

Safe Driving Teen Monthly Bulletin

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Underage Drinking Changes Teen's Life After Crash

Source: <http://www.wnem.com> ♦

Lessons Learned

A teen in Michigan was charged with second-degree murder in February for a head-on collision resulting in the death of a young mother while driving under-the-influence. Toxicology reports revealed that Zachary Lee Parker's blood alcohol content was over twice the limit set by law. The mother, Mariah Bailey Collins died at the scene. Her husband and 11-year-old son were also in the vehicle.

If he is found guilty, Parker could face a life term in prison. But regardless of the legal penalty he receives, the defendant could spend the rest of his life haunted by the damage he caused. All of this trauma could have

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For Teens and their Parents



been avoided if 18-year-old Zachary Parker had not made the choice to drink underage and if he had not compounded that mistake by making the choice to drive under-the-influence of alcohol.

According to statistics published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the year 2011, 32 percent of young drivers killed between the ages of 15 and 20 were found to have alcohol in their system. And 26 percent of them had a blood alcohol content of .08, which is the limit that defines a driver as legally impaired.

It might also have helped if Parker had known of existing support systems for teenagers who might feel social pressure to drink. One such system is "AboveTheInfluence", an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for the up-and-coming generation and encouraging them to be sober-minded role models for their friends.

SADD, Students Against Destructive Decisions, is another such effort. A self-proclaimed peer-to-peer organization, SADD has been educating youth for 30 years on the promotion of responsible values. And the program has demonstrated much growth. In 2012, SADD partnered with the Sundance Channel and Seventeen Magazine to run a campaign on social media to increase awareness on the dangers of drinking alcohol under the legal age.

The important thing to remember if you're a teen is

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that there are people out there who care about your future. If you or a friend have a drinking problem, it's vital to get help before becoming another statistic.

Visit SADD.org and AboveTheInfluence.com to learn more.

Technology Helping Parents Keep Their Kids Safe On The Road

According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, 52 percent of all traffic-related infractions involve teens exceeding the speed limit. While proper parenting can incentivize responsible-driving behavior, parents can't always count on their teens to exhibit safe-driving habits. Thanks to new developments in driver-monitoring applications, they don't have to!

One such application, MyKey system by Ford, allows the setting of maximum speeds and prompts for securing seatbelts. Another application, [Canary](#), provides parents with notifications upon their teenager's violation of responsible-driving behavior. And for teens that lack self-constraint, the app, Drive Off, will disable his or her phone when the vehicle exceeds 10 mph, preventing a collision that might occur due to driver error while texting.

In addition, parents can supervise teen drivers with [DriveCam](#), providing streaming video of real-time driving, and DMV practice-tests can be utilized online to better prepare him to pass the written permit-exam.

For parents who need better peace-of-mind, technology is providing more and more ways to prepare their teenage drivers to take to the road responsibly.

Source: <http://www.smartmomsolutions.com> ♦

Do You Know Someone That Does Not Wear A Seat Belt?

Responsible driving for teens is as big of a concern for Canadians as it is for us in Florida. Countylive.ca recently published an article about the dangers of distracted driving. Students at Greer Koutroulides in Ontario were presented with several videos underscoring how vulnerable our minds are to oversight.

The first video was a mental exercise that had viewers focus on counting the amount of passes taking place between two different teams. While many viewers may have counted correctly, most may never have noticed the moon-walking bear who danced through the middle of the scene.

The second video contained more graphics and portrayed a slow-motion car collision that resulted from a teenage girl who was texting while driving. The video emphasized how many people are affected by such irresponsible driving, highlighting the injured occupants, first responders and the medical unit aboard the arriving helicopter. The article also mentioned affected families and friends who are left to deal with the wake of such an incident. The author concluded by stating the only fool-proof way to prevent such tragedies is by pledging to never drive while distracted.

Back in America, the [IKnowEverything](#) program (by the Century Council) underlines the real-life threats that teenage drivers face when they drive while distracted or under-the-influence. According to a study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,

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motor vehicle collisions are the number one cause of death for teenagers. And in 2011, ten percent of all fatal car collisions involved drivers between the age of 15 and 20.

On January 18, three teenagers in West Virginia were killed in a collision that resulted from irresponsible driving. While driving above the speed limit, Kristyn Butcher of Newell attempted to make a pass in a no-passing zone resulting in a collision with a fire truck. All three teenage passengers were ejected, serving as evidence that seat belts were not being used.

These incidents should serve as a fateful reminder that no one is immune from the consequences of irresponsible driving. By obeying the law, driving fully alert, and following safe-driving practices, we can prevent such collisions from taking place.

Source: <http://www.Countylive.ca> ♦

What's Wrong with this Picture??



This man is driving to work without wearing his seat belt. In the last story, you read about three teens who were killed after being ejected from the vehicle during a crash. A seat belt really can be the difference between life and death. If your parents don't wear seat belts, let them know that it is important to you that they do. Encouragement from loved ones always goes a lot further than government agency mandates.

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