



## Passengers

Driving with friends can be fun, but it can also be risky. Passengers can distract you and make driving more dangerous. If a passenger is distracting you, it's okay to ask them to stop. You are in charge of keeping everyone in the vehicle safe. If you are a passenger, you also should speak up if you feel the driver is distracted or unsafe.

- Fewer people in the car means a lower chance of a crash.
- Talking or listening to music can make you less focused on driving.
- Ninety-four percent of teens think passengers are a distraction while driving.

*Source: Impact Teen Drivers*

## How Wisconsin law protects

Wisconsin has laws about how many passengers new drivers can have.

**Instruction Permit:** If you're younger than 18, a qualified adult must be in the front seat. You can only have immediate family members as other passengers.

**Probationary License:** For the first nine months or until you turn 18, you can only have immediate family members, one non-family member, and one qualified adult in the car. Breaking these rules can lead to them being extended, or losing your license.

**Qualified adult:** a person with two years of driving experience who holds a valid, regular license and sits in the front seat. If this person is an instructor, parent/legal guardian, or spouse they must be at least 19. Other adults must be 21 years of age.

*Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation*

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## Reduce your risk

- Always wear your seat belt, and make sure all passengers are wearing a seat belt.
- Know how many passengers you can have in your vehicle.
- Make sure everyone in your car follows safety rules.
- When you are a passenger, help reduce distractions.
- If you do not want to drive others, it's always okay to say no.
- Follow family rules about passengers.

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