



# A Parent and Guardian Driving Pledge: FOR OUR CHILDREN

America used to be the #1 safest country in the world regarding traffic safety, not anymore. All children deserve our best efforts to turn this worsening situation around. As a parent, I am open to any of the new knowledge and information available, to help me better prepare and protect my child in this fight:

1. Distracted driving choices and behaviors (Human Error) are the leading cause of 97% of vehicle collisions and crashes on America’s roads. Mechanical or engineering failures make up the other 3%.
2. There really are no “accidents”. Traffic safety experts can usually find “fault” on all sides of vehicle collisions.
3. Anything that takes a drivers attention away from driving OR their ability to maintain control of their vehicle, IS a distracted driving choice. I should never choose to drive distracted, but especially not when children are in my vehicle.
4. Distracted driving choices and behaviors, learned by children from watching their parents drive include: Driving while sleepy or fatigued, Aggressive driving behavior, Impatience, Reckless driving, Eating and Drinking while driving, Ignoring speed limits, Driving under the influence of Alcohol or Drugs, NOT using seat belts, Using or looking at a Smartphone, ALL phone calls, Hands-free or Hand-held, Tailgating, Red Light Running, Rolling through Stop Signs, Not Using Turn Signals and there are many more....
5. I realize my child will start paying attention to my driving, as soon as I turn their child safety seat around to face towards the front. Thinking about this when they get a driver’s permit, is years too late.
6. I need to turn my phone OFF and put it away whenever my children are traveling in my vehicle. They are only in my vehicle about 10 to 20% of the time once they start school.
7. The Driving Test in the US is way too easy. Passing the test says nothing about someone’s driving ability. The driver education process does the job of preparing students to pass the driving test. Despite the concerns and pleas or driver education teachers, there is not enough time or the resources to teach students how to really drive.
8. Majority of new drivers (Few driving skills and less than 5yrs of experience) say they have been most influenced by their parents driving, NOT by peers, the driver education process, laws or tragic stories. New drivers who drive distracted ARE much more Vulnerable and Dangerous than new drivers who drive distraction free.
9. I will never text or call my child on the phone when I KNOW they are driving. By setting a good example, I will educate my child to make all phone calls before driving, or from a safe location while parked.
10. I will ALWAYS wear my seat belt when driving. I will also make sure that every other person traveling in my vehicle wears a seat belt.
11. Driving will be the most dangerous thing my child does on a daily basis, with the potential to kill or seriously injure themselves, friends, family and even people they don’t know, every time they drive.

**Because I have read, processed, and understood the 11 points above:**

I PLEDGE to never drive distracted and to make the safest possible driving choices at ALL times; especially when children are in my vehicle. Current statistics show that MOST new drivers WILL BE involved in a vehicle collision or crash (fatalities to fender benders). This is both horrific and preventable. I want to be part of the solution to this tragic problem. I never want to feel I could have, or should have, done more.

Print Name: ..... Signature: ..... Date: .....