



# Graduated Driver's License Parent Orientation Program

# Partners In Prevention

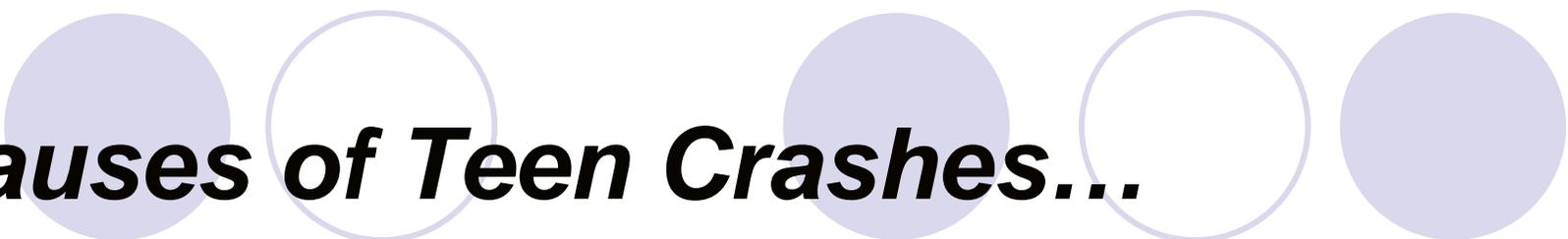


**Delaware Department of  
Transportation  
Division Of Motor  
Vehicles**



# ***Purpose of GDL Parent Orientation Program***

- Reduce number of fatal and injury crashes by new teen drivers.
- Encourage active participation by parent or sponsor.
- Inform both about possible consequences of poor driving decisions.

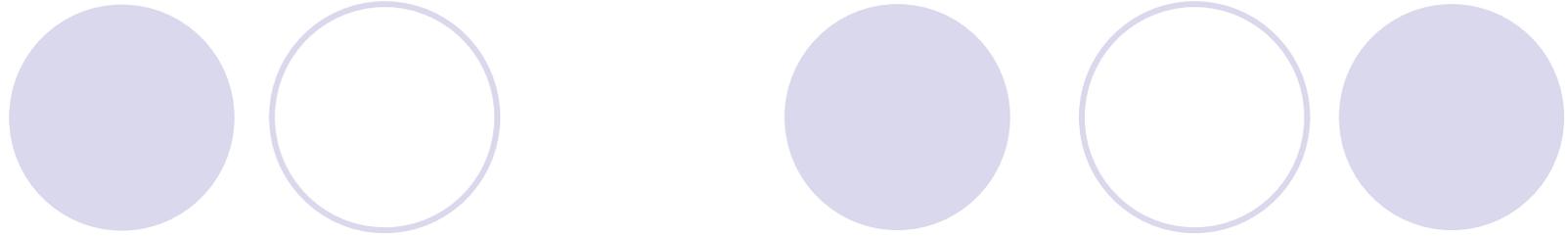


# ***Causes of Teen Crashes...***

- **Speed/Aggressive Driving**
- **DUI**
- **Inexperience**

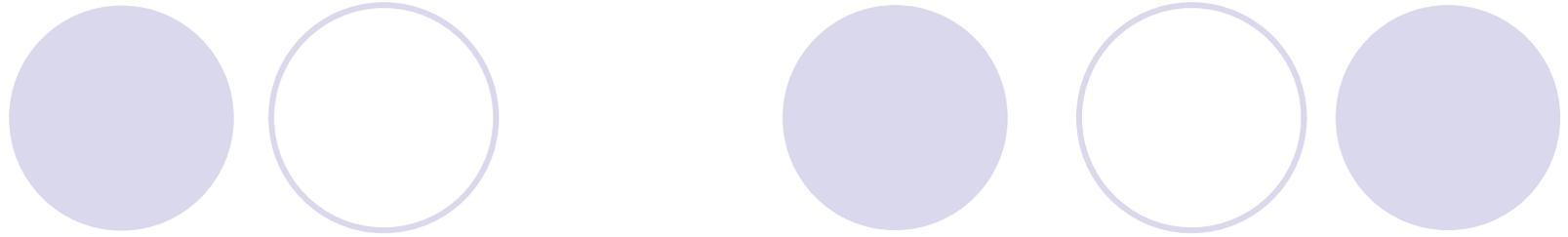
## **Distracted/Inattentive Driving:**

- Cell phones
- CD/Tape/Radios/Pagers
- Eating/Drinking
- Other Passengers
- Putting on make-up



# **GDL – Rules, Regulations and Your Responsibility**

**Division of Motor Vehicles**



# **Delaware's Graduated Driver Licensing Law**

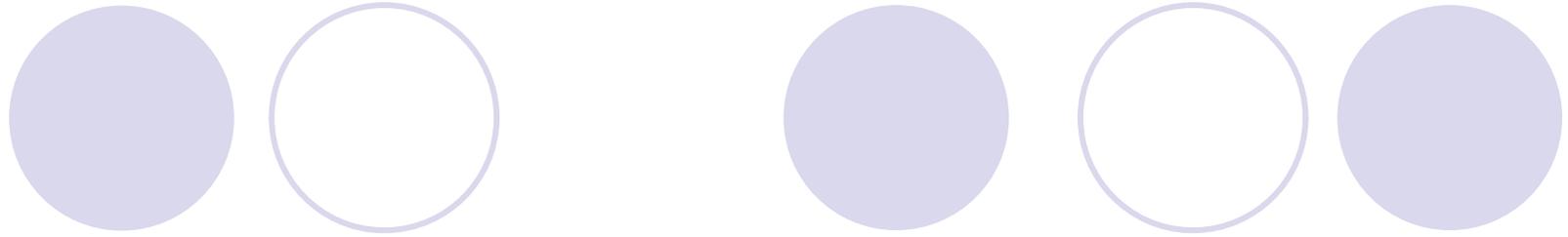


# ***What Do I Need to Get My GDL Permit ?***

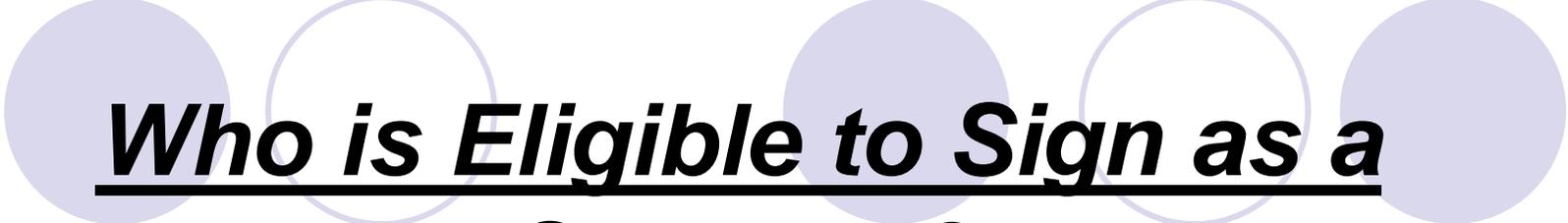
- Must be at least 16 years old
- Must present a DE Driver Education Certificate (Blue Certificate)
- Must pay \$25.00 license fee
- Must pass an eye test

# ***What Do I Need cont'd....***

- **Must provide documents proving:**
  - **your name and date of birth (1)**
    - (i.e. birth certificate, passport, immigration card)
  - **social security number (1)**
    - Social Security Card, W-2 form, paycheck stub
  - **proof of DE residency (2)**
    - credit card bill, bank statement, car insurance policy
    - **EXCEPTION:** If sponsor is a licensed DE driver and lives with teen, the sponsor's DL, matched with the address on the blue certificate, will satisfy residency requirement



**All Driver License  
Applications Must be Signed  
by an Approved Sponsor!**



**Who is Eligible to Sign as a  
Sponsor?**

*(in order of preference)*

- Either mom or dad if both live with teen
- The parent who lives with the teen (as a rule step-parents not permitted to sign for teen unless they have adopted teen)
- Legal Guardian
- Family Services Caseworker
- Court Ordered Custodian

# ***First Six Months (Level One Permit)***

- Permit in driver's possession
- Supervised at all times
  - Supervisor must be a parent, guardian or licensed driver approved by the sponsor who is at least 25 yrs. Old, and has had a Class D license for 5 years or more
- Supervisor only person in front seat
- 1 additional passenger permitted in back
  - EXCEPTION: immediate family members
- Supervisor is required to certify on a driving log that they have driven for 50 hours with their child (including 10 at night) .



## First 6 months continued

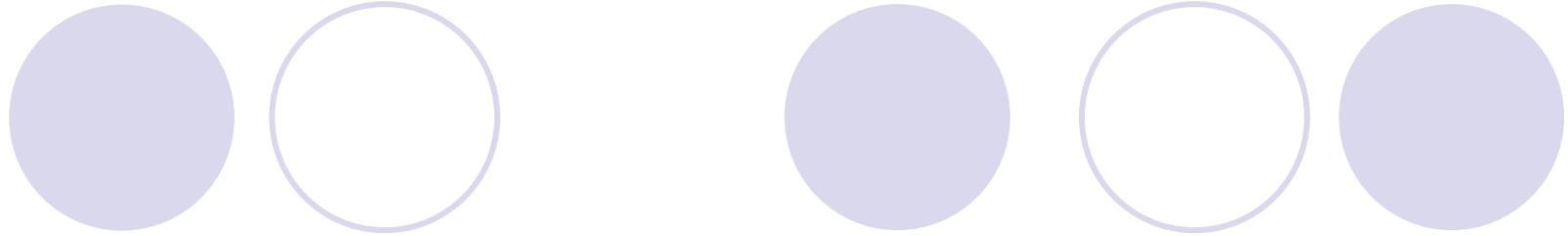
- Seat belt use is mandatory
- Failure of teens to buckle up will result in 2 month license suspension & a ticket
- Failure of adults to buckle up will result in ticket to teen driver
- Cell phone use is prohibited (no talking or texting allowed)

# Second Six Months...

- Teen must have permit in possession
- Still no cell phone use permitted & seat belts mandatory
- Unsupervised driving permitted from 6am- 10pm permitted
- 1 passenger allowed (no exceptions for family during day but family permitted at night when supervisor present)
- Supervised driving permitted 10pm-6am  
exemptions: School activities on school grounds, work, church

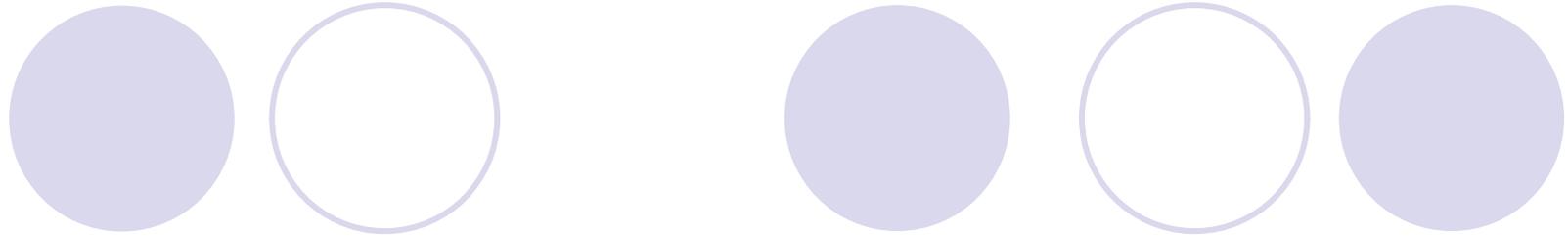
# ***What happens if your teen doesn't follow the GDL rules?***

- His or her permit will be **SUSPENDED!!!**
- Two months for first offense
- Four months for each subsequent offense.
- You must make up any time your license is suspended!
- A \$25.00 fee is required for license re-instatement



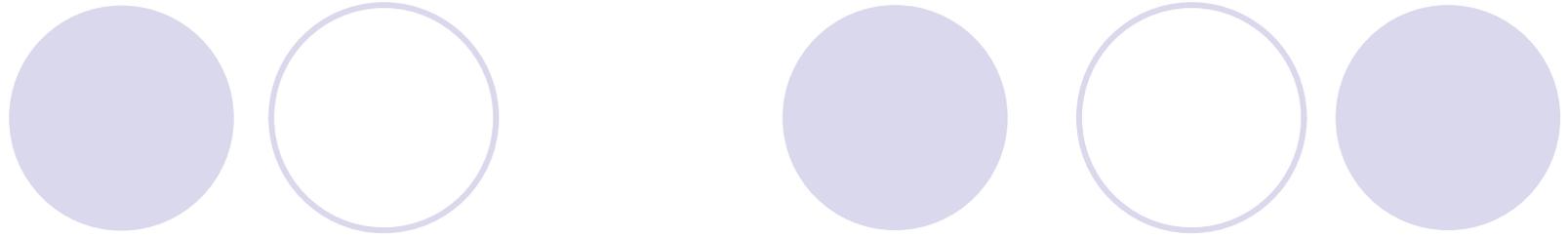
## What if You don't Follow the Rules ?

- Parent/Sponsor who knowingly allow the permit holder to drive unsupervised faces:
  - Fine of up to \$575.00
  - Possibility of 30 days in jail



## ***When does the permit holder get an unrestricted Class D License***

- Must be at least 17 years old
- Held valid GDL Permit for 12 months.
  - Sponsor has not withdrawn his/her endorsement.
  - Permit holder is not suspended, revoked, or canceled.



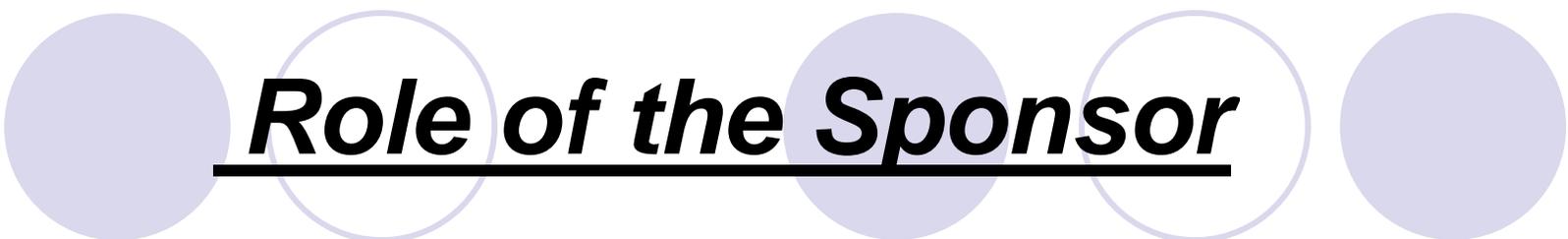
# **DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

[www.dmv.de.gov](http://www.dmv.de.gov)

# Graduated Driver Licensing Statistics

Delaware Licensed Drivers Involved in Crashes  
(does not mean driver was killed, injured, or caused crash)

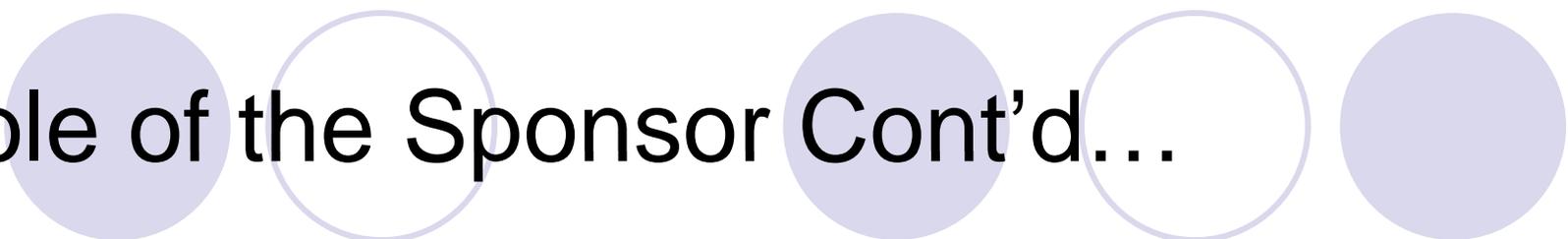
	1998	1999	2000	2004	2006	2007	2008
All Crashes							
16-year old drivers	1,001	955	590	536	502	465	415
17-year old drivers	1,236	1,030	983	945	1074	1,123	1,032
Fatal Crashes							
16-year old drivers	7	4	4	6	3	1	1
17-year old drivers	7	2	2	9	3	5	1
Injury Crashes							
16-year old drivers	372	350	222	157	144	137	95
17-year old drivers	462	393	388	264	288	311	265



# **Role of the Sponsor**

## **YOU:**

- supervise your teenager's driving – driver education is driving 101
- What to coach your teens on:
  - Speeding
  - Following distance
  - Complete stops
  - Turn signals/checking blind spots



## Role of the Sponsor Cont'd...

- You determine if the teen driver is capable of handling the vehicle responsibly
- You have the authority to designate who may not supervise your child's driving
- You may withdraw your sponsorship at any time - and cancel their driving privileges

# You Should Know



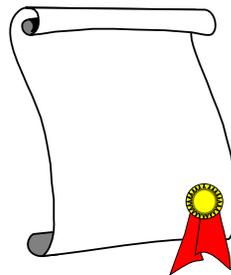
## YOU:

- should set stricter rules than the law does
  - penalties and consequences are critically important
- should buy a vehicle with safety in mind
  - low horsepower
  - SUV not always the best choice



# ***Parent/Teen Contract***

- Driving is a privilege...not a right!
- Parents need to deliver a concrete message about their expectations
- Parents need to be good role models



# *Teen Driving* *- An Insurance Perspective*

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**Presented By**  
**State Farm**

...Like a Good Neighbor, State Farm is There ®



# RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEEN DRIVERS

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- § 6105 (a) and (b). Liability of parent, or guardian for negligence of minor (employer no longer eligible to sponsor as of 6/26/08).
  - § 6106. Liability of owner for negligence of minor.
-

# Liability...

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When you sign as the sponsor for your teenager's GDL permit and they are involved in a crash  
...you are jointly responsible for all damages they cause.

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# Liability....

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If you signed as the teenager's sponsor, even if they have had their license renewed for some reason and you did not have to sign for that license renewal  
...you are still liable for damages they cause in a crash.

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# Liability

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Even if you are not the sponsor and you loan a minor your car

... you are responsible for any damages they may cause.

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# PARENTAL EXPOSURE

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- You are liable if:
    - you sign license or provide the car – even if your teen doesn't live with you full time
    - your teen is driving another person's vehicle (girlfriend/boyfriend/friend)
    - You allow your teen to drive unsupervised when they should be (\$575 fine, 30 days jail time or both + restitution)
  - Additionally, you may be liable if your teen allows others to drive the vehicle without your consent
-

**Teen Allows Boyfriend to Drive  
Her Parent's Car  
They're insured  
Limits: \$50K per crash**

**BOYFRIEND'S  
Dad & Stepmom may owe too...  
Limits \$100K per crash**

**So could BOYFRIEND'S  
Mom & Stepdad (Mom signed permit)  
Limits: \$100K per crash**

**3 separate households may owe for one CRASH:**

- 1) Teen driver allowed someone else to drive the car**
- 2) Delaware statute imposes liability on parent or parent(s) who signed the license AND the owner of the vehicle**

**TOTAL AVAILABLE INSURANCE: \$50K +\$100K+\$100K =  
**\$250,000****

**\$250,000 Available**

**Cost of Injuries to Victims:**

<b>Passenger</b>	<b>Estimated Injury Value</b>
#1.....	\$60-75K
#2.....	\$200-300K
#3.....	\$65-85K
#4.....	\$50-65K
Driver of Other Vehicle.....	\$45-65K

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<b>Estimated Total for Injuries</b>	Up to \$590K
<b>-Insurance Available to Driver</b>	<b>-\$250K</b>
<b>= Amount not covered by Insurance</b>	<b>=\$340K</b>

**Which leads us to ask.....**

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**Who pays the  
remaining \$340,000?**

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# HOMework FOR PARENTS

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- Take the time to research insurance
    - Consider limits-not just cost – 100K/300K preferably higher
  
  - Consider a Personal Liability Umbrella Policy (PLUP)
    - These policies can add \$1 Million or more in additional liability insurance coverage on top of your policy limits
-

# TEENS - MAKE A QUALITY DECISION:

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- BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO DRIVE YOUR FRIEND'S CAR REMEMBER:
    - Your sponsor is liable if you're responsible for a crash
    - Your parent/guardian's insurance may not provide coverage
    - Make sure you know who owns the car so you can obtain appropriate permission, otherwise owner's insurance may not provide coverage
-

# ThinkFirst

National Injury Prevention Foundation

## A Parent's Guide to Their Teen's Safety

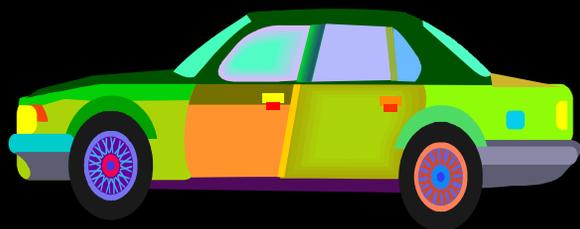
[www.thinkfirst.org](http://www.thinkfirst.org)

**ThinkFirst**  
National Injury Prevention Foundation

# Benefits of Teen Driving

## Parents/Guardians

1. Mom's taxi service retires
2. Help with errands
3. More "me" time



## Driver

1. Mobile
2. Personally portable
3. Conveniently movable
4. You can set your own schedule
5. You can drive to work or school

# The Crash...



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[www.thinkfirst.org](http://www.thinkfirst.org)

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# Patient arrives



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# Definitive Care



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[www.thinkfirst.org](http://www.thinkfirst.org)

**ThinkFirst**  
National Injury Prevention Foundation

# Family Arrives



ThinkFirst



ThinkFirst

[www.thinkfirst.org](http://www.thinkfirst.org)

**ThinkFirst**  
National Injury Prevention Foundation

**"Here's the truth: For most parents, nothing you will deal with as a parent will be more important, more life and death, than how your teenager uses -- and misuses -- a motor vehicle"**

*Dr. Dale Wisely, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist*

**CRASHES**

Aren't

~~ACCIDENTS~~

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[www.thinkfirst.org](http://www.thinkfirst.org)

**ThinkFirst**  
National Injury Prevention Foundation

# Impact of Injuries



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# Potential Consequences

## Caring for a traumatically brain or spinal cord injured teen

- Bathing, dressing, feeding
- Driving to doctor & rehab appointments
- Modifying your home to make it accessible
- Dealing with grief and changes in your child



# Driver's Consequences

- Drive to your job?
  - No car = no work
  - No work = no \$
  - Potential career limitations
- Social life?
  - No car = not many choices
  - May not be able to go out for awhile
- Home life?
  - dependant on parents
  - Some injuries may take many months to heal
  - Some injuries may never heal



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Despite the fact that seat  
belts are the

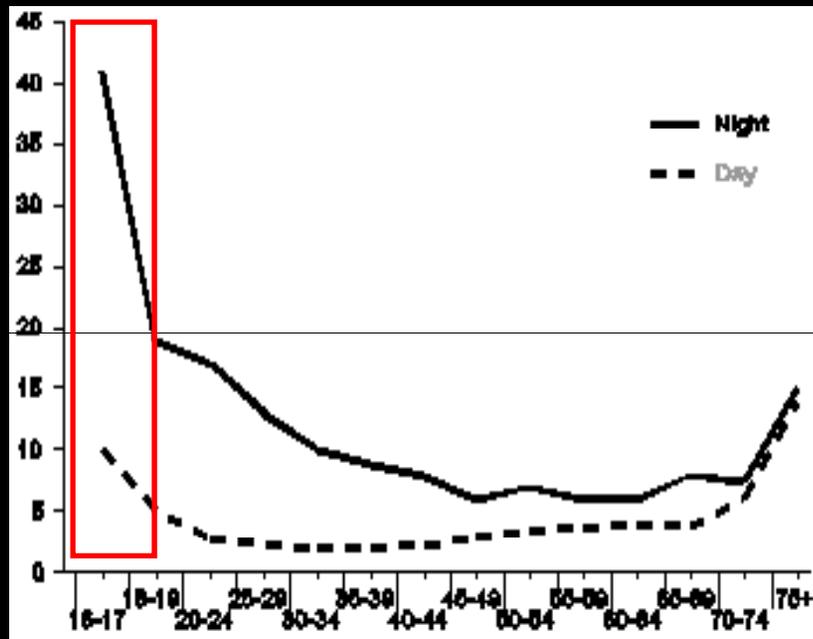
**most effective**

means of preventing serious injury and death

**teens** wear them

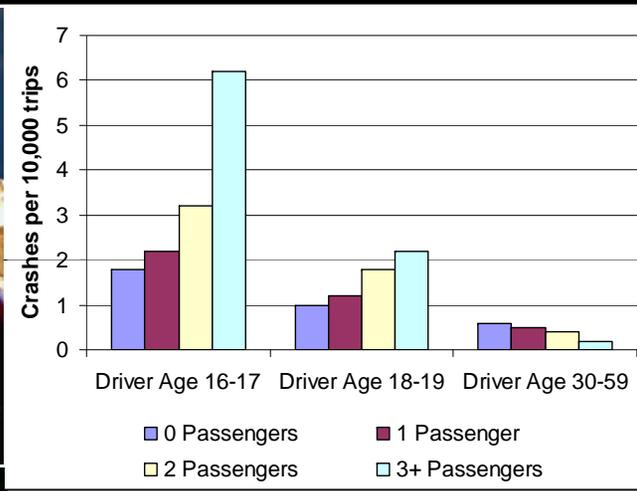
**less frequently**  
than any other age group

More fatal crashes occur at night and at higher rates for younger drivers.



After GDL permit time is completed, consider imposing a driving curfew of no later than midnight.

A new driver's risk of crashing increases exponentially (from .5x to 4x), as teen passengers are added.



Continue to impose passenger restrictions even after the GDL restrictions have been lifted.

**Safety seeking behaviors  
decrease as sensation  
seeking behaviors increase.**



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**There is an inverse relationship  
between a teen's risk perception and  
actual behavior.**



**Increased levels of testosterone and MAO inhibitors lead to an increase in sensation-seeking behaviors.**



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# Why?



ThinkFirst

[www.thinkfirst.org](http://www.thinkfirst.org)

**ThinkFirst**  
National Injury Prevention Foundation

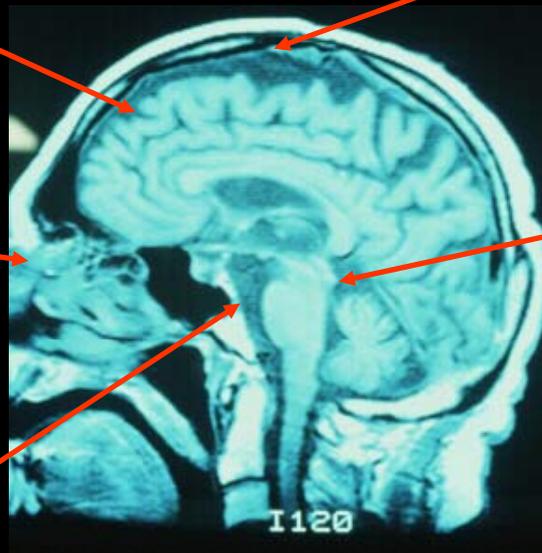
# The Adolescent Brain

Prefrontal Cortex

Hormonal bath

Ocular Rotaris  
Muscle

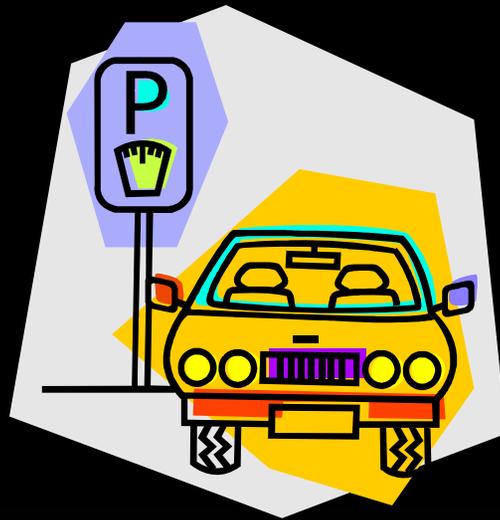
Sarcastic  
Vocal Center



Center for Selective Receptive Dysphasia

# To move toward adulthood teens must:

- Achieve independence from parents
- Expand relationships outside the family
- Increase decision-making skills



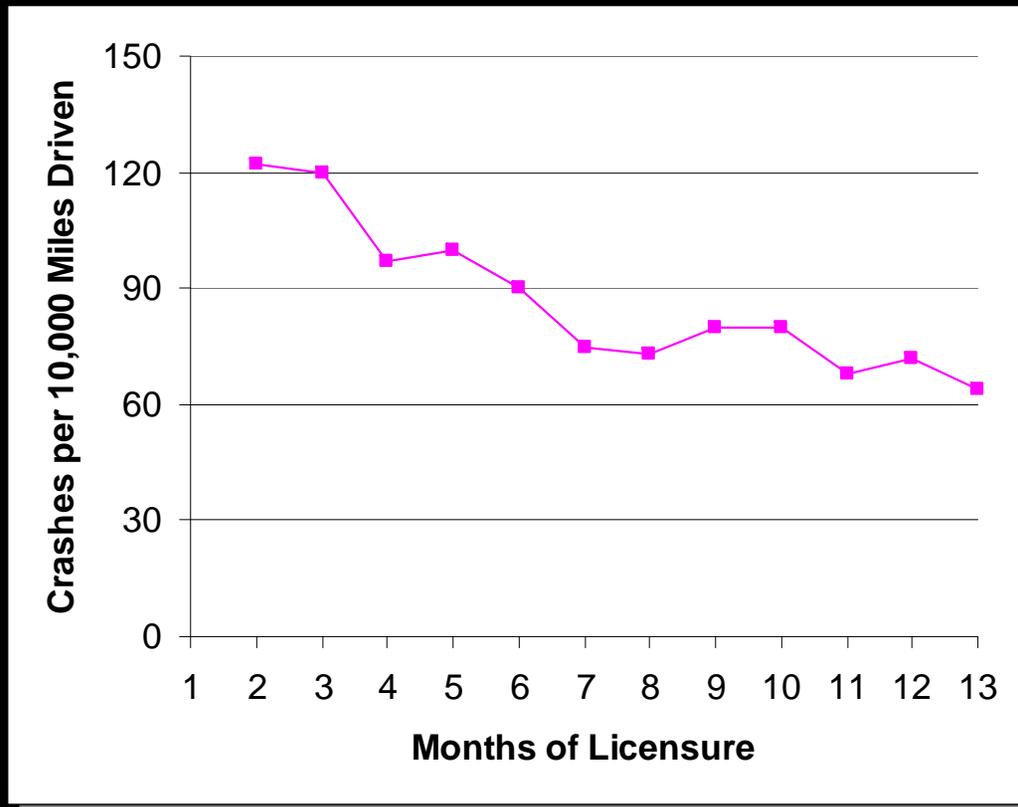
ThinkFirst

# Teach Your Teen to Drive Safely

- Before your teen gets their permit – teach them to scan their environment.
- Work from basic to more complex skills.
- After they get their permit
  - Start practicing with only you and your teen in the car.
  - Keep early lessons short, about 10-20 minutes.



**There is a steep drop in crash risk as new drivers gain experience during the first 12 months of driving.**

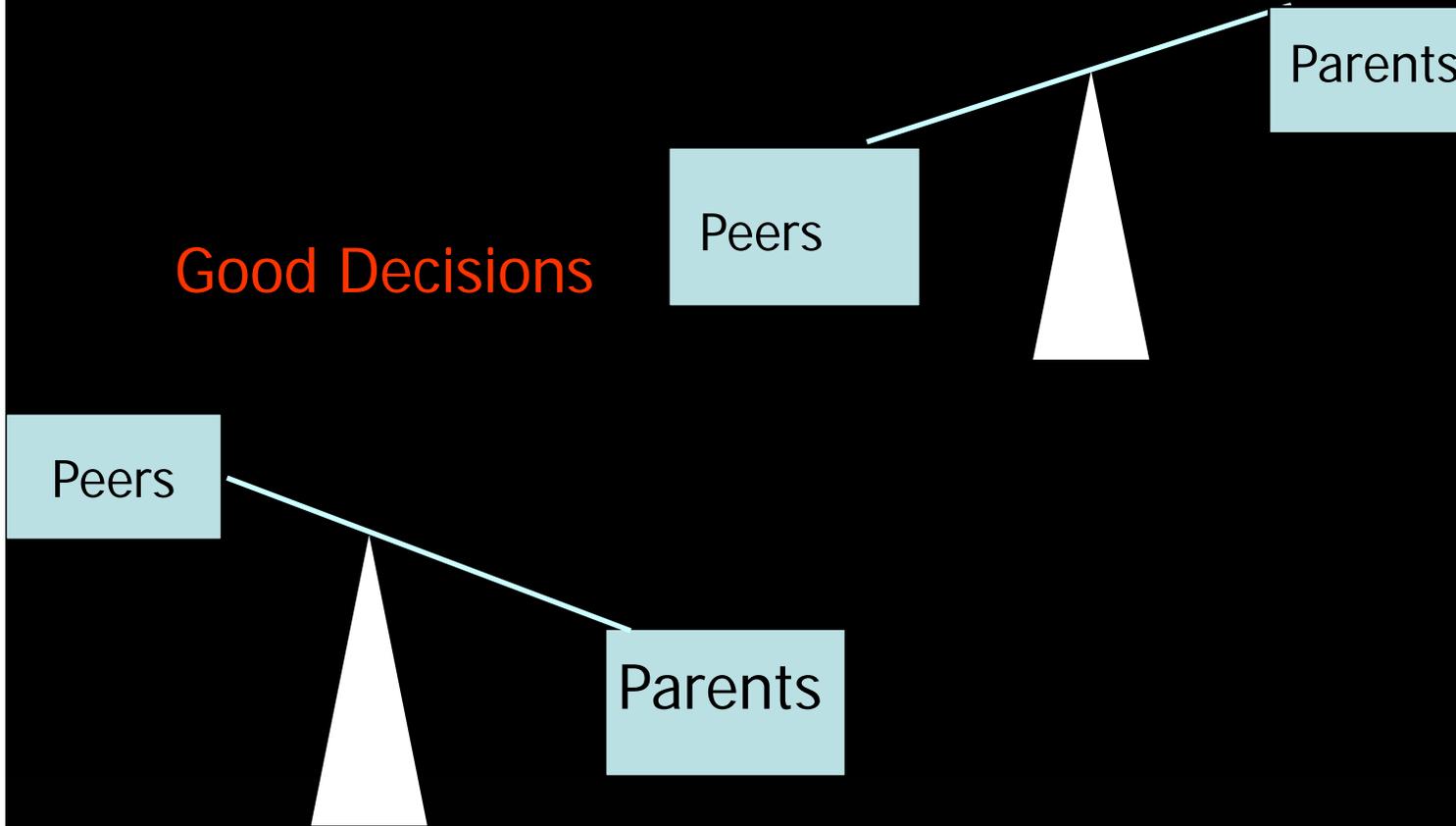


Mayhew, 2002

# Teen Decision-Making

Destructive Decisions

Good Decisions



ThinkFirst

Good decision-making  
is the last, best line of  
defense between  
teens and trauma.



ThinkFirst

*Life all about*  
**choices**

*Teach your teen to ...*

***Think First!***

ThinkFirst

# Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit



# Warning!!

The following slides contain real pictures of local fatal crashes. There are no bodies but the crash scenes and the cars may be graphic.

We want to thank the parents of these victims who have graciously given their permission for us to share their stories with you.

## *Case # 1*

*November 12, 2004*

*Occurred on Old Shawnee Rd., west of  
Milford 9:50 p.m.*

- 1 Dead (16 yrs old), 2 injured
- Wet roadway at night
- Traveling into a curve on the wrong side of the road loses control and slams into tree on passenger side
- Passenger said driver was smoking marijuana while driving
- Seat belts not used properly

This vehicle entered a curve too fast  
for rainy weather conditions



See dent left by  
tree? →



# Seat Belts not properly used

Car was equipped with automatic shoulder belts and manual lap belts. In this case only the shoulder belts were used.

You must use both!!



Back seat passenger wore no seat belt.

# 1 Dead & 2 Others injured!

(Impaired Driving possibly involved)



- The driver died from severe head trauma.
- Front seat passenger received severe cuts to his head.
- Back seat passenger sprained his ankle in the collision.

## *Case # 2*

*November 6, 2002*

*Occurred in the afternoon on Rt. 9 near Laurel*

- Driving brand new red Mustang on Rt. 9 toward Laurel
- Road was straight & weather was good
- Inattentiveness – 17 year old driver crossed the center line and hit dump truck head on
- 1 Dead - Teen driver

## **Inattentiveness caused the crash**



**Car pushed backwards 26 feet after impact!**

# No Seat belt results in death!



Airbag deployed  
– but airbags  
are  
supplemental  
restraint  
systems.

They're meant  
to work WITH  
seat belts to  
protect you, not  
in place of them.

**Focus all your attention on driving!**



**17 year old driver killed!**

## **Case # 3**

**January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007**

**Occurred on Rt. 5 near Longneck at 8:40 pm**

- Jeremy Mroz, age 16, was driving northbound in Sussex county in his 1999 Geo Tracker.
- Jeremy was driving on SR 5 near Longneck Road.
- Due to inexperience and excessive speed he lost control while attempting to pass another vehicle.

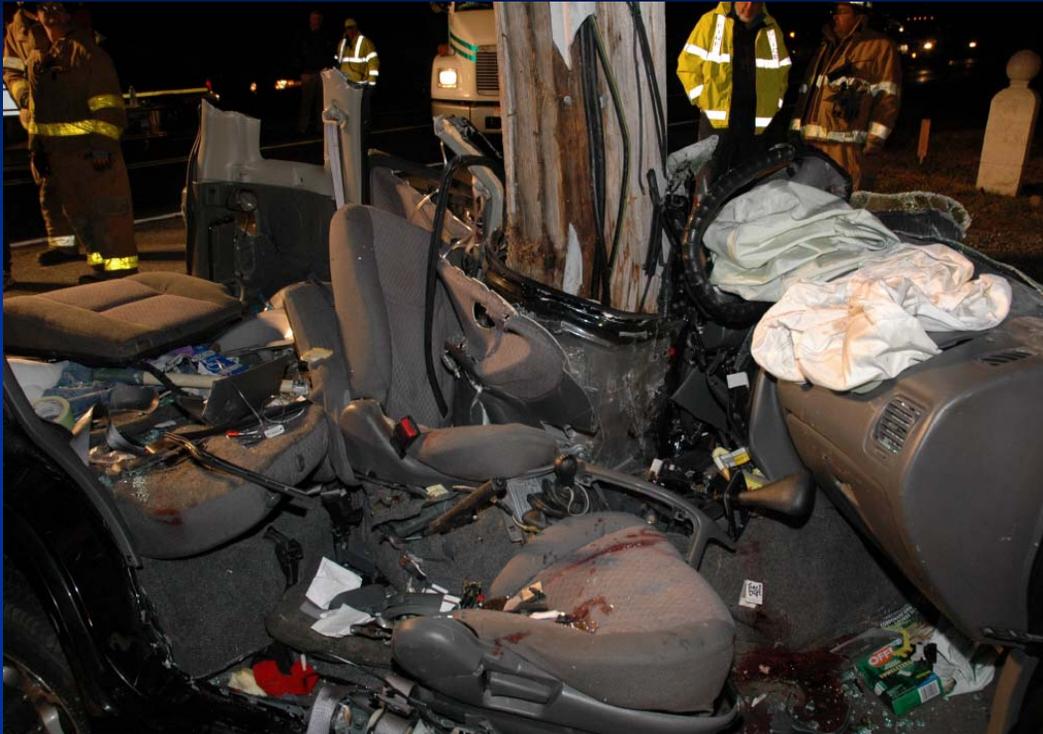
# *Impact was directly on his door*



Jeremy Mroz, age  
16, never had a  
chance!

He died during  
rescue attempt.





A family dog that was in the vehicle with Jeremy died as well..

## **VICTIM (Killed)**

Jeremy Mroz, age  
16

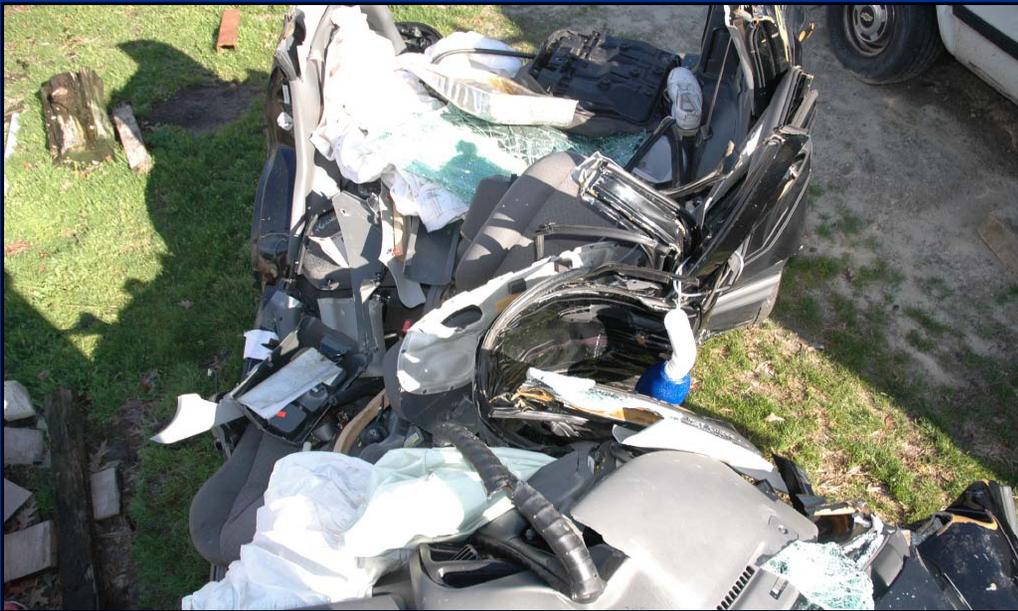
## **INJURIES**

Multiple Trauma.  
He died at the scene.

## **OCCUPANT RESTRAINTS:**

He was not wearing his seat belt.

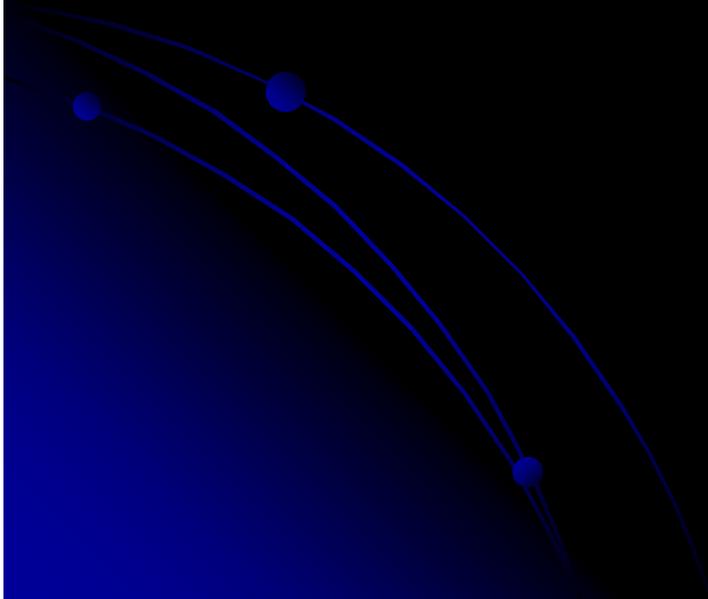
# Contributing Factors



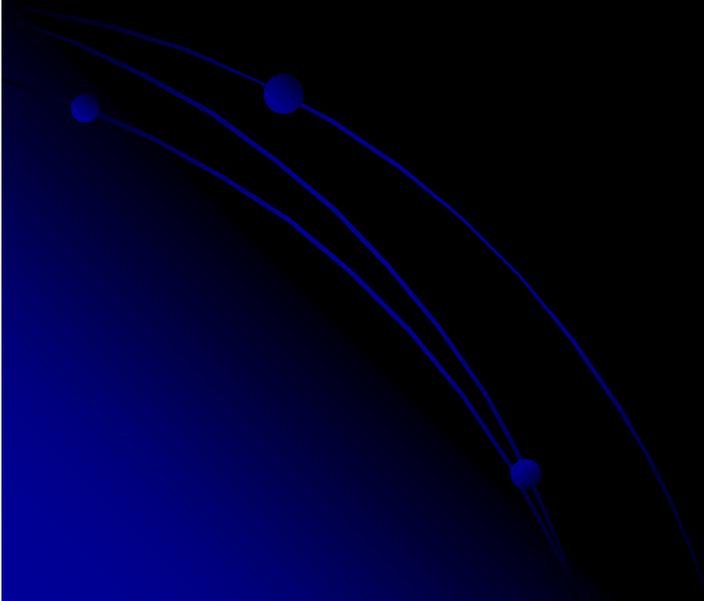
- Excessive Speed
- Inexperience
- No License
- No Seatbelt

Resulted in the death of a friend, classmate, son and a fellow teen driver!

# Memorial Tribute

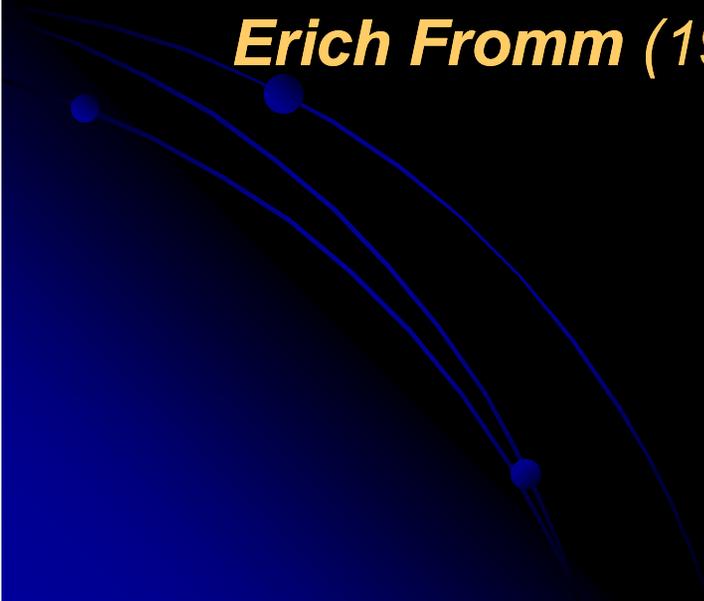


In Memory of Those Who  
Tragically Died Before Their  
Time.



“To die is poignantly bitter, but the idea of having to die without having lived is unbearable.”

*Erich Fromm (1900–1980), U.S. psychologist. Man for Himself, ch. 4 (1947).*



# Tori Amanda Ferrell

## Woodbridge High School

- Born:  
October 15,  
1986



- Died:  
November  
26, 2003

**17 years of age**

# Brad Thomas Edward Wright Milford High School

- Born: April 19,  
1988

- Died: November  
12, 2004



**16 years of  
age**

# Ashley M. Lecates

## Seaford High School

- Born: October 3, 1984
- Died: May 1, 2003



**19 years of age**

# Brian Vehec

## Cape Henlopen High School

- Born: April 29, 1985
- Died: July 18, 2004



**19 years of age**

# Melissa Archer

## Milford Middle School

- Born: September 2nd, 1988
- Died: September 13th, 2001



**13 years of age**

# Travis G. Smith

## Sussex Central High School

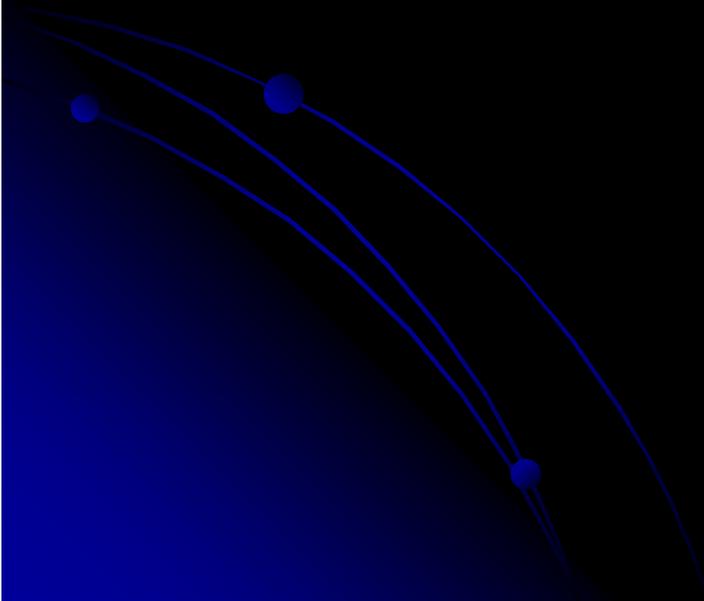
- Born: August 9, 1981
- Died: August 19, 2001



**20 years of age**

“And all the winds go sighing,  
For sweet things dying.

*Christina Rossetti (1830–94), English poet, lyricist. A  
Dirge.*



# Michelle L. Allabaugh

## Charter High School

- Born: June 19, 1987
- Died: July 15, 2003



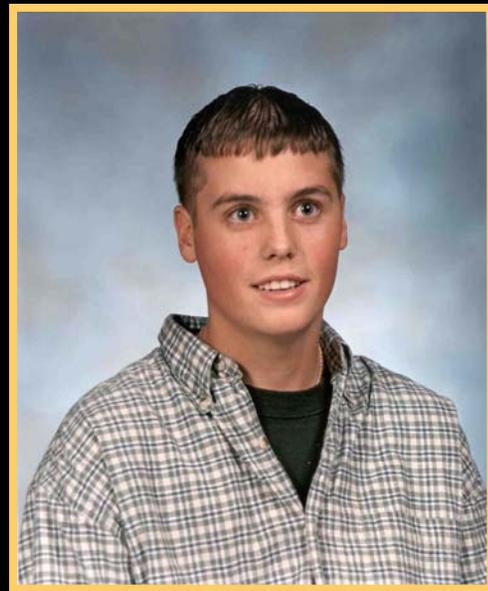
**15 years of age**

# Samuel W. Tatman III

## Lake Forest High School

- Born: August, 21st  
1983

- Died: April, 6th 2000



**16 years of age**

# Satara "Suki" Houston

## Sussex Tech High School

- Born: October 27, 1987
- Died: August 4, 2004



**16 years of age**

# Grant E. Crouse

## Seaford High School

- Born: June 8, 1986
- Died: December 25, 2002



● **16 years of age**

# Cara A. Tomosaitis

## Delmar High School

- Born: May 10,  
1988



- Died: July 25,  
2002

● 14 years of age

# Corey Barber

## Sussex Central High School

- Born: January 5, 1982
- Died: May 27, 2000



**18 years of age**

# Brock M. Montague

## Sussex Tech High School

- Born: July 20, 1985
- Died: November 6, 2002



**17 years of age**

# Timothy Duffield

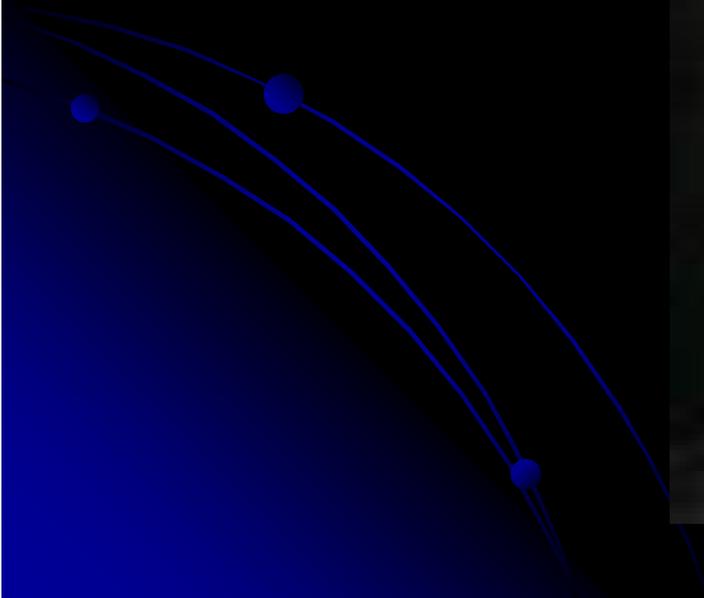
## Cape Henlopen High School

- Born: October 25, 1980
- Died: May 27, 2000



● **19 years of age**

Don't let your child become  
another tragic statistic. Drive with  
them often.



GDL Drive for Life!

