

# Safe Driving Teen Monthly Bulletin

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## Is it illegal to drive with earbuds?



Whether it's earbuds for music or earplugs to drown out the noise, the answer is yes; it's illegal to wear any type of earplugs in both ears while driving. The only type of earplug allowed by law is that for a hearing aid in one ear. For those blessed with good hearing, your

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For Teens and their Parents



hearing is a very important tool to warn you of dangers on the road. You need to be able to hear if an emergency vehicle is approaching so that you can get out of the way. The sound of screeching tires can alert you to a possible crash. Even the sound of your engine or the hum of your tires can alert you to a possible mechanical problem.

As soundproofing technology improves in vehicles, the sounds of the roadway are getting harder to hear. Modern cars have more soundproofing for a quieter ride and we tend to drive with the windows rolled up, the air-conditioner on, and the radio cranked up. That tends to block out all of those important roadway sounds that we need to hear and wearing earplugs just makes it that much more dangerous.

If you're wondering then, how can deaf people drive? I grew up in the deaf community and was taught to drive – safely – by my deaf father. Drivers who are deaf or hard of hearing are perfectly safe drivers. They aren't distracted by cell phones, the radio, air-conditioner, etc. and that allows them to pay even more attention to the roadway conditions around them; something every driver should try to do.

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

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## Teens Pick Up Parents Bad Driving Habits

Almost one-third of parents responding to a survey feel that they have passed their own bad driving habits on to their teens. The study showed that 29 percent of parents feel their teen is practicing the same bad driving behaviors that they repeat behind the wheel.



### Modeling Your Behavior

Any parent who has let a bad word escape their lips only to hear their toddler immediately repeat it can easily understand that kids tend to copy their parents behaviors. However, many parents fail to realize that their child has been observing their driving behaviors since they were in a car seat and it shouldn't be surprising that their teen would also copy their bad driving behaviors. When training a teen to drive, it isn't enough to say "Do as I say – not as I do!" If you want your teen to be a safe driver, you have to model the same type of safe driving behavior yourself.

### Changing Bad Habits

**Ready to get your Learners Permit?**

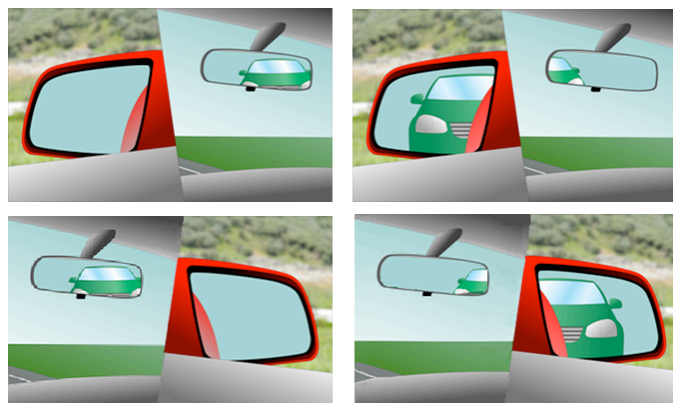


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Teens have no tolerance for hypocritical behavior in adults. If you know some of your driving behaviors (such as speeding or trying to beat a yellow light) aren't safe, you need to get rid of those bad habits and then, let your child know you are making a conscious effort to change your driving behavior and why. A child will take that lesson to heart more easily if you are honest in your evaluation of your driving habits and the reasons for changing them.

If you need more help, consider voluntarily attending a driving school. There, you can hear safe driving tips and gain a better understanding of how your driving habits could lead to a crash. You can also pick up information on new traffic laws that you may not be aware of.

## Getting Rid Of Blind Spots



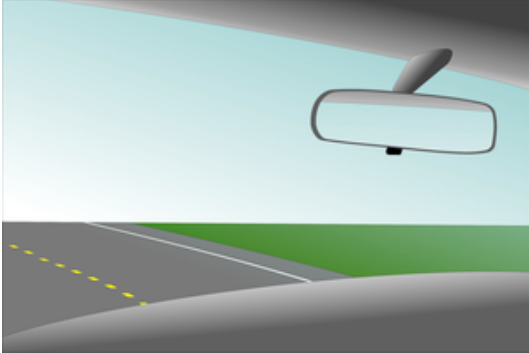
Blind spots are those areas toward the rear of your vehicle on each side that you can't see in your rearview mirrors. You can't get rid of them but you can reduce them tremendously.

Checking your blind spot before making a lane change is simple to do and it's a good habit to get into if you want to avoid a crash with a car that may be hidden behind you. To check your blind spot, you don't have to turn your body around, all you need to do is to turn your head to the left or right with your chin over your shoulder and you should be able to see anything that is there.

It's impossible to completely do away with blind spots but you can reduce them a great deal by the proper

positioning of your mirrors. This may take a little getting used to and you'll still have to check your blind spots but they'll be a lot smaller. To properly adjust your mirrors:

Step 1. – Adjust your center mirror so that it covers the greatest area possible behind your vehicle.



Step 2. – Lean your body over to the left until your head touches the window and then, adjust your left (driver) side mirror until you just barely see the rear of your vehicle on the right hand side of the mirror.



Step 3 – Now lean your head over to the right about the same distance as you did on the left and adjust your right (passenger) side mirror the same way.



It's impossible to completely do away with blind spots but you can reduce them a great deal by the proper Now, sitting upright, with both outside mirrors adjusted this way, as a vehicle moves over to pass, you'll see it divided between the two mirrors. Once it moves completely into the other lane, you'll be able to see it in your outside mirror almost up to the point where it enters your peripheral (side) vision.

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

## Second Half of 100 Deadliest Days For Teens

We are halfway through the 100 deadliest days for teens; that period between Memorial and Labor Day when, according to the AAA, the chances for teens to be involved in a crash increase by 26%.



Read more: [Police, AAA team up to help keep teen drivers safe](#) ♦

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