

# GRADUATED DRIVER'S LICENSE



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## A PARENT'S GUIDE FOR FIRST TIME DRIVERS



## TRANSPORTATION CABINET

Frankfort, Kentucky 40622

[www.Transportation.ky.gov/](http://www.Transportation.ky.gov/)

**Steven L. Beshear**  
Governor

**Michael W. Hancock, P.E.**  
Secretary

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet believes very strongly in educating our teenagers on driver safety. We are committed to increasing driver safety awareness through our many initiatives, which include: school programs, brochures, media campaigns, interactive online programs as well as our four hour graduated license program - which is required for new teenage drivers.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among teenagers. Currently, teens comprise 0.6 percent of Kentucky's driving population, but were involved in 15 percent of all traffic fatalities and 20 percent of total collisions. Being not only servants of the Commonwealth, but citizens as well, we have friends and family just like you. We understand just how valuable each young person's life is to all of us. We must and will continue to make every effort to ensure our young people are educated about safe driving practices with all methods that we possess.

This manual will provide you, the parent, with a tool to assist, communicate and demonstrate safe driving methods to your children. We will remain aggressive in educating all Kentuckians, both new drivers as well as seasoned drivers, on the best methods to drive safely on our highways. Working together we can make a difference and save lives, because one life lost is one too many.

**Buckle up and drive smart Kentucky!**

Department of Driver Licensing  
200 Mero St.  
Frankfort, KY 40622

## **Summary of Kentucky's Graduated Licensing Law** (Effective 10/1/2006)

### **Permit Phase**

1. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age to apply for a driving permit.
2. A parent or guardian must sign the permit application for applicants under the age of 18, taking responsibility for the applicant.
3. Applicant must successfully pass the written permit examination and the vision test to be issued a permit.
4. Applicants under the age of 21 must hold the driving permit for a minimum of 180 days. Applicants over the age of 21 must hold the driving permit for a minimum of 30 days.
5. Permit holders must drive with licensed driver over 21 years old accompanying them in the front passenger seat. (Must complete a minimum of 60 hours of practice driving, 10 of which must occur at night.)
6. Permit holders under the age of 18 are not allowed to drive between the hours of 12 midnight and 6 a.m. unless the driver can demonstrate a good cause for driving such as emergencies, school or work related activities.
7. Drivers receiving a moving traffic violation conviction under KRS 186, 189, 189A. will have to restart the 180 day Permit waiting period.
8. Permit holders shall not operate a motor vehicle at any time with more than 1 unrelated person under 20 years of age in the vehicle.
9. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is prohibited. All drivers under the age of 21 are subject to "Zero Alcohol Tolerance" (Defined as .02 Blood Alcohol Concentration).
10. All drivers are subject to Kentucky's point system. A driver under the age of 18 who accumulates more than 6 points, or a driver age 18 and over who accumulates 12 points may have their driving privilege suspended.
11. No serious moving violations for those under the age of 18.
12. Buckle Up, it's the Law! Everyone in the vehicle must wear a seatbelt at all times.

## Intermediate License Phase

1. When applying for an Intermediate License the driver's Parent/Guardian must certify the driver has completed 60 hours of practice driving, 10 of which must occur at night.
2. Drivers who receive a permit before 18 years of age who have successfully completed the permit phase must pass the driving skills test to be issued an intermediate license. After successfully completing the road test the Kentucky State Police driving examiner will place an "Intermediate License" sticker on the drivers permit.
3. Drivers who receive a permit when 18 years of age or older do not have to complete the Intermediate License phase and may apply for a full unrestricted driver license
4. Intermediate License holders under the age of 18 are not allowed to drive between the hours of 12 midnight and 6 a.m. unless the driver can demonstrate a good cause for driving such as emergencies, school or work related activities.
5. Passenger restriction – limit 1 unrelated person under 20 years of age (secondary offense)
6. Drivers receiving a moving traffic conviction under KRS 186, 189, 189A.will have to restart the 180 day Intermediate License waiting period.
7. Intermediate license holders must complete one of the following New Driver Education Programs before moving to the next licensing phase:
  - Graduated Licensing Course (Free 4 hour course provided by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in the drivers home county)
  - High School Drivers Education Course or a similar course offered by a Kentucky Community College, Vocational School or Job Corps.
  - Private Driver Training course at a Division of Driver License approved driver training school.
8. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is prohibited. All drivers under the age of 21 are subject to "Zero Alcohol Tolerance" (Defined as.02 Blood Alcohol Concentration).
9. A driver under the age of 18 who accumulates more than 6 points may have their driving privilege suspended.
10. No serious moving violations for those under the age of 18.
11. Buckle Up, it's the Law! Everyone in the vehicle must wear a seatbelt at all times.

## **Full-Unrestricted Driver License Phase**

1. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is prohibited. All drivers under the age of 21 are subject to "Zero Alcohol Tolerance" (Defined as .02 Blood Alcohol Concentration).
2. All drivers are subject to Kentucky's point system. A driver under the age of 18 who accumulates more than 6 points, or a driver age 18 and over who accumulates 12 points may have their driving privilege suspended.
3. Buckle Up, it's the Law! Everyone in the vehicle must wear a seatbelt at all times.

For More Information Contact:

Division of Driver Licensing

200 Mero Street

Frankfort, KY 40622

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<http://drlic.kytc.ky.gov>

## Resources

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
[www.transportation.ky.gov](http://www.transportation.ky.gov)

Division of Driver Licensing  
[www.transportation.ky.gov/drllic](http://www.transportation.ky.gov/drllic)

Division of Driver Safety  
[www.transportation.ky.gov/drvsmt](http://www.transportation.ky.gov/drvsmt)

Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing  
[www.transportation.ky.gov/mvl/](http://www.transportation.ky.gov/mvl/)

Federal Highway Administration  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
[www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)

American Automobile Association  
[www.aaa.com](http://www.aaa.com)

National SAFE KIDS  
[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

Kentucky Injury Prevention & Research Center WW-[www.kiprc.uky.edu/](http://www.kiprc.uky.edu/)

Kentucky Crime Prevention Center  
[www.kycrimeprevention.com](http://www.kycrimeprevention.com)

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety  
[www.highwaysafety.org](http://www.highwaysafety.org)

National Safety Council  
[www.nsc.org/issues/drivsafe.htm](http://www.nsc.org/issues/drivsafe.htm)

Drive Safer America  
[www.drivesaferamerica.org](http://www.drivesaferamerica.org)

## Kentucky Driver Point System

Under Kentucky's Driver Point System, a driver starts with zero points and accumulates points for various offenses. Upon the accumulation of 12 points (7 points if under age eighteen) within a two year period, a driver's privilege to operate a motor vehicle may be suspended.

Points	Violation
0	10 mph or less over speed limit on limited access highway
3	11-15 mph over speed limit on limited access highway
3	15 mph over or less over speed limit on any non-limited access highway
3	15 mph over speed limit in CMV (commercial motor vehicle)
0	15 mph or more in CMV (out-of-state conviction-listed as a serious offense only-no points)
6	16-25 mph over speed limit on any road or highway
Hearing-Possible Suspension	26 mph over speed limit on any road or highway
Hearing-Possible Suspension	Attempting to elude police officer
Hearing-Possible Suspension	Racing
6	Commission of moving hazardous violation involving an accident
6	Combination of any two or more moving hazardous violations in any one continuous occurrence
6	Failure to stop for a school or church bus
5	Improper passing
4	Reckless driving
4	Following too closely
4	Driving on wrong side of roadway
4	Changing drivers in a moving vehicle
4	Vehicle not under control
4	Failure to yield to emergency vehicle
3	Stop violation (electric signal, railroad crossing, stop sign)
3	Failure to yield
3	Wrong way on one-way street
3	Too fast for conditions
3	Too slow for conditions
3	Improper driving
3	Improper start
3	Improper turn
3	Failure to illuminate headlights
3	Careless Driving
3	Failure to dim headlights
3	Improper lane usage
3	Improper use left lane/limited access highway
3	Failure to comply with instructional permit requirements/regulations
3	Failure to yield right-of-way to funeral procession
3	Any other moving hazardous violation

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SAFE DRIVER CHECKLIST PRACTICE DRIVING LOG



## WHEN YOU AND YOUR STUDENT START PRACTICING

- Take this handbook along.
- At first, practice only during the day.
- Do not hold practice sessions in bad weather until the student has completed in-car instruction in school.
- Before starting the engine, have your new driver:
  - -adjust the seat if necessary
  - -make sure mirrors are adjusted
  - -fasten the safety belt.
- Practice in a quiet area during the first lesson or two.
- Be familiar with the practice area and any hazards, signs or signals.
- Be patient, sympathetic and understanding.
- Keep your voice calm.
- Stop practicing when your teenager becomes tired or upset.
- Sit in a position where you can grab the steering wheel or step on the brake, if necessary.
- **Before turning off the ignition during an emergency in a moving vehicle**, consider that this will lock the steering wheel on many vehicles and affects power steering and power brakes.
- If you see a bad traffic situation ahead (one your student can't handle), pull over and stop.
- Until your student has learned the traffic rules and how to control the car, practice in a vehicle with an automatic transmission, if possible, because it is easier to drive.

## **LESSON PLAN FOR PRACTICE SESSIONS**

### **Level I**

Your teenager should practice controlling the car during the first lessons. No time plan is given here because the number of hours needed for practice will depend on each individual student. Some students learn quickly, others need more time. These driving sessions should give your student practice in the basic skills listed below.

1. Driving a "stick" (an automatic transmission is recommended because it is easier to operate)
2. Back the car
3. Right turns
4. Left turns

### **Level II**

Only after your teenager can shift gears (if necessary in your car), back-up, and turn easily and safely should you begin practicing the skills listed below.

1. Intersections
2. Lane changes
3. Keeping space around the car
4. Practicing in traffic

### **Level III**

The skills listed below can be practiced after the Level I and Level II skills are mastered.

1. Hill parking
2. Parallel parking
3. UTurn
4. Three-point turn

### **Level IV**

Night driving and freeway driving should only be practiced after the student has mastered the skills in Level I, II and III. You must be sure that your teenager can control the car very well before you practice driving at night or on the freeway.

1. Freeway driving
2. Night driving
3. Special problems and emergencies

### **Take A Check Ride**

When your teenager has finished practicing the skills in Level IV, make sure you and your student go on the "test ride." This test ride should show you if your new driver needs more practice.

## **PARTI-FUNDAMENTALS FOR PARENTS**

### **Help Teaching Your Teen**

Most likely, it is hard to believe that your child is old enough to be a beginning driver. It probably seems that, just yesterday, he or she entered school, played games with other kids and peddled a bicycle. Now, all of a sudden, this "rite of passage" known as "learning to drive a car" is upon you.

As a parent, you may begin to panic a bit - young and inexperienced drivers ... alone ... in an automobile ... on the highway! One doesn't have to be a highway traffic safety expert to know that young drivers are involved in more traffic accidents, obtain a greater number of tickets, and die more frequently on the highway than any other group of drivers. Therefore, it is more important than ever for parents to learn what they can do to help their beginning driver learn the safety rules of the road.

This Parent Handbook, published by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, is designed to assist you. It by no means replaces the driver education course required by law for those under the age of 18 years. However, it does provide a digest of suggestions, tips, truths and observations on how to help your teen obtain a learner's permit, apply and practice what they learn in school, take on more and more responsibility behind the wheel, and earn the privilege to drive in Kentucky.

We do not ask that you become a driver education teacher. We do ask, however, that you guide and practice basic driving techniques with your child, especially right after they obtain their learner's permit.

Work with your youth on observing other drivers, controlling speed, following other vehicles at a safe distance, deciding when to move safely into traffic, and how to communicate their intentions to other motorists. We suggest that you emphasize one technique each time you practice together on the road, and that you obtain a copy of the "Kentucky Driver's Manual" to use along with this guide.

After all, practice makes perfect - and who better to supervise this practice and decide when your teen is ready to "go it alone" than you? How can you expect to keep insurance rates and car repair bills down, help avoid traffic tickets and appearances in Traffic Court, or the eventual loss of a license if you are not intimately involved in the learning process?

Last, but definitely not least, you and your teen can both put your fears about inexperienced drivers on the road in perspective by working together. In fact, you can make this new stage of their life into the pleasant and safe experience it most certainly should be, and maybe even sharpen your own skills in the process!

## RULES OF THE ROAD

Although you should impress on your teen to obey ALL motor vehicle laws, there are two rules of the road that bear mention right up front:

First and foremost, the beginner should not be driving next to you, or anyone other than a qualified driving instructor, without a **Learner's Instructional Permit**. This permit can be obtained at the age of 16 years, with proper identification, permission from a parent or guardian, and by passing the Kentucky law and vision tests. The "Kentucky Driver's Manual" explains the details of how to apply for and the conditions under which one can operate a motor vehicle with a learner's permit.

Second, and no less important, is that the driver of a Class D (operator) vehicle and all passengers **MUST** be restrained by seat belts. The only instance in which the seat belt provision does not apply is when a physician, licensed to practice in this State, determines and certifies in writing that the use of a seat belt by a person would prevent appropriate restraint due to that person's physical disability or other medical reason.

### READY ••SET••

Just "going out and driving around" with your beginning driver is tempting, but we have found that is not wise. Rather, a structure or plan is desirable in order for your teen to reap real benefits from practicing with you. Each time you practice, decide ahead of time where you are going, on what skills you will work, and what new challenges should be attempted.

**Give careful thought to the areas where you practice.** Use only those localities you know a beginner can handle; then move on to roadways with more traffic. Plunging a person into an extremely difficult situation to "sink or swim" might sound good in theory, but it is NOT good in reality for your teenager or others in the vicinity of your practice session. It could even create a life-or-death situation.

Determine for yourself how well the student controls the vehicle in a non-traffic situation, even though the approved driver education course will provide basic instruction. See if he or she can start the car; move the car in a straight line, both forward and backward; drive a short distance; and stop smoothly. Test the young driver's ability to turn the wheel and accelerate properly by making a right and a left turn while moving along. Then, have them turn right and left from stopped positions.

Try to practice as often as possible. Start with sessions of 15 to 20 minutes, during daylight hours. Lengthen these practice periods gradually to .an hour or so. When you both feel ready, begin practicing in the same manner at night.

Remember - pushing this training is not smart. Only so much can be taught about driving in a limited amount of time. Take a break if either of you becomes tired, confused, or frustrated, or, consider quitting for the day if the new driver becomes extremely stressed. Needless to say, no one's driving will improve under those conditions!

## THE NEWNESS OF IT ALL

As with any person new to any task, there are certain tendencies of which you should be aware. Beginning drivers may become so anxious and grip the wheel so hard that they cannot steer properly.

They may also fumble around in the car, adjusting the inside mirror and then the seat immediately after getting in. Because these actions have been done in the wrong order the new driver may not be able to see out of the back window properly.

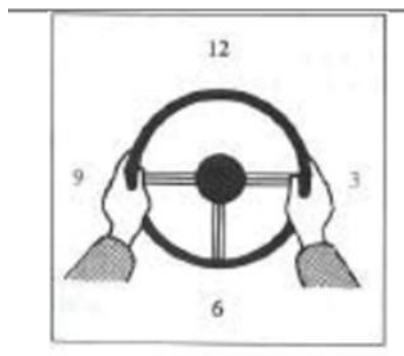
Due to nervousness and inexperience, new drivers often position their hands incorrectly on the steering wheel and forget that a car with an automatic transmission "creeps" while in drive or reverse. They have a tendency to forget which way the car wheels are pointed when pulling out of a parking space or when stopped in traffic; and they commonly make errors to the right, since that side of the car is farther away from them than the left side.

## THE WATCHFUL EYE

You must be at all times ready to take control.

The minute you start to relax is just the instant something could go wrong. Usually, a simple comment is enough to help avoid problems; but every once in a while, you may have to reach out and help with the steering.

Watch for the nervous tendencies noted above. Calmly explain and demonstrate that the seat should be adjusted before the mirror, in order to properly see out of the back window. Explain that the "9 o'clock" and "3 o'clock" positions on the steering wheel are the best place for one's hands in order to steer out of an emergency make a quick turn in either direction, blow the horn, or use the signal indicator. (All of these actions can then be done without taking one's hands off the wheel.)



Remind your teen that the driver doesn't always have to have a foot on the gas pedal for the vehicle

to move. This "creep" can help the driver move slowly through traffic, get in and out of parking spaces, and start from a dead stop, or drive through tight quarters. It can also cause an accident if attention is diverted and their foot is not on the brake.

If necessary, "nudge" the steering wheel in order to keep your beginning driver from making errors. This will show them how easy it is to keep the car traveling on the correct path.

If you see that your driver is in real trouble, shift the car out of gear quickly, take the wheel, and guide the vehicle safely to the side.

Remember that it usually takes several tries in order to learn a new driving skill. Be patient with the new driver, especially when giving instructions. Make an effort to praise the well-handled situations; and use those not-so-well-handled times as learning experiences. Rather than merely criticizing, suggest a better way to deal with the circumstance.

## **PLAIN SPEAKING**

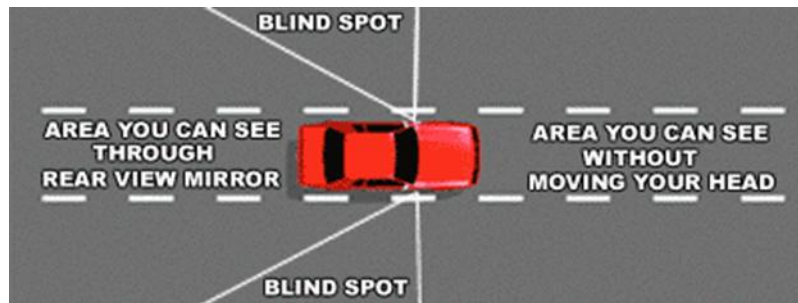
Be **VERY** clear when giving instructions to the beginning driver (or any driver, for that matter). Use the correct words and terms when giving behind-the-wheel instructions, so that the new driver will become familiar with them. Also, remember to time your instructions in a manner that allows adequate response time for the untrained driver.

Keep in mind that **the word "right" should be used to mean the direction of a turn.** Therefore, if you are asked, "Did you say turn left?" and that is what you did say, respond by saying "yes," or "that's correct." Do not say "right," as you will only confuse the situation.

Likewise, telling an inexperienced driver to "stop" in a non-emergency circumstance can create an emergency. **"Bring the car to a stop," or "slow down and stop"** will obtain much better results. When the driver needs to use the brake and is a bit late in doing so, saying **"Use the brake" or "Press down on the brake"** will result in a smoother stop than will "Hit the brakes."

The term **"traffic light"** should be used to describe traffic signals, whether the flashing or the red-yellow-green type. If you refer to the traffic light as a "stop light," a nervous driver may automatically stop, no matter what color the light is!

Use the term "**blind spot**" to describe those places to the left and right-rear of the car which cannot be seen when looking forward or in the rearview mirror.



The order in which directions are given is very important. New drivers should be told **WHERE** to perform a maneuver before being told when and what to do. For example, it is preferable to say, "**After passing the next intersection, change to the right lane;** rather than, "Change to the right lane after passing the next intersection."

When you need to identify other vehicles on the road, do so by their color and type, rather than by make or style. Teenagers will know what you mean by the "**red station wagon,**" or the "**silver sports car.**"

## **PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT**

As we have mentioned, decide ahead of time on which of the basic driving skills and maneuvers you will concentrate on during your practice session. The skills on which we suggest you work are: observing; maintaining the proper following distance; controlling speed; managing space; timing; decision making; communicating with other motorists; negotiating a turnabout; backing-up; parallel parking; and parking on a hill.

The paragraphs that follow will describe or define these skills and maneuvers, suggest how you can best coach your child, recommend places to practice, and note the most common problems which new drivers experience when learning the skill.

## PARTII- WHAT, WHERE, AND HOW TO PRACTICE THE BASICS OF DRIVING

### OBSERVING

Active observation of one's surroundings is the key to being in tune with other traffic and in control of the driving situation. The new driver needs to be made aware that, in order to have all the information needed to make good decisions, they **MUST** observe what lies ahead, behind, to the left and right sides of the vehicle. They must also keep an eye on the instrument panel. As you practice, keep encouraging them to expand their area of observation.

#### Tips of the Trade

- Here are some tips to help you practice the skill of "observing" with a new driver:
- Know that "proper" forward observation is that point ahead of you which will take **12 to 15** seconds to travel, when driving at your present rate of speed.
- Observe at least a block ahead of you in town.
- Observe at least one-half mile ahead of you in the country.
- To check how far ahead your child is looking, ask him or her to let you know as soon as a traffic light, stop sign, or intersection is seen.
- Or, ask that he or she point out areas of restricted vision, such as the crests of hills or blind intersections.
- Since novice drivers have a tendency to concentrate too much of their attention forward, remind them that frequent glances into both the inside and outside mirrors are necessary to observe what is behind and on the sides of the car.
- Periodically, check whether your child is keeping an eye on what is happening **behind** you. Ask if he or she can tell you the color of the car following you, without looking in the rearview mirror.
- To determine whether the instrument panel is being observed, inquire how fast the vehicle is going, or how much gas is in the tank. The answer should be given without first glancing at the panel.
- Emphasize the critical nature of paying attention to what is **ahead, behind, and on both sides** of you, not only in heavy traffic, but in **ALL** types of driving situations.
- Encourage them to look beyond the car they are following; to notice brake lights as a sign that traffic is slowing; and to watch for the signs that a parked vehicle is about to enter traffic, such as the presence of a driver behind the wheel and the advent of signals and brake lights.



## Where to Practice

Begin to practice the skill of "observing" on roads in residential areas. Practice observing what is on all sides of the car. Then, move on to more difficult traffic situations.

As you progress to areas with heavier traffic, or begin to travel at higher speeds, alert the new driver to the special hazards inherent in these situations, such as: cars that appear to be parked, but pull out unexpectedly; vehicles which move into one's path in city traffic; traffic at intersections; cars traveling at high speeds; vehicles passing from behind on two lane roads; and trucks entering your lane momentarily to pass the car in front of them, etc.

## To Clue You...

Here are a few clues to help you ascertain whether or not your new driver is observing properly:

- The **lack of eye movement** is a sure sign that he or she is looking straight ahead without scanning to the sides or checking the mirrors or instruments.
- Going through intersections without slowing indicates that the new driver has not been observing properly, as does allowing the car to "drift" in the lane.
- Ignoring clues from other vehicles, stopping abruptly, and failing to change lanes to avoid delays are all indications that the driver needs to observe properly.
- Over-steering to keep the car on the desired path when driving at higher speeds or turning the wheel too late or too early during turns also denote that the driver is not looking at least 12 to 15 seconds ahead.

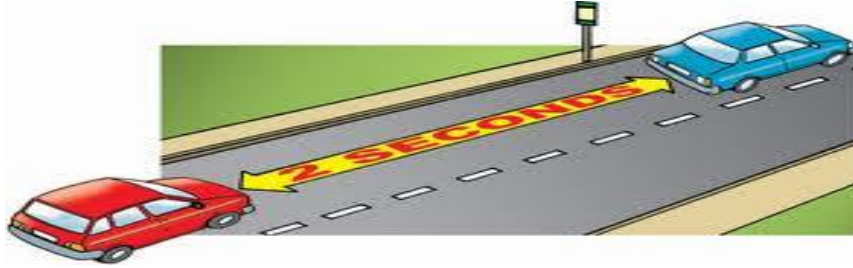
## "FOLLOWING DISTANCE," OR SPACE BETWEEN CARS

The space between moving vehicles is known as the "following distance." When one vehicle follows another too closely, a rear-end collision can result. In fact, most rear-end collisions are caused in this manner. Therefore, it is advisable to leave as much space as possible between your vehicle and the one ahead of you in order to avert this type of collision. In other words, be certain to leave an **"adequate cushion of air"** between moving vehicles. How much space is "adequate," however?

## Helpful Hints

To help the new driver determine a safe following distance, we offer the following guides:

Use the **"two-second following distance rule!"** Watch the car ahead of you as it passes a **"check point,"** such as a particular sign. As the rear of that vehicle passes the checkpoint, begin counting the seconds, i.e. "one thousand one, one thousand two."



## TWO-SECOND Following Distance Rule

- If it takes a full two seconds for the front of your car to reach the "check point," your following distance is proper.
- If your vehicle passes the check point sooner, you are following too closely.
- If you want to leave more space between cars than two seconds, do so. There is no law that says you can't!
- Increase your following distance when driving in bad weather.
- Increase your following distance when you are behind vehicles that make frequent stops, such as buses and post office vans.

## Where to Practice

Practice the skill of "following distance" on an open road which has a moderate volume of traffic. Remember - inexperienced drivers tend to drive more slowly than others.

## Look Out Behind You!

- It is essential to pay attention to the car following you, in order to avoid being hit from the rear.
- Advise your beginning driver to keep an eye on and to communicate with the driver **BEHIND** you.
- Suggest that he or she **pump the brakes**, thereby flashing the brake lights, as an indication that they intend to slow down or stop.

## SPEED CONTROL

Speeding is the most prevalent traffic violation and contributes in some manner to the majority of traffic accidents. Interestingly, the most common driver error is the choice of the wrong speed for the existing conditions

Maximum speed limits are set for "**ideal**" driving circumstances, such as a good roadway, splendid weather conditions and choice traffic conditions. Although unskilled drivers will soon learn that conditions are not always ideal, they do have a tendency to drive too fast for road and weather conditions and need to be taught to adjust their speed accordingly.

New drivers are also known to drive too fast on curves and through intersections, slow down too much when turning off of a high speed road and lose speed when changing lanes. They characteristically have difficulty anticipating speed changes when going up and down hills, tending to lag uphill and to race downhill. They often allow the slope and contour of the road to affect the movement of the car before adjusting their speed.

However, with plenty of practice and coaching, the very important skill of "**speed control**" can be mastered by and become second-nature to the new driver.

### Tips for Speed Control

Here are some guides to help the novice driver control his or her speed and adjust it to actual driving conditions:

- Remind them to adjust their speed, particularly as you approach new places, school crossings, unfamiliar intersections, or other areas where pedestrians might do something unexpected.
- Emphasize that intersections can be dangerous, even when you have the right-of-way.
- Explain that speed limits are set for ideal driving conditions. Driving 20 mph in some situations is much too fast, even though the speed limit sign might indicate 25 mph.
- Emphasize that it is a good idea to keep pace with the surrounding traffic, yet adjust their speed enough in non-rush hour traffic to avoid traveling in a "pack."
- To practice the art of maintaining a constant speed while driving up and down hills, ask the new driver to maintain a constant speed, such as 35 mph, for the "next half mile."
- To practice the skill of reaching and attaining a certain speed ask the driver to be at a certain speed by the time he or she reaches a certain point . For example, if you are traveling at 25 mph, ask that he reach and attain a speed of 35 mph as you pass a particular highway sign.
- Practice the skill of reaching and attaining a certain speed, as noted above, from a stopped position.

- Practice the art of reaching a certain speed when turning. As the new driver begins to accelerate from a turn, ask that he "be at 25 mph by the time you reach the second telephone pole" (or other such designated point).
- Practice negotiating curves. Remind you're beginning driver that a curve in the road is just a small part of a regular turn. Therefore, one should slow down to enter the curve, and accelerate as you leave it, just as you would for a turn.

## **Where to Practice**

Begin to practice the skill of speed control in "easy to handle" places, such as residential streets or two lane roads with little traffic, few intersecting side streets, and a constant speed limit.

As the new driver becomes more adept at choosing the right speed for existing conditions, move onto streets where traffic is heavier and one's speed must be changed more often.

Begin to practice the art of increasing speed when merging into traffic on a lightly-traveled road that has a "yield" sign. Once this maneuver is mastered, try it when merging from a longer acceleration lane into higher speed traffic. Finally, work on speed control when passing or being passed. Again, begin on two-lane roads with little traffic, where passing is allowed.

## **MAINTAINING SPACE**

Drivers must keep a cushion of space on all four sides of their vehicle and must also yield to the space requirements of other motorists. This phenomenon is known as maintaining space.

The proper use of space involves positioning the car as far away as possible from hazards or potential conflicts, without disrupting the traffic flow. A new driver must learn how much space to leave to the front and back of the car, as we have already discussed. He or she must also learn how to judge the amount of space to leave to the right and left of the car, or lateral space.

As experienced drivers know, oncoming, passing or parked cars can take away lateral space. If the available space is narrow, the car must be placed between the two hazards in a manner that "splits" the space.

### **Tips on Maintaining Space**

Understandably, learning drivers are confused when trying to abide by all the different space requirements. Some of them seem conflicting, such as "keep to the right to avoid oncoming cars, and keep to the left to avoid parked cars." As a parent, you can help make some sense of the confusion by knowing the following tips:

- Don't forget the two second rule!
- If faced with oncoming traffic and parked cars at the same time, and the risk is about equal, it is best to steer a middle course between the two. Although this does not leave as much cushion as desired, there will still be space to react should there be sudden moves from either side.

- When space is not adequate between hazards, attempt to avoid a potentially dangerous situation by coping with one hazard at a time. For example, rather than meeting an oncoming car on a narrow bridge, slow down and let the oncoming car proceed over the bridge first
- New drivers have a tendency to drift toward oncoming cars, especially on higher-speed, two-lane roads. They seem to concentrate so hard on the oncoming car that they forget to check their own intended path.
- Beginning drivers generally do not realize that driving in the "**blind spot**" of other drivers can be very dangerous. This is especially problematic when traffic is congested.
- Parked cars often present a problem, in that new drivers believe that these cars will always stay parked. Encourage your young driver to allow enough space when next to anything parked. Also, remind them to **check for indications** that these cars might be pulling out, such as turned wheels, exhaust coming from the tail pipe, a driver behind the wheel, brake lights, blinking directional signals, or an open car door, etc.
- **Parked cars hide pedestrians.** Youngsters are known to run out into the road from between parked cars, and older people are, at times, thinking of other things and do not check before crossing the street

## Where to Practice

Begin to practice positioning one's vehicle, with regard to parked cars, on quiet streets. Then, progress to more heavily trafficked streets that have pedestrians, bicyclists, and oncoming vehicles. Finally, move to multi-lane streets in order to practice how to keep a cushion of space around the car when there are vehicles on each side.

New drivers generally have difficulty in judging the amount of space between vehicles and, therefore, have problems in judging the amount of time and distance required to make maneuvers in traffic. These problems are most often experienced at uncontrolled intersections, at intersections controlled only by "yield" or "stop" signs, and when making a "right turn on red."

## Helpful Hints

In order to make safe decisions, new drivers must learn to judge the space between vehicles and the amount of time needed to make maneuvers in traffic. **Space selection** is NOT an easy process to learn. In fact, it MUST be practiced many times. Here are some tips to help you lead your teenager in developing these skills:

Ask the new driver to select the space he or she plans to move into and to tell you prior to making the move. Advise whether the amount of space and time needed to maneuver the car are safe.

- Practice the above technique in a variety of situations: when changing lanes; when crossing intersections ; when turning right and left at intersections; when turning right on red; when moving into traffic at an intersection with a "yield" sign; etc.
- Evaluate the new driver's selections immediately, tell them what is correct and

incorrect, and make suggestions for improvement.

- Warn your new driver to avoid taking unnecessary risks, since the wrong move at the wrong time can cause a very serious accident.
- Advise them to allow **extra space** between vehicles when making any maneuver for the first time.
- Explain that patience is more than a virtue when waiting for the best time to enter, exit, join or cross traffic. It is a necessity!
- Illustrate the importance of making certain there is enough space between vehicles to complete a maneuver and enough room to accelerate to the proper speed.
- Remind the new driver that they should **not slow down** when making most lane-change maneuvers. An "acceptable" amount of space can soon become "unacceptable."
- Be certain that the beginning driver is not so totally focused on selecting the correct timing that they miss bicyclists, pedestrians, and standing vehicles.
- Remember that good judgment and proper timing are also required when **merging** and when **passing** other vehicles on the road. Choose carefully the times and places for practicing these skills.

## Timing

The following chart is designed to help the new driver judge the amount of time necessary to make certain maneuvers. It gives the reader the **recommended** amount of space between vehicles, in seconds, for seven frequent maneuvers, **under ideal conditions**.

Space in Seconds	Maneuver
2	Following another car
2+	Following a truck or motorcycle
4	Merging with traffic while moving or changing lanes
6	Crossing an intersection from a stopped position
8	Making a right turn
9	Making a left turn
12-15	Entering a highway from a stopped position

## Where to Practice

Traffic **MUST** be present to practice appropriate space selection, or timing of a maneuver. However, begin to practice the simpler maneuvers, such as when to cross intersections or when to turn right or left from a stopped position, **on a side street**. Practice as much as possible on side streets, and move on to more heavily traveled streets. Then, move on to the more difficult space selections, such as changing lanes and passing.

Most skills we have discussed thus far are best practiced on a two-lane road, where traffic moves more slowly, before practicing on a multi-lane road. Not so with the skill of passing. In order to lead up to actual passing on a two-lane road, where the other lane carries head-on traffic, **begin to practice passing** other cars on a multi-lane road.

## COMMUNICATING WITH OTHER DRIVERS

Communicating with other drivers means informing them of your planned maneuvers and making sure you are seen doing so. In other words, drivers must signal their intentions to others on the road.

Communication is **vital** when changing direction and speed. Drivers **MUST** learn to use their turn signals before changing lanes, turning corners, and entering or exiting highways. They must also learn to use their brake lights and, at times, hand signals to communicate when they are intending to slow, stop, or park.

New drivers are often overly concerned with activating the turn signals; they frequently fail to let the car straighten out from a turn before trying to signal the next one. They also tend to be clumsy, thereby risking the loss of steering control while trying to use the signal lever.

## Helpful Hints

Needless to say, practice is needed in the art of communicating one's intentions behind the wheel so that they become effortless. Here are some tips for your practice sessions:

- As you are driving along, point out when other drivers fail to communicate their intentions by not using their turn signals or flashing their brakes.
- Remind your driver to **signal for every turn**. Practice using the signal lever while still maintaining steering control.
- Advise your driver to signal a turn **BEFORE** using the brake lights so that the driver behind them knows they are going to slow down.
- Advise your driver to check the rearview mirrors and pump the brakes when slowing or stopping, to avoid being hit from the rear.

## Where to Practice

Practice communicating with other drivers on any and all roads, at **ALL** times.

## TURNABOUT

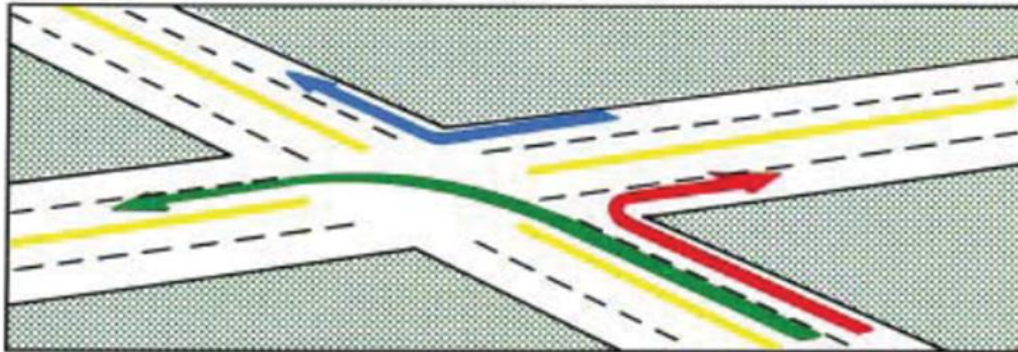
Turning the car around in close quarters, such as a driveway or the end of a dead-end street, is called a "turnabout."

## Tips for the Turnabout

To practice the turnabout, have the beginning driver do the following:

- Start from the right side of the road just past a side street or driveway with your right indicator light on.
- Watch closely for other traffic. If none is present, proceed backward while turning the steering wheel to the right until you back into the Side Street or driveway. Be sure to stay on the right side of the side street that you are backing into.
- Stop within several inches of the left curb or edge of the street.
- Proceed backward, turning the steering wheel to the right.
- Stop where you normally would at any intersection.
- Turn your left indicator light on. Look in both directions to make sure there is no oncoming traffic.
- When traffic has cleared, proceed out of the intersection while turning your wheel to the left and complete the turnabout into the right lane in the opposite direction.

This should complete the turnabout. If not, repeat the process.



## Where to Practice

Practice the turnabout maneuver in an open, non-busy area such as a parking lot on Sunday or on a school or church lot during hours when the building is closed. We suggest that you mark off a practice area 26' wide X 30' long. Homemade markers work fine; and you can make your own by placing straight sticks, about five (5) feet long, into plastic gallon jugs which have been filled partially with sand or water to weight them down.



## BACKING-UP

Backing-up a motor vehicle requires skill, good judgment, and a great deal of practice. Under most conditions, a driver can safely back up after turning his head to check that the rear and sides of the vehicle are clear. Under obstructed or constricted conditions, however, the new driver should be guided by someone who is standing outside the vehicle.

### Hints on How to Backup

Here are a few helpful suggestions for parents:

- Caution you're teen not to depend on the rearview mirror alone, but to actually turn his or her head to check the sides and rear of the vehicle.
- Instruct the new driver to back up slowly.
- Educate them to back up only for short distances. It is safer to find a place to turn the car around than to back up very far.
- Also, advise them **NEVER** to back into an intersection. Instead, turn into a side street and drive around the block.
- When turning around in a driveway, advise the driver to back in and drive out going forward.
- Caution the beginner to back very carefully out of angled parking spaces, watching for pedestrians and other vehicles as they do so.

### Where to Practice

Practice backing-up in the same type of open, non-busy areas used for working on the turnabout.

## PARKING

New drivers should have little difficulty mastering the skill of parking a vehicle, if they follow a few basic steps and practice frequently. As you practice with them, refer to the "**Kentucky Driver's Manual**" for the general stopping, standing and parking rules, the specific prohibitions, and the sequence of maneuvers for parallel parking or parking on a hill.

### Tips of the Trade for Parking

To guide you and your teen, here are some of the "**always**" and "**never**" highlights on the subject of parking:

- **ALWAYS** raise the windows; stop the engine; lock the ignition; remove the key; set the brakes and put the car in park **BEFORE** leaving the vehicle.

- **NEVER** park on the paved or traveled part of any highway outside of a business or residential district, unless the vehicle is disabled or cannot be moved. Instead, pull off to the right as far as possible.
- Turn on your **PARKING LIGHTS OR 4-WAY FLASHERS** when you park on the shoulder or side of a highway from sunset to sunrise, or when there is insufficient light to see 100 feet away. **DON'T** flash your turn-signal lights on either side of a parked vehicle.
- **NEVER** open the door of a parked vehicle when it would impede the flow of traffic or endanger any person or vehicle. Instead, use the door on the curb side.
- **ALWAYS** signal and yield the right-of-way before pulling into the street from a parked position.
- **LEARN** the parking rules and regulations in the "Kentucky Driver's Manual," so as not to park in a prohibited spot, or too close to a crosswalk or fire hydrant, etc.

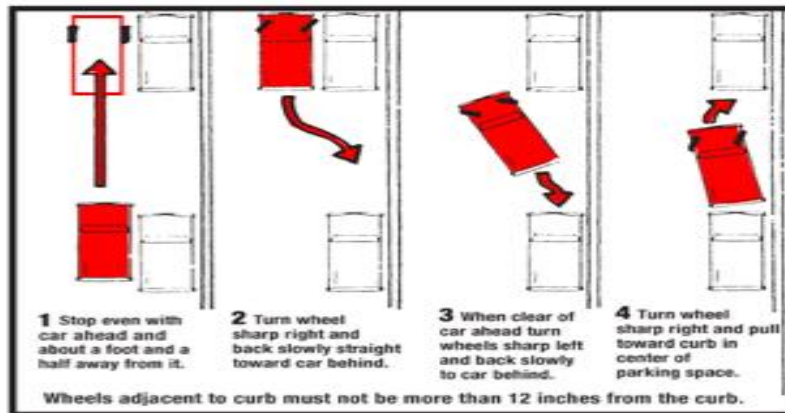
### Tips for Parallel Parking

Here are some tips on the subject of parallel parking:

- Advise the beginning driver that he or she will have to park in a space that is **25 feet** long in order to pass the driving test.
- Be aware that a driver **MUST** park parallel to and within **twelve (12) inches** of the curb or edge of the roadway.
- Have the new driver check for traffic in the rearview mirrors.
- Advise the driver **NOT** to stop suddenly if the vehicle behind them is following too closely. Instead, continue driving and find another space. This will help avoid a rear-end collision.
- Instruct the teen to put the turn signal on to warn other drivers he intends to park. If the driver following you stops, he should do so several car lengths behind you.

Follow the specific steps for parallel parking listed in the "Kentucky Driver's Manual" and diagrammed below.

## PARALLEL PARKING



## Tips for Parking on a Hill

Young drivers must be made aware of the difference between parking when headed downhill and parking when headed uphill. Note the diagrams below, which illustrate the following information:



- When parking **downhill**, turn the **front wheels** of the vehicle toward the curb or edge of the road.
- When parking **uphill** and there is a **curb**, turn the **front wheels away** from the curb. Bring the nearside front wheel in contact with the curb.
- When parking **uphill** and there is **no curb**, turn the **front wheels toward** the edge of the roadway. It is also wise to leave a manual transmission in gear.

## Where to Practice

Practice parking in the type of open, non-busy areas used for practicing the turnabout and back-up maneuvers. Using the same homemade markers as you did for the turnabout, mark off an area measuring 6 feet by 25 feet.

## PART III - COACHING THE NEWLY LICENSED DRIVER

## **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE**

The best paid athletes continue to be coached and to practice frequently in order to develop their skills. Likewise, the newly-licensed driver still needs to be coached and to practice in order to develop the judgment and driving skills needed under various conditions. Therefore, during these advanced practice sessions, work with them at night, on expressways, and in the rain, etc. Don't let them drive alone under those conditions without plenty of practice.

Although you will still need to watch them for signs of fatigue, your new driver will be able to stay out for longer periods of time with each practice session. Also, he or she will begin to gain more and more confidence behind the wheel, and to know on what skills to work and where to practice. Ask them what practice they think they need.

## **NIGHT DRIVING**

One doesn't have to read the accident statistics to know that driving at night is more difficult and hazardous than during the day. Therefore, we suggest you practice as much as possible.

Before driving at night, make sure that the windows are clean inside and out a little smudge can distort the headlights of oncoming cars. Also, check to see that all lights are clean, working, and aimed properly.

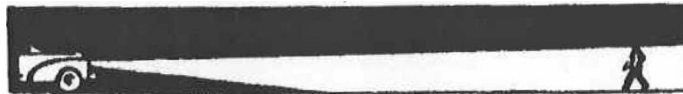
Help your new driver prepare for night driving by making sure they know the route, getting the car into good working order, and showing them how to check the dashboard instruments at night so they won't have to struggle to look for controls while driving.

### **Tips of the Trade for Night Driving - Headlight Use**

Remember these tips on the use of headlights as you practice driving at night with the new driver:

- Use the low-beam headlights at dusk, rather than the parking lights. Parking lights make the car appear farther away from other vehicles than it really is.
  
- Explain that headlights only light the roadway ahead of the car and that the illumination provided by street lights and other vehicles only helps somewhat in lighting areas to the side and rear of the car.
  
- Remember that, at ground level, objects lit by headlights cast completely different shadows than they do under sunlight.
  
- Remind the new driver to glance away from oncoming bright lights, rather than looking at them straight ahead. Glaring headlights from other cars can be shocking to the new driver.
  
- Make sure the new driver knows how and when to operate the **high/low headlight beam** switch, so that other drivers are not blinded by bright lights. The new driver is often reluctant to use the high beams because of the tendency to forget to lower them at the proper time.

## USING YOUR HEADLIGHTS



Use high beams in open country to see persons or vehicles ahead. Even with high beams, speed should be lower than by day.



Use low beams when approaching or closely following other vehicles. Also use low beams where there are street lights and in fog.

### More Tips for Night Driving

- Remember that, during twilight and nighttime hours, new drivers can completely overlook hazards that would have been easily seen during the day.
- To help compensate for not being able to see as well as during daylight hours, advise your son or daughter to drive a **bit slower** at night and to allow **extra space** around all sides of the car.
- Give instructions on how to use the **day/night** (rearview) **mirror** to reduce the glare of headlights from behind.
- Point out **night driving guides**, such as reflectors and pavement markers.
- Advise the driver to watch for hard-to-see cyclists, pedestrians and animals.
- Explain the importance of taking **extra care** when judging distance, since the landmarks used in the daytime are hidden after dark.

## EXPRESSWAY / INTERSTATE DRIVING

High-speed, expressway or interstate driving is very demanding. However, with proper preparation, a good grasp of the basic guidelines and **lots of practice**, your new driver can handle the challenge quite safely.

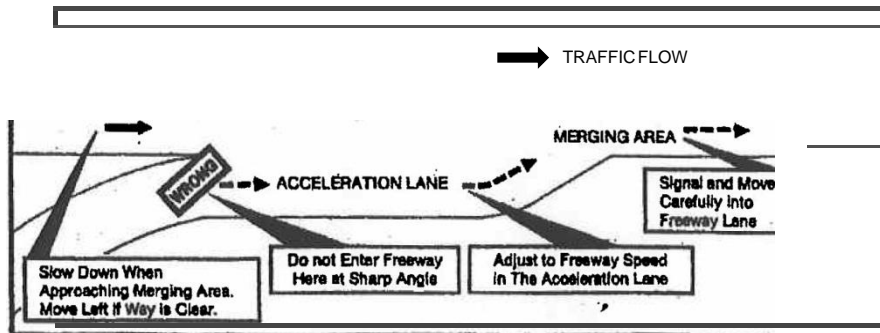
First and foremost, make certain the driver knows the route. Although it might seem trite to state this once again, this is an **extremely** important aspect of learning to drive on interstates. Much more of the new driver's attention can be given to safe driving when the trip is planned in advance.

Review in advance the type of highway signs found on expressways as well as how to interpret them. A new driver is most likely not used to the fact that an arrow pointing up to the sky means a road that is

running straight ahead or that an exit 1/4 mile away will come up very quickly when driving at expressway speeds (27 seconds when driving at 55 mph, to be exact!).

Use the tips listed below as guides when practicing expressway or interstate driving skills with your teen. Please note that the words "expressway" and "interstate" are used interchangeably.

## Tips for Entering the Expressway/Interstate



- Remember that expressways, interstates and other limited access highways are usually reached by an **entrance ramp** and a **speed-change**, or **acceleration lane**.
- Have the new driver check out the traffic on the ramp he is entering for slow-moving and stopped vehicles.
- Advise your driver to use the acceleration lane to match the speed of the moving traffic, use the directional signals, choose a safe gap in the traffic, make a shoulder check, and take a good look in the outside mirror before merging into the expressway traffic.
- When entering an interstate, **NEVER** cross the solid, painted lines that divide the entrance from the roadway.
- If there is a short entrance ramp, speed up **ONLY** after observing and finding a gap in the traffic.
- Always look for the break in traffic **BEFORE** entering the interstate. Compare what you see in the mirrors with what you see when looking over your shoulder.
- Caution the new driver that some interchanges have combined exit and entrance lanes. This can be quite dangerous. Making the right decisions in those instances depends on good judgment, proper timing and anticipating the other drivers' moves.

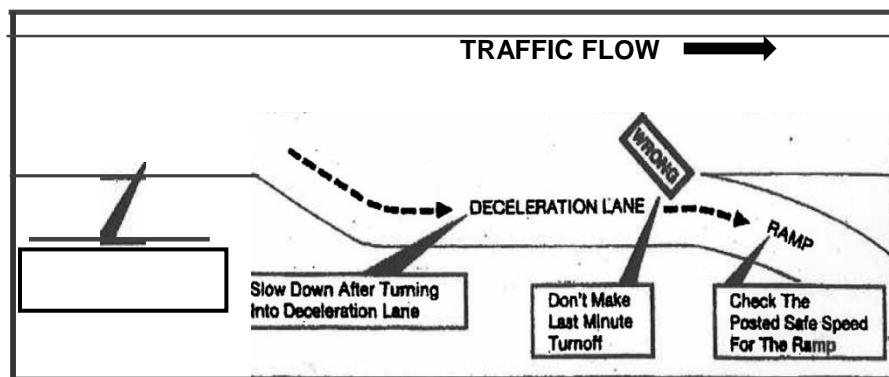
## Tips for Driving on the Expressway/Interstate

- As stated in the section on "observing," have the new driver look at least **12 to 15 SECONDS** ahead while on the expressway.

- **Avoid** driving in large groups of traffic by adjusting the vehicle's speed and using the proper lanes.
- Remind the teenager that the steering wheel does not have to be moved very much when changing lanes.
- Remind your new driver **NOT** to drive for long periods of time in the "**blind spot**" of another driver. Simply speeding up or slowing down will solve this problem.
- When you are on an extended trip and passing many exits, choose the lane with the least traffic and best view.
- Don't cruise in the right lane. Near interchanges, switch lanes to the left, leaving the right lane free for vehicles that are entering or exiting.
- **NEVER stop and back up on the expressway**, even if you miss an exit.

Caution your new driver NOT to use the extreme left lane in non-passing situations and NOT to drive below the posted speed limit, so that other drivers won't have to pass them on the right.

### Tips for Exiting the Expressway/Interstate



Advise your new driver to move into the right hand lane well before reaching the exit. By doing so, he or she will have little trouble signaling and moving into the deceleration lane.

- Have the driver begin slowing down as soon as the speed-change lane has been entered, NOT on the main highway.
- Make sure he or she slows to the posted advisory speed **before** entering the ramp. If not, negotiating the curves will most likely be troublesome.
- If the driver exits at the wrong ramp, tell him to continue until he is off the exit ramp and then look for directions to re-enter the interstate.
- Watch the new driver's speed when leaving the expressway. Since there is a tendency to drive faster on residential streets after driving at expressway speeds, you may have to remind them to check their speed.

### **When to Solo**

Allow your new driver to take the car out alone on expressways and interstates ONLY when you are convinced that he or she:

- Observes far enough ahead;
- Uses good judgment on the highway;
- Is able to slow or stop safely from high speeds;
- Is able to adapt to highway speeds in the acceleration lane;
- Can maintain the proper speed on the highway;
- Is able to change lanes safely;
- Checks the mirrors frequently; and
- Can read and understand all highway signs when traveling at expressway speeds.

### **DRIVING IN BAD WEATHER**

When the weather is bad, the road is slick, and you can't see very far ahead, driving becomes even more difficult. In fact, the accident rate for wet roadways is reported to be almost double that for dry roadways.

Therefore, practicing with the new driver during bad weather conditions is extremely important in order that he or she be as prepared as possible. Advise your child to be especially alert and make certain that the proper equipment is in the trunk of the car



## General Tips for Driving in Bad Weather

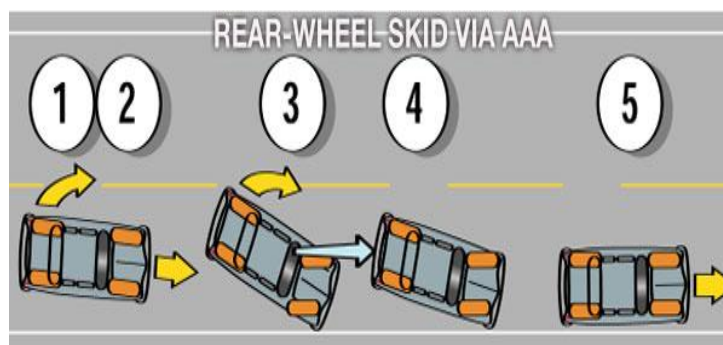
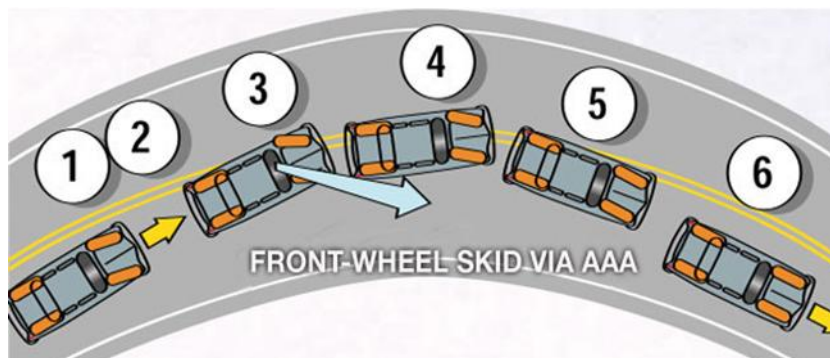
The key words for bad weather driving are PREPARATION and ANTICIPATION. The motorist must prepare himself and his vehicle for this type of driving and anticipate what needs to be done in order to drive safely. Here are some tips for the beginning driver:

- Know that the roads are the **slickest** when it **first starts to rain**.
- Keep the proper bad weather equipment in the trunk, such as an ice scraper, window spray cleaner, clean cloths and a heavy jacket.
- Take time to remove all snow or ice from all windows, headlights and taillights before driving.
- Help others see you in bad weather by using headlights, not parking lights.
- Clear steamed windows with the defroster.
- **LOOK AHEAD!** This is essential to safe driving in bad weather. By observing what is happening to other vehicles, scanning intersections, and watching to the side, drivers can anticipate what they must do in order to drive safely.
- Be **ESPECIALLY careful at the start of a light rain**, as the mixture of oil and water on the pavement is particularly dangerous.
- Watch out for wet leaves on the pavement. They can create a slippery situation.
- Remember that wet pavements are more slippery than dry ones. Therefore, it is more difficult for vehicles to "hold the road" on curves, and it takes a longer distance to stop.
- **Do not use high beams in fog.** This just reflects light off the fog beam back into your eyes.
- Remember that turning corners too fast in bad weather can be very dangerous.
- Turn on the wipers after the windshield is wet from rain, or the windshield will smear and blur your vision.
- Since bad weather can also include too much sun, experiment with the sun visor at different angles to
- Find the best position to avoid sun glare. Use sunglasses when driving into the rising or setting sun.

## Tips on Skidding - Prevention and Recovery

Skidding occurs when the rear wheels lose traction with the pavement and slide left or right. Though it most often occurs on ice or packed snow, skidding can also occur on a wet pavement, gravel, or a dry road. To help your new driver prevent or recover from skidding, stress the following tips:

- Be alert to conditions that may cause skidding, especially in winter driving.
- **Avoid abrupt changes** in speed or direction.
- Before attempting to drive on packed ice or snow, practice how to stop the vehicle under those road conditions. Practice at a slow speed and in a safe area, preferably on private property.
- **Slow down** well in advance of your stopping point.
- When road conditions are bad, leave early to avoid rushing.
- If skidding occurs,
- **DON'T PANIC** and **DON'T BRAKE**,
- **IMMEDIATELY STEER IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SKID.** As an example, if your rear wheels start going to the right, turn your front wheels to the right, and



- **TAKE YOUR FOOT OFF THE GAS PEDAL** (accelerator).

## Special Precautions for Winter Driving

Reiterate and practice these special winter driving precautions:

- Use chains, snow tires or radial tires for driving on ice or snow. Of these three choices, chains do the most to improve traction and the ability to stop.
- **Slow down!** Even if your vehicle is equipped with chains, snow tires or radials, it is not safe to drive on ice or snow covered roadways at normal speeds.
- Be advised that chains, snow tires, and radial tires **MUST BE USED** on designated snow emergency routes.
- Practice getting the "feel" of the roadway. Start out very slowly and have the driver test the brakes to find out how the vehicle reacts and how easily the vehicle can be stopped.
- Remember that stopping distances are much greater on ice and snow than on dry, or even wet, pavements. A thin film of water on ice is the worst stopping condition of all. Slow down your vehicle long before coming to an intersection or turn.
- **Keep a safe distance** between your vehicle and the one directly ahead. The needed space is much greater than normal on ice or packed snow, since snow tires, radial tires, and even chains can slide.
- Reduce speed according to specific conditions. There is no such thing as a "completely safe" speed on ice and snow. Every city block and every stretch of highway may be different, depending upon the sun, shade, amount of salting, and other conditions. Watch ahead for danger spots.
- Point the car's wheels straight ahead when starting in snow; don't spin them.
- Don't turn corners too fast, nor drive **too slowly** to make it up a snow covered hill.

Before allowing your new driver to drive a route alone in bad weather, be sure that he or she has done so, without problems, in good weather. Double-check the car to make sure it is in good condition, has a full tank of gas, and has the proper bad weather gear mentioned earlier.

As a general rule, ask yourself if you would drive in the same weather. If not, or when weather conditions are extremely bad, our advice is to postpone the trip altogether.

## EMERGENCIES

Most driving emergencies are caused either by driver error or mechanical breakdowns. No matter what the cause, however, emergencies are not predictable. Thus, the driver must make split-second decisions, perform sudden changes in speed and/or direction, recover from the maneuver, and get the car back on a safe path.

These sudden, extreme changes in speed and/or direction are known as "**evasive actions**," and include steering to the left or right, stopping abruptly, accelerating abruptly and handling skidding.

The new driver must know how to take the right evasive action at the right time. Though he or she has become quite familiar with how to use the gas pedal, brakes and steering wheel, a lot of practice is necessary to use these controls quickly in an emergency.

### Tips for Handling Emergencies

A new driver can **prepare for emergencies** by developing good, basic driving habits, and by getting plenty of practice in evasive maneuvers. For instance, he or she should:

- Properly adjust the vehicle's seat position and safety belts.
- Properly adjust both hands to the 9 and 3 o'clock positions on the steering wheel.
- Actively observe what is happening around their vehicle at all times.
- Practice steering to the right or left to avoid rear-end collisions.
- Practice how to recover from emergencies which are caused by the vehicle itself, such as brake failure, stalls and a stuck accelerator.

### Where and How to Practice Evasive Maneuvers

By practicing the maneuvers suggested below with the new driver, they can "get the feel" of taking quick, evasive actions with the gas pedal, steering wheel or brakes in case of emergency. Be sure you practice on a quiet, lightly traveled street and demonstrate the maneuvers.

#### Can't stop in time

Braking is not the answer to all problems. When there is not enough room to stop in time, one should **steer to the right or left** to avoid a rear-end collision. Have the new driver:

Pretend that a vehicle has stopped in front of you and there is not enough room to stop in time.

- Practice steering to the right or left, as if to avoid a rear-end collision.

## Brake Failure

Most cars are equipped with a dual-brake system. Therefore, total brake failure rarely occurs; but it could happen. Partial brake failure, however, is always a possibility.

In the event of brake failure, the "**Kentucky Driver's Manual**" suggests taking the actions listed below. Review and demonstrate the maneuvers; have the new driver practice them.

- Try pumping the brake pedal. (NOTE: Anti-lock brakes, in general, should NOT be pumped.) If this doesn't restore braking ability,
- Use the Emergency (parking) brake.
- Shift to a lower gear, if possible. Or, if necessary, rub the sides of the tires against the side of a curb.

## Stalls

Unfortunately, sometimes a vehicle will stop running when you are on the road. This, of course, is a "stall". You may want to simulate a stall, as described below, so that the new driver can practice how to recover from it. We suggest that you demonstrate the stall and recovery first, and then have your teen follow suit.

- Select a lightly traveled street with a short, gradual incline.
- Turn off the engine.
- Put the emergency brake on.
- Switch the ignition on to unlock the steering, but do not start the engine.
- Release the emergency brake, allowing the vehicle to coast forward.
- Have the new driver steer right, steer left and brake.
- Be prepared to use the emergency brake!

**NOTE:** Don't forget that a great deal of pressure is required to stop cars equipped with power brakes when the engine is not running. If you have power steering, the new driver will also be introduced to the difficulty of turning the steering wheel when the engine is off.

## Stuck accelerator

Sometimes the gas pedal may stick. You may want to simulate the condition and the sequence of steps to take, as listed in the "**Kentucky Driver's Manual**," should this emergency actually occur. We suggest that you demonstrate the following actions first in a non-traveled area, then have your teen follow suit.

- Pretend that the accelerator is stuck.
- "Slap" the accelerator pedal hard with your foot.
- Shift to Neutral
- Brake to a safe stop, using steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Pull off the roadway and stop.

**NOTE:** Don't forget that a great deal of pressure is required to stop cars equipped with power brakes when the engine is not running.

## Other emergencies

Review with your new driver the other emergencies listed in the "**Kentucky Driver's Manual**": wet brakes; failing windshield wipers; failing headlights; blowouts; your vehicle becoming disabled; a vehicle approaching in your lane; a fire in your vehicle; stalling on the railroad tracks; running off the roadway; and flooding your engine.

Discuss the appropriate evasive actions to be taken in the event of each emergency and, if possible, practice the maneuvers.

## **PART IV - SUMMING IT ALL UP**

Please note that this handbook contains condensations and paraphrases of the actual language of the Kentucky Vehicle Code, so that the information is more understandable to the reader. Therefore, in a court, which is guided by the full and exact language of the law, this book is not a proper legal authority to cite.

That fact notwithstanding, we at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet hope that this guide has been a helpful, informative tool for you, as the parent or driving coach of a newcomer behind the wheel. We also hope that, throughout this coaching process, you have thought more about your own driving habits and have even "brushed up on a thing or two. After all, Kentucky's roads can only be safer for everyone if we long-time, experienced motorists "practice what we preach" to our younger, newly licensed drivers!

### **AFTER THE NEW DRIVER RECEIVES A LICENSE ...SUPERVISE! SUPERVISE!**

The new driver does need to "go it alone" sometimes. The following guidelines, although strict, may be helpful in deciding when and where to let them drive by themselves.

***Know the Area*** –Going to a neighborhood store, library, or friend's house is all right, but be cautious about allowing the novice to drive alone in a strange territory.

***Keep off Busy Streets*** –New drivers should not be venturing out alone on busy streets. Therefore, we suggest you say "no" the first time they ask or the car on Friday evenings, when rush hour and weekend traffic are combined. Also, be very cautious about permitting them to drive alone on Saturday, when all the week's forgotten errands are being run and traffic is very heavy.

***Have a Good Track Record*** –Be reluctant to let the newly licensed driver try a particular route alone if he or she made a lot of mistakes the last time you took the route together.

***Keep it Simple*** -Decide what combination of factors and hazards might make a particular trip too difficult for the beginner to travel by themselves. If the route involves road construction at rush hour, slick or icy roads, roads at dusk or the expressway at night, it might, indeed, be too dangerous alone.

***Discourage "Cruising Around"*** –Whether in the neighborhood or elsewhere, new drivers should not just "cruise around town". You should discuss with them their destination and whether there will be any passengers or stop-off points.

***Pre-trip car check*** - Make certain the teen understands that, just as during practice sessions, they must check the tire pressure, clean the windows, adjust the seat and mirrors, and buckle the seat belt.

## BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

Children of every age often imitate their parents' behavior. Set a good example whenever you drive. Obey all traffic laws. Be courteous. Drive safely. Your teenager may follow your example. It's very important for your teenager's safety that you:

- Don't drive after drinking. Young people are more likely to drink and drive if they see their parents do so.



**Use safety belts.** No matter how short the trip may be, encourage your new driver to wear a safety belt. Teach your student to fasten the belt before starting the engine. If you wear a safety belt each time you get into the car, your teenager may do the same. **Warning:** The use of seat belts reduces the chances of being thrown from the vehicle in case of a collision. If you don't install and use a shoulder harness with the lap belt, serious or fatal injuries may happen. Lap only belts increase the chance of spinal column and abdominal injuries- especially in children. Shoulder harnesses may be available for your vehicle, if it is not already equipped with them.

- Observe traffic laws. Traffic laws and signs are there for a reason: to lessen the risk of being involved in a crash. Teach your teen the value of traffic laws and signs.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Driving gives most teenagers a feeling of freedom and independence. At a time when they are gaining independence, they may have their first encounter with alcohol and/or drugs. Mixing alcohol and/or drugs with driving increases the risk of collisions and death. This is especially true at night. Sometimes, after drinking, teenagers imitate a friend's bad driving habits. They speed or attempt dare-devil stunts. Often young people cannot afford to keep a car in safe mechanical condition, even though driving an unsafe car is illegal. Bald tires and poor brakes add to the problem of drinking and driving.



**Talk to your teenager about drinking and driving.** Let your driver know how you feel about drinking or using drugs and what you expect from him or her. It may help to know some of the facts found in a recent nationwide survey.

- Young drivers expect and want their parents to talk to them about drinking and driving.
- 50% of all respondents' ages 15 through 19 said they had been in one or more situations in the past month where alcohol was present. Three out of five admitted to being drunk one or more times recently.
- Teenagers said drinking occurred in a variety of places, most frequently at a friend's home. Drinking also occurred at parks, beaches, bars or drive-in movies. Drinking was even done in their own home.

Every family handles issues like alcohol and drugs in its own way. Discuss with your son or daughter what you think he or she should do in the following situations:

- Being driven home from a party by a friend who arrived sober, but who now appears under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- A date becomes intoxicated at a party and insists he or she is sober enough to drive.
- Riding in a car with older teenagers when one of them is using drugs and offers it to your teen.
- You have forbidden your son or daughter to use alcohol, but he or she has gone to a party where wine was served, and is now feeling a little "strange." It's getting late. Your teenager is afraid to drive home, but does not know if you should be called.

## **Kentucky's Under 21- Zero Alcohol Tolerance Law**

Needless to say, drinking and driving don't mix for ANY of us, regardless of age. Most teens and young adults under 21 are aware that it is illegal for them to drink and that there is a law against drunk driving. What they may not know, however, is that they could lose their license for driving after drinking as little as one drink!

Kentucky's new law prohibits all licensees under the age of 21 from driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle with .02 percent, or more by weight, of alcohol in their blood. That translates to less than one shot of vodka, or one glass of wine or beer for most people!

For drivers under 21, licenses and identification cards are now produced in a vertical format. At a glance, this instantly distinguishes individuals under 21. To the right of the picture, the date that the individual turns 18, and the date the individual turns 21 is printed boldly in red. This new feature is designed to help retailers curb the illegal sale of tobacco and alcohol products to minors. "Kentucky's Zero Alcohol Tolerance Law" means just that: It is unacceptable behavior to drink any amount of alcoholic beverage and drive.

## MOBILE PHONE USAGE

Throughout this handbook, we have stressed the necessity of having new drivers actively observe what is around them. Visual observation is not the only means of doing so; hearing what is going on around you, or audio awareness, is important as well.

Beginning June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, ALL mobile/cell phone usage is prohibited for drivers less than 18 years of age. This ban includes any usage of a cell phone, not just texting or talking while driving, but prohibits the use of hands-free devices as well. It is imperative to understand this is a Primary Offense. You will be pulled over and cited & fined by a Law Enforcement Officer for any and all mobile/cell phone usage. If you are in an emergency situation and need to make a call while you are driving, stop the vehicle and call for help.

If you chose to violate this law and place yourself and other Kentuckians in danger, in addition to fines & court costs, points will be assessed to your driving record and your 180 day waiting period will begin anew.

Accidents are unintentional or unexpected happenings. But, car crashes don't happen by chance. Driver inattention is a major contributor of car crashes and the usage of mobile/cell phones in automobiles has played an extraordinary role in distracting drivers. Beginning drivers overestimate their driving abilities, coupled with the unlawful use of cell phones, it only adds to the chance of a crash. Parents and young drivers need to understand that cell phone usage adds up to risky, unlawful behavior in automobiles for young drivers. Driving is a mental process so think before you break the law and text or dial.

## HEADPHONES – EARPHONES

Headphones and earphones can divert a driver's attention from the road and prevent them from hearing the sound of warnings. Therefore, wearing headphones and earphones while driving is **prohibited** by law in Kentucky, with certain specified exceptions relative to work safety, hearing protection and hearing impairments.

Though loud radios, CD and tape players, etc. are not prohibited by law they, too, can prevent one from hearing and responding to emergency signals. Further, it is extremely rude to play them so loud as to be heard outside of one's car

## **IS YOUR TEENAGER READY FOR A LICENSE?**

When your teenager drives well enough to pass the driving skills test ask yourself the questions below.

You may have overlooked some practice or knowledge your youngster needs.

1. Have we discussed alcohol, drugs and driving?
2. Does my son or daughter know what to do if he or she has been drinking and feels its unsafe to drive?
3. Have we practiced in heavy city traffic?
4. Have we practiced on one-way streets and at intersections with three-way signs?
5. Have we practiced using a left-turn center lane?
6. Have we practiced on small country roads, on graveled roads with potholes, and on hills?
7. Have we practiced in bad weather?
8. Have we practiced at night?
9. Have we discussed what to do if an emergency occurs?
10. Have we discussed what to do if a collision occurs?
11. Does my teenager know I can cancel his or her license at any time, for any reason I feel is valid?
12. Does my young driver know I will cancel the license if he or she drives irresponsibly or violates traffic laws?

## **WHEN AND WHERE TO APPLY**

When your beginning driver has practiced the skills described above to the extent that he or she is comfortable with the maneuvers, it is time to apply for a driver's license.

To take the driving test and obtain a driver's license, the teen should go to the circuit clerk's office in the county which they reside.

Your child must be accompanied by a licensed driver who is over 21 years old; must bring the learner's permit, proof of insurance and vehicle registration; and must furnish a vehicle in a safe operating condition for the road test. Some counties require a form indicating the driver's compliance with the State's "No Pass No Drive Law".

**SAMPLE LOG FOR YOUNG DRIVERS -IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT SO-HOURS OF TRAINING BE LOGGED BEFORE ATTEMPTING THE ROAD TEST.**

Date	From	To	Miles	MIN/HRS	Hours to Date

Total Hours

**SAFE DRIVER CHECKLIST**

Use this checklist when your son or daughter has finished practicing all the driving skills discussed in this book. Take your student on a long "test" ride. As you ride, check your teenager's driving against the checklist below. Be sure that your new driver is following the safe driving habits listed here. Check (✓) each item you see your youngster doing correctly. This list should tell you where your student driver still needs practice or help. Your teenager should, as a habit, do all of these things before taking the driving skills test.

**Starting**

1. Adjusts mirrors .
2. Fastens safety belt.

**Moving Forward**

1. Looks over shoulder before pulling into traffic.
2. Signals.
3. Uses both hands on opposite sides of steering wheel.

**Stopping**

1. Stops when necessary behind crosswalk or limit line.
2. Uses correct foot on brake pedal

**Turning**

1. Slows for turns.
2. Begins and ends turn in correct lane.
3. Yields right-of-way when necessary.
4. Accepts legal right-of-way when safe.
5. Sees and reacts to hazards.

**Backing**

1. Looks back over right shoulder when backing.

**Changing Lanes**

1. Signals.
2. Checks mirrors.
3. Check over shoulder.
4. Changes lanes safely.

#### Hill parking

1. Signals.
2. Curbs wheel properly.
3. Sets parking brake.
4. Signals and checks over shoulder before entering traffic.

#### Parallel parking

1. Signals.
2. Looks over shoulder.
3. Yields to other vehicles when necessary.

#### Driving on Freeway

1. Checks traffic flow.
2. Times entry into freeway.
3. Checks over shoulder as he or she accelerates into gap in traffic.
4. Signals early and brakes on exit ramp.
5. Adjusts speed to road conditions.

#### Defensive Driving Techniques

1. Checks mirrors before breaking.
2. Checks cross streets before entering.
3. Checks signal lights and signs
4. Keep eyes “moving” (watches sides and middle of road).
5. Keeps a “space cushion” around the car.
6. Follows at a safe distance.



