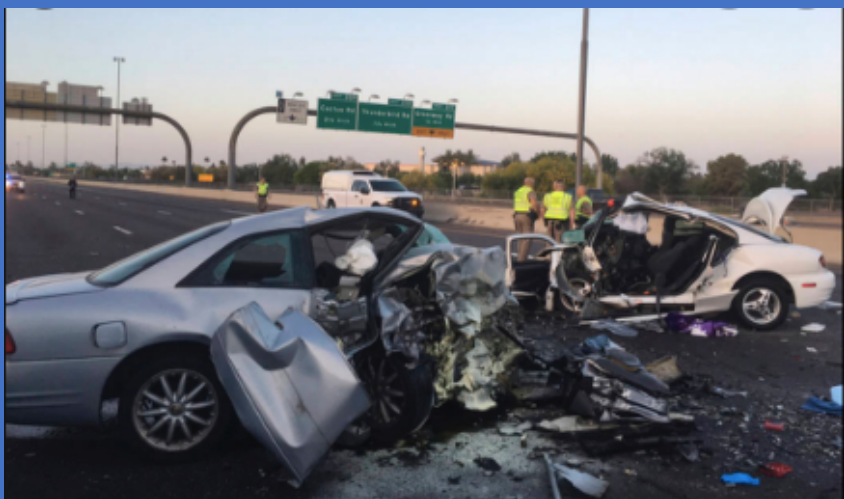


Simple and Safe Driving Tips for Parents and Teens to Save Money and Lives!



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Personal Injury Attorneys



This book is dedicated to
the remarkable members in
our community in which we
live.

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Champions of Dignity & Truth

Personal Injury Attorneys

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Introduction and Statistics

- In Florida there are over 400,000 motor vehicle crashes annually, involving over 250,000 injuries and 3,000 deaths.
- The purpose of this booklet is to provide recommendations on how you and your family can *safely* arrive at your next destination.
- We are passionate about this because we have seen the carnage firsthand in the work that we do as personal injury attorneys.
- We've learned that almost all crashes are caused by one or more of the following:
 - Distracted driving;
 - Drunk or drugged driving; and/or
 - Drowsy driving.

What You Can Do as a Parents of a Teen Driver –

Know the Facts

- With more than 815,000 licensed teen drivers in the state of Florida, it is essential that teens practice *safe* driving.
- Legally in Florida, a motor vehicle is considered a dangerous instrumentality not unlike a gun or an explosive, so it is important to have a talk with your teen about all the legal and financial responsibilities that come along with having the privilege to drive.
- The first step to protecting you and your teen driver against dangerous driving is to be aware of the dangers and knowing the simple and *safe* preventative measures.

- Teens whose parents drive distracted are 2 to 4 times as likely to also drive distracted. As a parent you must lead by example, by never driving distracted.
- Distracted driving is extremely risky behavior that puts everyone on the road in danger. There are different kinds of driver distractions:
 - Visual: Taking your eyes off the road
 - Manual: Taking your hands off the wheel
 - Cognitive: Thinking about anything other than driving
- Legally a person may not operate a motor vehicle while manually typing or entering multiple letters, numbers, or symbols into a wireless communications device to text, email,

and instant message. Texting is the most dangerous of distracted driving behaviors.

- Other common distractions include eating, tending to kids or passengers in the back seat, watching an event outside of the vehicle, interacting with passengers, unsecured pets, putting on makeup or grooming, adjusting radio or climate controls, checking your GPS app or daydreaming.

Drunk and Drugged Driving:

- Everyday 29 people in the U.S die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired drive, that is one death every 50 minutes.
- In the State of Florida, it is illegal to drive with a .08% or higher blood alcohol content (BAC).

- This legal limit drops to .02 if you're under 21, meaning you can be charged with a DUI after just one single drink.

Drowsy Driving;

- In 2019 there were 697 fatalities in motor vehicle crashes that involved a drowsy driver.
- Being awake for at least 18 hours is the same as someone having a blood content (BAC) of .05%.
- Being sleepy affects your ability to drive *safely* even if you do not fall asleep, it can affect your ability to make decision, you'll have a slower reaction time and you'll be less attentive to the road.

What You Can Do as a Teen Driver – Safety Tips

- As a first-time driver, it can be a very exciting time to finally have a car and start driving and by creating *safe* driving habits and knowing the dangers of the road you can create habits that will ensure that you and your loved ones arrive at the next destination *safely*.
- According to the FLHSMV, in the past five years there have been a total of 463 teen driver fatal crashes and 4,061 teen driver serious bodily injuries.
- Here are some driver *safety* tips:
Before you drive:
 - Put on your seat belt and make sure all your passengers buckle up, too.

- When driving to a new place, get complete directions and set your GPS before you go. In other words, figure out exactly where you are going before you put the car in drive.
- Keep passengers at a minimum. Extra passengers can be distracting for an inexperienced teen driver. Ideally, as a new driver, you should have no more than one passenger in the vehicle with you. You should never try to fit more people in the car than you have seatbelts.
- Legally when you are 16 and have a drivers license you cannot drive between the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. When you are 17 those hours change from 1:00 a.m. to 5:00

a.m. unless accompanied by a 21-year-old or driving to or from work.

- Be aware that most DUIs and fatalities occur at night. Nearly half of teen death crashes happen at night; more specifically between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.
- Be responsible, never drive impaired, and never ride with anyone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Call parents or friends to take you home if you need a ride.
 - Remember that the legal blood alcohol content (BAC) drops to .02% if you're under 21, meaning you can be charged with a DUI after just one single drink. You can also face up to \$1,000.00 in fines, up to one year in jail and your

license revoked for up to two years for possessing alcohol under age.

While you drive:

- Don't blast your music. You might miss hearing a siren or a horn that could warn you of possible trouble.
- Use turn signals to indicate your intention to turn or to change lanes and to give the drivers behind you enough time to react before you take the action.
- Obey all speed limits, stops signs, and traffic lights. Going too fast gives you less time to stop or react.
- Keep your eyes on the road, hands on the wheel and mind on driving. Don't adjust the radio or any device, talk or text on your cell

phone. Wait until you can pull over *safely* and stop because even taking your focus off the road for a few seconds could lead to a crash.

- Don't forget that driving is a privilege. The parent or guardian who signs your Parental Consent Form is financially responsible for any accident you cause or law you break and can cancel your license.
- If you get six or more points on your license as a teen within 12 months, your license will be restricted to "business purposes only" for one year.
- You must be in compliance with school attendance or else you will be ineligible to

obtain or maintain your license. If you're convicted of possession of tobacco, you can lose your license for a minimum of 30 days.

- You can encourage your family and friends to sign a pledge to never drive distracted and make the commitment to drive phone free.
 - See sample pledge. Pg. 18
- By using different social media platforms your message about *safe* driving can be shared to your neighbors, friends, and family about how deadly it can be to drive distracted, under the influence and while being drowsy.

Useful Apps

Apple iPhone:

Apple's Do Not Disturb while Driving mode blocks incoming calls and text messages when the user's iPhone senses the vehicle is moving or connected to a car through Bluetooth.

- Parents can even enable this on their teens device with a parent protected passcode that would allow the teen to not turn it off.

DriveMode:

How it works: Once your car hits 15 mph, DriveMode silences alerts, phone calls and texts and can send out autoreplies. Parents can sign up to receive alerts when this *safe* driving app is turned off or disabled by their teenage children.

While the app is triggered, users can still listen to music and use navigation tools.

- Cost: Free
- Platforms: Android and iOS

EverDrive

How it works: Compete with your friends, family and even drivers in your neighborhood to see who can drive the *safest* with this app. EverDrive rates you on acceleration, braking, cornering, speed and phone use. It then gives you a trip grade to compare with your pals' scores.

- Cost: Free
- Platforms: Android and iOS

LifeSaver:

How it works: LifeSaver runs silently in the background, then activates when you start driving. Employers can use this *safe* driving app to see fleet driver performance and send daily or weekly email reports that detail distracted driving violations. LifeSaver also has a special portal for parents, which includes a rewards system for drivers.

- Cost: Free
- Platforms: Android and iOS

TrueMotion Family:

How it works: This app provides an overall picture of your family's driving. Each car trip gets graded on a 100-point scale, allowing you to measure improvement over time and see how family

members compare One of the factors taken into account is distracted driving. Using this app, you'll be able to see if your teen engaged in behavior like text messaging while behind the wheel.

- Cost: Free
- Platforms: Android and iOS


OnMyWay:

How it works: OnMyWay is a well-known app that rewards you for not texting while driving by giving you points for each mile you drive over 10 MPH and don't text. You can spend your OnMyWay cash on gift cards, special deals, or even straight cash deposited into your PayPal or Venmo account.

- Cost: free
- Platforms: Android and iOS

Appendix: Sign the Pledge

As a family, we pledge to be attentive drivers:
We pledge to drive distraction free for our own
safety and for the *safety* of others we share
the roads with. We choose to drive with
absolutely no distractions –



We will not:

- ✓ Have a phone conversation (handheld, hands-free, or via Bluetooth)
- ✓ Read or send texts
- ✓ Send Snapchats
- ✓ Use voice-to-text features in my vehicle's dashboard system or in my phone system such as Siri

- ✓ Update Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or any other social media
- ✓ Check or send emails
- ✓ Take selfies, pictures, or videos
- ✓ Input destinations into my GPS (while the vehicle is in motion)
- ✓ Call or message someone else when we know THEY are driving



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X _____
Signature Date

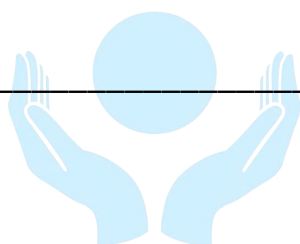
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Catherine M. Rinaldo has been a licensed attorney and member of the Florida Bar since 1985. She is the founding partner of Rinaldo Law Group which first opened its doors nearly 20 years ago. She is also active in the community and a leader among her peers. Over the past several years, she has served nonprofit boards in the community.



Nicholas F. Rinaldo, Esquire, has been a committed, driven, and passionate advocate for people in need for more than three decades. Mr. Rinaldo is licensed to practice law in the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, and the Supreme Court of the State of Florida.



Attorney Ryan L. Williford is passionate about advocating for the needs of others. He is a devoted and enthusiastic attorney and an advocate for those harmed by the wrongful acts of others. Prior to pursuing a legal career, Mr. Williford worked for a program at Catholic Charities.



Christy, is an experienced, 17-year paralegal. She is very passionate about helping people and has a strong sense for justice. Christy joined Rinaldo Law Group in April of 2012. She is a member of the Tampa Bay Paralegal Association, Florida Justice Association, and National Association of Legal Assistants (N.A.L.A.)

Compliments of Rinaldo Law Group "Personal Injury Attorneys"



For nearly 30 years, the attorneys at Rinaldo Law Group have built a solid reputation as trustworthy professionals. Founded on the principles of “Dignity and Trust”, the firm works hard to ensure their clients receive fair compensation for ALL their harms and losses in all types of personal injury cases.

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