



STK

Share the Keys

NEW JERSEY PARENT/TEEN SAFE DRIVING ORIENTATION

Kean University in partnership with the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety and New Jersey State Police developed **Share the Keys**, a research based, data-driven orientation designed to reduce teen driver crash risks by increasing parental involvement.

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws are recognized as the single most effective tool for reducing teen driver crashes, injuries and deaths. New Jersey's GDL is considered one of the most progressive and stringent in the United States. However, to be effective, it must be supported by parents, and they and their teens need to understand the risks and responsibilities associated with driving.

Parental involvement has a significant impact on teen driver safety. A research report, *Driving through the Eyes of Teens: A Closer Look*, commissioned by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Institute, examined the impact parenting styles had on teen driver safety. It found that teens whose parents set rules and pay attention to their driving activities in a helpful, supportive way are **half as likely** to be involved in a crash. The report presents the many safety gains realized through this balanced parenting approach (authoritative) and provides a series of best practices.

For more information about **Share the Keys** visit:
www.SharetheKeys.com

Division of Highway Traffic Safety

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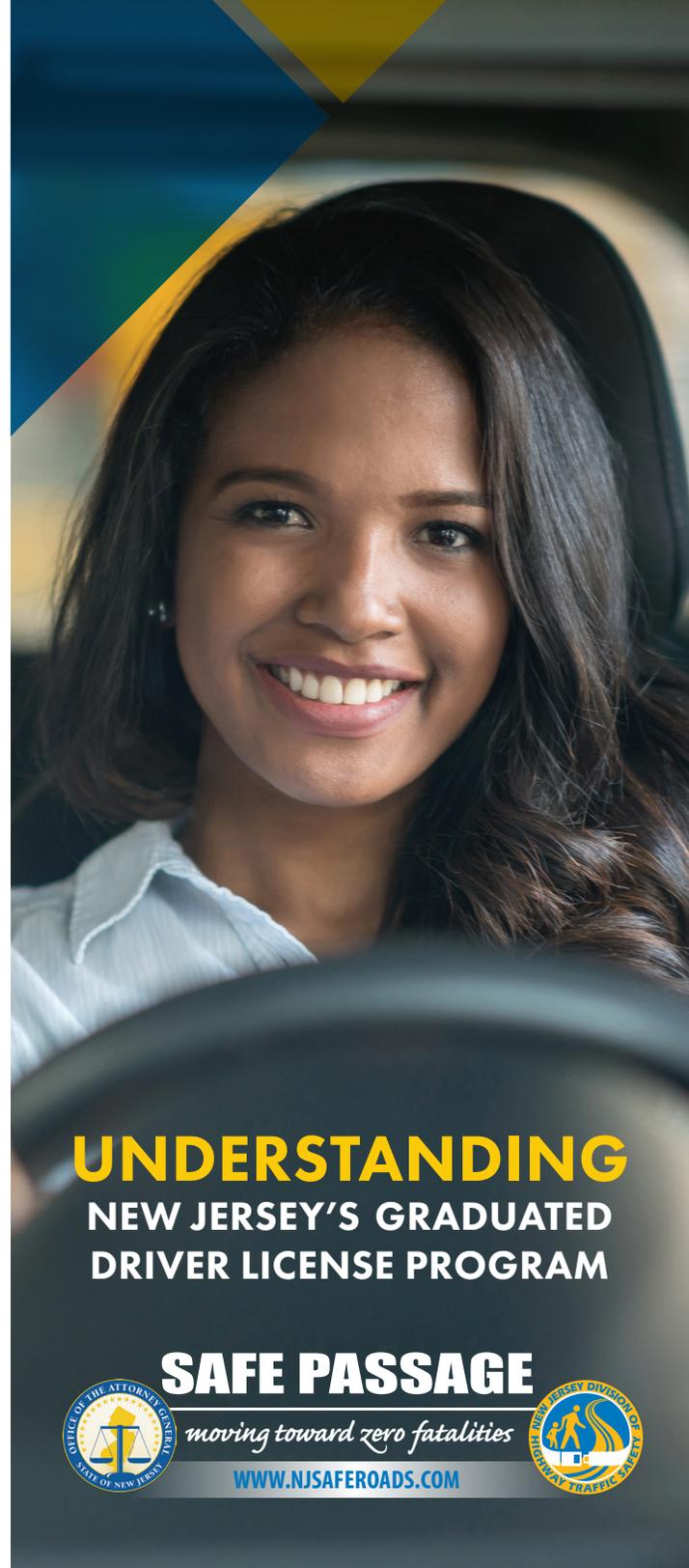
TEENS CRASH FOUR TIMES MORE OFTEN THAN ANY OTHER AGE GROUP NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (NHTSA)

Teens are at the highest risk of being involved in a car crash during their first two years of driving. Leading causes of teen crashes include distraction, passengers in the car, nighttime driving, and speeding. (NHTSA)

A teen driver's fatality risk increases by 44 percent with one passenger, doubles with two passengers, and quadruples when there are three or more passengers in the car. *American Automobile Association (AAA)*

The more guided experience a young driver has, the safer that driver will be on the road.

FOUR OF EVERY TEN TEEN CRASH DEATHS OCCUR AT NIGHT (NHTSA)



UNDERSTANDING NEW JERSEY'S GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE PROGRAM

SAFE PASSAGE

moving toward zero fatalities

WWW.NJSAFEROADS.COM



The Graduated Driver License Program for First Time Drivers

THE **GDL** IS A **THREE** STAGE LICENSING PROCESS THAT IS DESIGNED TO GIVE NEW DRIVERS INCREASED, STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTION AND DRIVING EXPERIENCE ON THE ROAD TO OBTAINING A BASIC DRIVER LICENSE. THE GDL HAS REDUCED TEEN DRIVING FATALITIES BY **50%** SINCE IT WAS IMPLEMENTED.

New Jersey residents who have never had a driver license must follow New Jersey's Graduated Driver License (GDL) program to get their first unrestricted basic driver license.



THE FACTS ABOUT THE LAW

- May not drive between 11:01 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.
- May only transport one passenger, unless the driver is accompanied by a parent or guardian or the passengers are the driver's dependents (children)
- Use of a cell phone (hand-held or hands-free), hand-held video games or any other hand-held wireless electronic devices (i.e., iPods, GPS) is prohibited
- Must ensure that they and all of their passengers wear seat belts
- Must display the GDL decals on any vehicle they drive
- Face a fine of \$100 for a violation under the GDL



STAGE 1 - PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Special Learner's Permit

- Be at least **16 years old**
- Obtain consent of a parent or guardian
- Enroll in an approved behind-the-wheel driver training course
- Pass the knowledge and vision tests

Examination Permit

- Be at least **17 years old**
- Obtain consent of a parent or guardian
- Pass the knowledge and vision tests
- Practice supervised driving for at least **six months**

STAGE 2 - PROBATIONARY LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- Be at least **17 years old**
- Pass the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) road test
- Practice unsupervised driving for at least **one year**

STAGE 3 - BASIC LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- Be at least **18 years old**
- Complete one year of unsupervised driving with probationary license restrictions
- Pay the required fee

PERMIT AND PROBATIONARY LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

Driving Hours

- No driving between 11:01 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.*
Restriction does not apply to drivers **21 years of age or older*
- Work or religious exemption*

**Drivers must carry legible documentation on letterhead signed by the employer, organization, or religious institution stating the reasons for the request to be exempt from the curfew restriction*

Passengers

- No more than one passenger*

Restriction does not apply to drivers **21 years of age or older, teens accompanied by a parent/guardian, or passengers who are the driver's **dependents (children)***

GDL Decal

- Required on **front and rear license plates** by all drivers under age 21 who possess a permit or probationary license

Electronic Devices

- No use of cell phones (hand-held or hands-free)

Seatbelt

- Must be worn at all times

Plea Bargain - 0 Point Ban

- Effective September 17, 2008, the Attorney General banned municipal prosecutors from offering 0 point plea agreements to all GDL holders

For more information about the GDL licensing process, please visit njmvc.gov.