

Teen Driving Program

Passengers

While driving with friends in the car can be convenient and fun, some of the most hazardous situations are created by peer passengers. If one of your passengers is doing something to distract you, it's okay to ask them to stop; you are responsible for the safety of yourself and your passengers.



- With each additional passenger in the car, crash risk increases for teens.
- Just listening to someone speaking results in decreased brain activation, which means you're concentrating less on the road.
- A teen is 2.5 times more likely to engage in risky driving behaviors with a teen passenger.

How Wisconsin law protects

Wisconsin's Graduated Driver Licensing Law limits the number of passengers in the car during the Instruction Permit and Probationary License periods:

Instruction Permit: If younger than 18, a qualified adult must be in the front passenger seat at all times. Other passengers allowed are immediate family members only.

Probationary License: For the first nine months of licensing or until age 18, passengers allowed are immediate family members, one non-family member and one qualified adult.

Qualified adult: a person with two years 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

Reduce your risk

- Always wear a seat belt.
- Know how many passengers you're allowed by law.
- When you're the driver, enforce safe riding rules within your car.
- If you are uncomfortable transporting other people in your car, it's always okay to say no.
- Family rules for driving might be more strict than the law.