



## CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE YOUR G1

Exciting times for you. Nervous times for your parents...but it doesn't have to be.

Driving a car is one of the biggest responsibilities you will ever undertake.

### One mistake can ruin lives forever...

You've all heard about the G1 (and G2) but do you really understand what it involves and the impact of failing to adhere to the conditions of the license?

Below are some helpful tools and advice you and your parents can use to make driving the positive experience it should be.

### FIRST...A STORY

A G1 driver was sitting at a red light when he was rear ended by another vehicle. The impact was enough to render dad's new \$50,000 vehicle a total loss. When the police attended the accident they asked the G1 driver if he had had anything to drink. The accident was around 8:00 PM. The young driver, not wanting to lie to the police of course told the officer he had a beer at lunch but nothing since. The police officer laid the G1 blood alcohol charge without taking a breathalyzer. The insurance company subsequently denied the claim as the driver was deemed to be in violation of his license. The charge was eventually dismissed in court as the officer did not take a breathalyzer, and the judge ruled that the driver's blood alcohol level would have been zero at the time of the accident had the breathalyzer been administered. However, that was several thousand dollars in lawyer's bills and over a year later that the case was finally resolved in court. Once the charge was dismissed, it took several months to get the insurance company to reverse their denial.

All of this trouble could have been avoided by adhering to the following guideline: Consuming zero alcohol on any day you are driving is the best safe practice. However, as a precaution, a good rule of thumb is to not drive for 12 hours after your last drink. You can safely tell a police officer you've not been drinking and your blood alcohol should read zero. Of course this depends on how much alcohol you've actually consumed. And remember if it's not been 12 hours don't choose as an alternative to let a friend drive your vehicle. An at fault accident with your vehicle (or your parent's) even if driven by another person, stays on your insurance record for 6 years.

# Opinions

## CALEDON Enterprise

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### OUR VIEW

# Driving is a privilege not a right

Remember when you sat in the driver's seat of a vehicle as an Ontario driver's license holder for the first time?

It was probably an incredibly rewarding and exciting day for many, and maybe even nerve wracking as you took your new skills onto the open road without an instructor at your side.

But it was likely not as nerve wracking for you as for your parents who handed over the keys to their 5,000 pound vehicles, entrusting you to not only keep yourself safe, but your passengers as well.

Sadly, teenage drivers don't always make it home safely or alive for that matter. Accord-

ing to MADD Canada, young people have the highest rate of traffic death and injury per capita, with motor vehicle collisions remaining the leading cause of death for young people between the age of 15 and 25.

What's concerning is so often the accidents teenagers find themselves in are preventable.

According to a recent Ontario Provincial Police driving distracted campaign, the culprit is teenage over confidence in their emerging driving skills and a failure to acknowledge personal limitations.

And with the prevalence of new technology being able to drive while not distracted

by cell phones, music devices and other hand held devices while behind the wheel becomes all the more important.

Teenagers with little experience need to use extreme caution while behind the wheel as they navigate the roads as new drivers.

In crashes just seven weeks apart, a total of 10 teenagers were injured in accidents on Duffy's Lane and Castlederg Sideroad. Thankfully, no one was killed in the crashes that had eerily similar circumstances. Both involved vehicles rolling out of control. Both happened in the same area. Both involved vehicles full of teenagers on a Friday afternoon and, sadly, both involved 17-

year-old drivers being charged. The March 9 driver was charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, fail to comply with undertaking or recognizance, driver - fail to properly wear seat belt and Class G1 licence holder - unaccompanied by qualified driver, and the April 27 driver has been charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle collision causing bodily harm.

Every one of these teenagers is lucky to be alive.

All young drivers should think about them the next time they are behind the wheel of a 5,000 pound vehicle and how they choose to operate it. Some won't be so lucky.



## IMPORTANT FACTS

- **Principal vs. Occasional Drivers:** You can only be shown as an occasional driver if your family has fewer vehicles than drivers. If your family has 3 cars and 3 drivers, then you must be rated as a principal operator on one of them.
- **Company Cars:** Company cars that can be brought home count as a vehicle in your family. If your family has 2 cars and a company car, then you will have to be a principal operator on one of the two cars your family owns.
- **Tickets and At Fault Accidents:** While rates vary and how insurers charge for tickets and accidents, when it comes to G1 and G2 drivers, it's not unheard of for a couple of tickets to cause your insurance to go up in the range of \$2000 per year. Tickets stay on your driving record for 3 years. One at fault accident can have a similar impact which will last 6 years. A second at fault accident or additional tickets can cause even larger increases. One at fault accident can cause your parents (or you) well in excess of \$10,000 in additional premium over the next 6 years.

## CLASS G1 CONDITIONS

- ✓ No drinking - your blood alcohol level must be zero when driving.
- ✓ You must drive only when accompanied by a fully licensed driver who has at least four years of driving experience. The accompanying driver must be authorized to operate a Class G vehicle and must have a blood alcohol content of less than .05 percent.
- ✓ You must have only one front-seat passenger - the accompanying driver.
- ✓ You must limit the number of passengers to the number of working seat belts in the vehicle.
- ✓ Unless accompanied by a driving instructor licensed in Ontario, you must not drive on any controlled-access highways ("400 series" highway with a posted speed limit greater than 80 km/h, the Queen Elizabeth Way, Don Valley Parkway, Gardiner Expressway, E.C. Roy Expressway or the Conestoga Parkway).
- ✓ You must not drive between midnight and 5 am.
- ✓ You may drive Class G vehicles only.

## CLASS G2 CONDITIONS

### For ALL G2 Drivers

- ✓ No drinking - your blood alcohol level must be zero when driving.
- ✓ You must limit the number of passengers to the number of working seat belts in the vehicle.
- ✓ You may drive Class G vehicles only.

### For NEW DRIVERS with G2

- ✓ Between midnight and 5 am, in the first six months after receiving your G2 license, New Drivers may carry only one passenger aged 19 or under. After the first six months or until you obtain your full G license or turn 20, you may carry up to three passengers aged 19 or under.

These rules for New Drivers do not apply if you are accompanied by a fully licensed driver in the front seat with at least four years of driving experience or if the passengers are members of your immediate family.

**\*\*NOTICE TO READER:** To get complete details of G1 and G2 driving conditions, please visit <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca>



# NEW DRIVER & PARENT AGREEMENT

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The New Driver & Parent Agreement helps you and your parents agree on ground rules before you start driving. Use this tool as an opportunity to demonstrate responsibility and earn trust.

## INITIAL

## NEW DRIVER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will make sure all occupants wear their seatbelts properly at all times.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will not drive if I have been drinking or using drugs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will obey all traffic laws.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will not talk on my cell phone or text while driving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will keep the radio at a proper volume so I can hear sirens and horns.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will not smoke, eat or drink while driving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will not drive if I am upset or tired.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will never let anyone else drive the vehicle without approval from my parent.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will immediately notify my parents if I get a ticket or have an accident.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will maintain a GPA of \_\_\_\_\_ and attend all of my classes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will let you know my plans when I take the car, and will call home if those plans change.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will abide by my curfew of \_\_\_\_\_,  
but will call home if I think I will be more than \_\_\_\_\_ minutes late.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will not ride in the vehicle of a driver who has been drinking or using illicit drugs.  
If I find myself in an unsafe situation, I understand that I can call my parents for advice  
or a ride at any hour from any place.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will \_\_\_\_\_

## CONSEQUENCES (NEW DRIVER & PARENT SHOULD AGREE ON THE CONSEQUENCES)

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# NEW DRIVER & PARENT AGREEMENT

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## INITIAL

## PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

\_\_\_\_\_

I will communicate openly and respectfully with my son or daughter about their driving and the promises made within this contract.

\_\_\_\_\_

I will provide calm and respectful feedback when riding in a car my son or daughter is driving.

\_\_\_\_\_

I will serve as a responsible role model when operating a vehicle to help teach good driving skills and habits to my son or daughter.

\_\_\_\_\_

If my son or daughter is in an uncomfortable or unsafe situation involving alcohol or illicit drugs, I agree to come and pick him or her up, regardless of the time or place. If it is not possible, I will pay for a taxi to bring him or her home safely. There will be no argument at that moment, but a discussion of such an incident will follow at a later time. Likewise, I too agree not to drive if intoxicated, or ride with a friend who has been drinking or using illicit drugs.

\_\_\_\_\_

I will \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I will \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## CONSEQUENCES (NEW DRIVER & PARENT SHOULD AGREE ON THE CONSEQUENCES)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# NEW DRIVER & PARENT AGREEMENT

## VEHICLE COSTS

The New Driver will be responsible for the following vehicle costs:  
(Indicate dollar amount or percentage of cost.)

- Cost of Vehicle \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Cost of Fuel \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Insurance costs \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Vehicle registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Maintenance costs \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Damage to vehicle \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Each person initials by the maintenance responsibilities they agree to monitor:

- |                                | INITIAL |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Check fluids regularly         | _____   |
| Inspect tires & air pressure   | _____   |
| Clean all windows              | _____   |
| Keep interior & exterior clean | _____   |
| Normal maintenance             | _____   |
| Report any unusual performance | _____   |
| Other _____                    | _____   |

## NOTES

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### WE AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT.

THIS AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REVIEWED EVERY 3 MONTHS

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(NEW DRIVER SIGNATURE)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PARENT SIGNATURE)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PARENT SIGNATURE)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_