

## STATISTICS

- \* Car crashes are the #1 killer of teens-taking 3,000 young lives every year. Up to 8 teen deaths a day that can be prevented.
  - \* 2011 fatalities: 1,286
  - \* Ten year fatality total: 14,647
  - \* Annual economic cost for Pennsylvania due to motor vehicle crashes \$8.17 billion.
  - \* 1 out of 5 teen drivers will have a crash in the first year of driving.
  - \* Reaching for a phone while driving increases your risk of a crash by nine times.
  - \* Texting and driving can increase your risk of crashing by 23 times.
  - \* Texting takes our eyes off the road for an average of 5 seconds (At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field completely blind. RESEARCH shows that text messaging had the longest duration of eye-off-the-road time 4.6 seconds over a six-second interval).
  - \* Eight percent of all crashes involve driver inattention within three seconds of the crash.
  - \* 49 percent of teens say texting is the biggest distraction behind the wheel.
- (Allstate)
- \* Death role: 16 & 17 year olds
    - \* 2 out of 3 are males
    - \* 54% are drivers
    - \* 30% had no seat belt protection
    - \* 20% had alcohol/drug impairment
  - \* More than 75% of fatal teen collisions are **NOT** caused by alcohol or drugs.
  - \* More than 5,000 teen deaths could be prevented by eliminating unsafe driving behaviors and distractions such as texting, eating or having friends in the car.
- ([impactteendrivers.org](http://impactteendrivers.org))

## INSURANCE COMPANIES THAT OFFER DISCOUNTS

(Completion of Classroom Instruction & Behind The Wheel Training)

- \* Allstate
- \* Erie Insurance
- \* State Farm
- \* Nationwide
- \* Progressive

## OUR STORY

*On January 16, 2011 a tragedy occurred and four boys were taken unexpectedly in an automobile accident in Manheim, PA. One of those boys happened to be my son, Nick. There have been many challenges and emotions that overwhelmed me since that day and I continued to feel lost. I missed him so much it created a lot of pain and lots of tears, with moments of horrible sorrow. The best way to honor him was to make the best of my life until the time we are together again both in spirit. As the days passed and I realized my son wasn't coming home I wanted to channel my negative energy and grief into something positive. As a result of this, I have come together with three other mothers to offer support and compassion to other families coping with their loss and who are struggling to rebuild their lives. We have dedicated ourselves to supporting families and educating teens. We believe going back to basics and educating our teens on the road and in our schools would decrease fatalities saving one life at a time. We support drivers education in our school systems and assist families with their needs if ever faced with a tragedy of losing a child.*

~Melannie Bryson

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Mourning Light is dedicated to supporting families coping with the loss of a child. We are committed to educating teenagers on the consequences that high risk behaviors can have on themselves and those around them

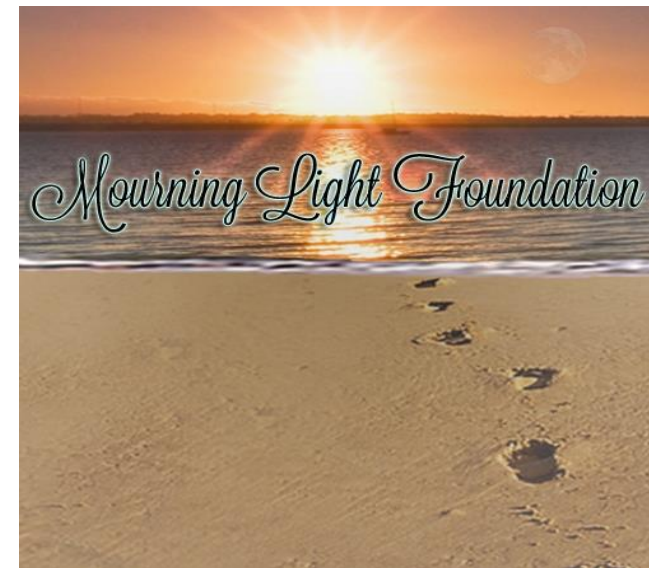
**Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 cause of death/injury if you are between the ages of 13 to 19 years of age.**

([Impactteendrivers.org](http://Impactteendrivers.org))

# Mourning Light

# Foundation

## Educating Teens



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

PO Box 481, Manheim PA 17545  
contact@mourninglightfoundation.org  
717-572-5495 or 717-940-6431

501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
All donations are tax deductible. ID #46-0639468

## LEARNER'S PERMIT

- \* Mandatory six months skill building before road test.
- \* Certification of 65 hours behind-the-wheel skill building, including no less than 10 hours of nighttime driving and five (5) hours must be driven in poor weather conditions.
- \* Supervising adult must be 21 or older.
- \* Permit valid for one year.
- \* Number of passengers must not exceed number of seat belts in vehicle.
- \* Mandatory 90-day suspension for six-point or more accumulation, or a single high-speed conviction (26 m.p.h. or more over posted speed limit).

## Junior Drivers License Act 81

- \* 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. driving restriction.
- \* Number of passengers must not exceed number of seat belts in vehicle.
- \* Mandatory 90-day suspension for six-point or more accumulation, or a single high-speed conviction (26 m.p.h. or more over posted speed limit).
- \* You may not carry more than one (1) passenger under the age of 18 who is not an immediate family member unless supervised by an adult licensed driver who is in the vehicle with you. After the first six (6) months of driving on a junior license, the limit is increased to no more than three (3) passengers under the age of 18 who are not immediate family members unless your parent(s) or guardian(s) is in the vehicle. The increased limit does not apply to any junior driver who has ever been involved in a crash in which they were partially or fully responsible or who is convicted of any driving violation.

## FULL UNRESTRICTED LICENSURE

- \* Possible with:
- \* Crash and conviction-free record for 12 months.
- \* Completion of an approval driver education course.
- \* If you have a regular license and you are under age 18, the following still apply:
- \* Number of passengers must not exceed number of seat belts in vehicle
- \* Mandatory 90-day suspension for six-point or more accumulation, or a single high-speed conviction (26 m.p.h. or more over posted speed limit).

## WEBSITES

- \* [Mourninglight.wdtsonline.com](http://Mourninglight.wdtsonline.com)
- \* [www.impactteendriver.org](http://www.impactteendriver.org)
- \* [www.allstateteendriver.com](http://www.allstateteendriver.com)
- \* [www.teendriving.statefarm.com](http://www.teendriving.statefarm.com)
- \* [www.saferoads4teens.org](http://www.saferoads4teens.org)
- \* [www.driveithome.org](http://www.driveithome.org)
- \* [www.nsc.org/safety\\_road/teendriving](http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/teendriving)
- \* [www.justdrivepa.org](http://www.justdrivepa.org)
- \* [www.journeysafe.org](http://www.journeysafe.org)
- \* [www.teendriversource.org](http://www.teendriversource.org)
- \* [www.cdc.gov/parentsarethekey](http://www.cdc.gov/parentsarethekey)

## BASIC FACTS ABOUT TEEN DRIVING

- \* Motor vehicle crashes remain the #1 cause of death for adolescents.
- \* One in five ninth through 11th graders has been involved in at least one crash as a passenger in the past year.
- \* The fatality risk of drivers aged 16-17 years is 3.6 times higher when they are driving with passengers than they are driving alone.
- \* The per mile crash for teenaged drivers is 3 times higher after 9:00 pm.
- \* The greatest lifetime chance of crashing occurs in the first 6 months after license.

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

- \* Cell phone calls and texting increase crash risk significantly, and teens are particularly affected. Research shows that texting while driving can take your eyes off the road for an average of almost five seconds. In 2009, 16 percent of all fatal crashes for people under the age of 20 were reported to involve distracted driving.
- \* Nearly half the teens that died in car crashes in 2009 were killed between 3 p.m. and midnight.
- \* The presence of even one passenger increases the chance of a fatal crash, and the presence of just one male passenger nearly doubles those odds.
- \* Using lap/shoulder belts can reduce the risk of dying in a car crash by 45%.
- \* In 2009, speed-related crashes accounted for 34% of fatalities among 16-to-19-year-olds.
- \* Thirteen percent of high school seniors reported driving under the influence of marijuana, a number nearly equivalent to those who reported driving under the influence of alcohol.
- \* Good grades aren't just important for your teen's future career, they are also indicative of safe driving behavior. When riding as a passenger in a car driven by a teen, help the driver get to your destination safely by: Not having more people in the car than is allowed by law, Discourage cell phone use and texting while driving, Refuse to get into the car when driver is drunk or drugged, and avoid situations and teen drivers that you feel could place your safety at risk. (Allstate)
- \* Understanding your state's laws.
- \* Empower teenagers to find their voice and reinforce how important it is to speak up in dangerous situations.
- \* Talk early and often with your teen about safe driving and safe passenger habits and help them find their voice.
- \* Teach teens what it means to be a designated passenger.
- \* Encourage your local high schools and youth groups to create a safe driving culture and teach JourneySafe.
- \* Make careful decisions about your teen's driver education and training.
- \* Don't rush your teen into driving or push them into driving in conditions that make them feel uncomfortable.
- \* Exercise your parental rights.
- \* Create a teen-parent driving contract. (journeysafe.org)