



PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT FORM

As a Driver's Education Program certified by American Driver & Traffic Safety here on Okinawa, our goal is to substantially reduce the chance of a new driver being involved in any type of motor vehicle mishap. Regardless of age, inexperience is a major factor in new driver accidents.

Over the past 50 years, there has been a major progress in highway safety as evidenced by a substantial reduction in the number of traffic crash fatalities. In spite of this improvement, driving a motor vehicle remains among the most hazardous tasks most people will ever perform.

Tragically, in the U.S.A., traffic crashes still cause about 5,500 deaths annually among youth 16-20 years of age. In 1997, while drivers under age 19 made up only 3.5% of all licensed drivers in the United States, they were involved in 7.1% of the crashes. Between 1975 and 1996, the death rate for all licensed drivers dropped from 15 to 12 per 100,000.

However, for 16 years old drivers, the death rate increased from 19 per 100,000 drivers in 1975 to 35 in 1996. At the same time, the death rate for 17 to 19 year old drivers dropped slightly going from 27 to 25 per 100,000 licensed drivers. They accounted for nearly 16 percent of all driver and passenger deaths and 18 percent of all drivers and passengers injured. The age group with the next highest record of at fault crashes, 2 percent, was those 21 to 25 years of age. These findings reinforce the fact that generally it takes a new driver at least five years to develop the judgment and skills exhibited by the average driver.

Regardless of age, the first six months are especially critical driving periods for all new drivers. Due to inexperience, new drivers have proportionally higher crash and violations rates than do more experienced drivers.

Extending the practice of driving under direct supervision over a longer period of time can assist new drivers in acquiring essential driving experience. Parent/Mentor involvement after initial license received, has the potential to provide the equivalent of two to three years of experience for the new driver.

Parent's/Mentor's appreciation of the level of risk associated with the early years of driving is important. This increased risk exists regardless of how mature and responsible parents/mentor perceives the new driver to be. To a great degree, parents, mentors, guardians or custodians are in a position to control the driving behavior of the new driver.

There will be 6 hour In-Car Lessons designed for Behind the Wheel training and instructions. Typically, the lessons instructed will take more than one In-Car practice session if the skills and habits are to be mastered. At times two or more lessons may be combined for a given practice session when a similar environment is specified for both lessons.

Each instructional In-Car Lesson serves as a model and foundation for future driving condition/situations. New drivers should recognize that conscious awareness and preparation is a must while operating a motor vehicle.

Parent/Adult, Guardian Signature & Date: _____