

As traffic in our area continues to increase and affect our lives, here are some ideas from AAA that discuss driver safety, especially for teenage and senior drivers.

For more information visit [www.aaapa.org](http://www.aaapa.org)



**Q. Which type of driver has an increased crash risk?**

- a) A teen driving without a supervised driver for the first time
- b) A teen driving with teen passengers
- c) A teen driving at night
- d) All of the above

**A. D - All of the above.** There are many risks you will want to manage now that your teen has a driver's license.

**Get the Facts**

**Reduce the Risks**

<b>Safety belt use</b>	Because research shows teen safety belt use trails behind adults' usage, set a good example by requiring everyone to buckle up.
<b>Driving conditions</b>	Rain, snow, darkness, heavy traffic and other realities of driving pose challenges for new drivers. Even after your teen has gotten licensed, you should practice driving under each of these conditions.
<b>Peer pressure</b>	Talk with your teen about the importance of resisting peer pressure and offer advice on how to handle hypothetical situations.
<b>Distracted driving</b>	Many teens admit to cell phone use and texting while behind the wheel despite clear dangers. Make a family rule covering these and other distractions that everyone abides by.
<b>Speeding</b>	Speed is a leading factor in crashes for teens and adults. Set a good example and set strong rules.
<b>Driving with passengers</b>	Teen drivers' crash risks multiply when they have teen passengers. Set limits and enforce them.
<b>Alcohol use</b>	Enforce strict zero tolerance rules with your teen and be a good role model.
<b>Poor visual scanning</b>	Commentary driving – both as a driver and passenger – can help teens work on their scanning. So can some AAA tools ( <a href="http://www.teendriving.aaa.com/PA">www.teendriving.aaa.com/PA</a> )
<b>Difficulty judging space and time</b>	You and your teen should still regularly drive together so that you can provide feedback and instruction.

**BI-COUNTY  
OBSERVER:  
Lehigh County Edition**



Volume 12, Issue 6

November/December  
2012

telephone  
[610-849-8076](tel:610-849-8076)

website  
[www.arcofl-n.org](http://www.arcofl-n.org)

e-mail  
[info@arcofl-n.org](mailto:info@arcofl-n.org)

*Published six times a year to inform persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and the community about intellectual disability services in Lehigh and Northampton Counties.*

## *Anti Texting Law for Everyone*

The law went into effect March 8, 2012.

### **What the law does:**

- ✦ Allows police to stop any driver seen using an Interactive Wireless Communication Device (IWCD) to send, read or write a text-based communication while his or her vehicle is in motion.
- ✦ Defines an IWCD as a wireless phone, personal digital assistant, smart phone, portable or mobile computer or similar devices that can be used for texting, instant messaging, emailing or browsing the Internet.
- ✦ Defines a text-based communication as a text message, instant message, email or other written communication composed or received on an IWCD.
- ✦ Institutes a \$50 fine for convictions under this section.
- ✦ Makes clear that this law supersedes and preempts any local ordinances restricting the use of interactive wireless devices by drivers.

The penalty is a summary offense. The law does not authorize the seizure of an IWCD.

The violation carries no points as a penalty and will not be recorded on the driver record for non-commercial drivers. It will be recorded on commercial drivers' records as a non-sanction violation.

The texting ban does NOT include the use of a GPS device, a system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle, or a communications device that is affixed to a mass transit vehicle, bus or school bus. Source: [www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdnews.nsf/antiTextingLaw?readForm](http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdnews.nsf/antiTextingLaw?readForm)

=====

