Rules – Parent Will</b> ➤ Serve as a good role model when driving ➤ Point out and discuss safe and unsafe driving situations and practices ➤ Apply rules fairly and consistently ➤ Consider necessary exceptions to driving limits (be mindful of state GDL provisions) ➤ Provide a safe ride home (no questions asked at that time) ➤ Continue to supervise driving in new or complex situations and supervise driving as teen transitions to new Checkpoints (e.g., 45 to 55 mph)		

WE AGREE (parent sign) \_\_\_\_\_ (teen sign) \_\_\_\_\_

The Checkpoints Program was developed by Bruce Simons-Morton for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. This sample agreement draws from elements found in "Parent-Teen Driving Agreement" (retrieved from <http://youngdriverparenting.org/>) and "AAA StartSmart Parent-Teen Driving Agreement" (retrieved from [http://teendriving.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Parent.Teen\\_.Driving.Agreement.pdf](http://teendriving.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Parent.Teen_.Driving.Agreement.pdf)).