

Tips for Young Drivers

Drive sober - Maine has a 'zero tolerance' law regarding blood alcohol levels for anyone under 21 years old. It is illegal for anyone under 21 to drive with any amount of alcohol or drugs in their systems. A violation of this law will result in the loss of your license for a minimum of one year.

Wear your seat belt - Maine law requires all passengers and drivers to wear a seat belt when traveling in a vehicle on Maine's roadways. Drivers of all ages should only transport as many passengers as there are seat belts in their vehicle.

Focus on your driving - Keep your eyes on the road and distractions to a minimum. Make sure music volume levels allow you to hear traffic around you and any approaching emergency vehicles. Maine law does not allow newly licensed drivers under 18 to have passengers in the vehicle for the first 180 days after receiving a license (exceptions for immediate family members).

Drive defensively - Remember you are sharing the road with others. Avoid confrontations with other drivers. Drive in a predictable manner. Use your turn signals, yield to traffic when required and keep speed under the posted limits. Do not let anyone else drive your vehicle.

Tips for Parents

Talk to your new driver - Use this contract as an opportunity to talk to your new driver about the responsibilities that come with driving. Acknowledge this important first step in their passage to adulthood. Identify the corresponding duties that come with this new freedom.

Be sure your vehicle is safe to drive - Safe and responsible driving begins with a safe and reliable vehicle. For your safety and that of your new driver, make sure that the family vehicle is maintained regularly.

Set a good example - Drive the way you want your teen to drive. You will gain your teen's trust and increase your credibility by driving in a responsible manner. Your actions will speak louder than words.

Review insurance requirements - Discuss with your new driver the financial responsibilities of driving a vehicle and in particular the legal requirement of liability insurance for all drivers. Explain that drivers may have a legal and financial responsibility for their driving behavior.