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## TEENS (Teen Electronic Event Notification Service) PROGRAM FAQs

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### What is the TEENS program?

The TEENS (*Teen Electronic Event Notification Service*) program is a voluntary free notification service provided by NYS DMV that notifies a parent or guardian of teenage drivers under age 18, in the event that a conviction, suspension, revocation, or accident has appeared on the younger driver's license record.

### What kind of Notification?

DMV will send a letter, acknowledging participation in the TEENS program and indicating that a reportable event had occurred. Attached to the letter will be a Department of Motor Vehicles driver license file abstract for the young driver involved. On the abstract you will find the revocation, suspension, conviction or accident. DMV will send the notification letter to the address on the parent/guardian's license (or non-driver ID) record.

### Why does NYS DMV have the TEENS program?

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of people ages 16-17. Teenage drivers in New York State are over represented in fatal and personal injury crashes. For the years 2004-2006, 16 and 17 year olds were only **1%** of all drivers. However, in that same time, **5%** of all motor vehicle crashes involved a 16- or 17-year-old driver.

Statistics aside, common sense tells us that sound decision-making and judgment, as well as an awareness of hazards, develop through experience. Add to that the often-common teen behaviors such as risk-taking and thrill seeking, along with peer pressure, which all put today's young driver in jeopardy. DMV wants to provide every tool possible to parents of young drivers to assist them in helping their young drivers to develop safe and responsible driving behaviors.

### Who can participate in the TEENS program?

Any parent or guardian who has a child under age 18, with a NYS driver permit or license may participate. There are some preconditions, however:

- The younger driver must be under the age of 18
- The parent/guardian must have given their consent for their child to get a permit or license
- The parent/guardian must have a NYS license or non-driver ID
- The parent/guardian must fill out an enrollment form and submit it to the Office for the Younger Driver

### How do I sign up for the TEENS program?

Parents or guardians can enroll in this program by downloading an enrollment form (MV-TEENS) from the DMV website, [www.nysdmv.com](http://www.nysdmv.com), (form also available at your local DMV office), filling it out, and mailing it to:

Office for the Younger Driver  
NYS Department of Motor Vehicles  
6 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12228

### What happens when my son/daughter turns 18?

On the participating young driver's 18th birthday, DMV's computers will recognize this fact, and participation in the program will automatically end. The young driver, now of legal age, no longer needs parental consent, and has the right of privacy over personal license file information.

### Will speeding or other tickets cause a notification?

No. No tickets, speeding or otherwise, will trigger a notification. However, if the driver pleads guilty to the ticket or is found guilty, a conviction *does* appear on the license, and a notification will be issued. Again, the TEENS program will only notify the parent/guardian in the case of a conviction, revocation, suspension, or an accident, not a ticket.

### Do ALL accidents appear on a driver's file?

No. Only accidents that are reported, AND meet the reporting threshold appear on a driver's file. The DMV reporting threshold for accidents is one that involves a death, personal injury or property damage to any one person in excess of \$1,000.

### What happens after I receive a notification?

DMV actions regarding convictions, suspensions, revocations, or accidents on the junior driver record will not change due to enrollment in this program. Notification of these events is done as an informational service. What you do with the information is entirely up to you. However, we suggest that you use the opportunity to talk to your young driver and discuss how to avoid similar occurrences in the future.