

Passenger Empowerment: Help Your Teen Speak Up for Safe Driving



DEAR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS,

Your teen has been learning about passenger safety and the importance of passengers speaking up for safe driving. Ask your teen to share what they've learned about passenger responsibilities, including actions that they can take to create a safe atmosphere for the driver and actions to take if their friends are driving unsafely or should not be driving.

Talk with your teen about situations in which they are often a passenger, what might make them feel unsafe, and what they can do in these situations to speak up for safe driving. For example, discuss what your teen might do if:

- They see a friend who is impaired getting into their car.
- They are riding with a friend who keeps texting while they drive.
- Their friend's sibling has been smoking marijuana and is now driving them to soccer practice.
- They are riding with a friend who is driving really fast around your neighborhood.
- Their friend drove them to a party.
They've both been drinking.

SPEAK UP FOR YOUR TEEN'S SAFETY

Your child is probably spending more time in cars with friends who are driving. Do you know who they are driving with? Knowing who your teen is driving with and keeping the lines of communication open is important for your

child's safety. Below are some questions to ask before your teen becomes a passenger in a friend's car.

- Who is driving? (Do you know the driver? If not, ask to meet them when they pick up your teen.)
- How long has the friend been driving?
- Do you have the driver's contact information?
Their parents' information?
- Is the friend able to drive at night?
- Where are they going?
- How many people will be in the car?
- Does everyone wear their seat belt?
- If the driver is being unsafe or is impaired (buzzed, drunk, drugged, or on medicine that makes them drowsy), will your child call or text for help?
- What is a "safe word" your child can text you if they need help but are uncomfortable speaking up to their friend? (When your child texts the word, collect them and their friend to get them home safely. If your child is impaired, let them know that you're glad that they called and that you'll discuss the situation the next day.)
- How will you speak up for safe driving?

For more information about passenger safety, visit NationalPassengerSafety.org.



nrsf.org

**SPEAK UP
FOR SAFE
DRIVING**



ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS TO SPEAK UP FOR SAFE DRIVING