



ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT / MARYLAND

TEEN SAFE DRIVING WEEK

OCTOBER 18-24, 2026

YOUR FUTURE. YOUR FOCUS.

Buckle up. Put the phone away.
Make it home to what matters.



SIX CHOICES THAT PROTECT YOUR RIDE

01 PHONE AWAY

Silence notifications. Set your route before you move. No texts, calls or scrolling.

02 SLOW DOWN

Leave room to react. Reduce speed for rain, curves, darkness and traffic.

03 EVERYONE BUCKLED

Front seat and back. The car stays parked until everyone is properly restrained.

04 DRIVE SOBER

Alcohol, cannabis and other drugs can impair driving. Plan a safe ride.

05 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Extra passengers can raise crash risk. Keep the car calm and follow license limits.

06 REST BEFORE YOU GO

Fatigue and inexperience are a dangerous mix. Stop safely if you feel drowsy.

Risk themes: NHTSA Teen Driver Safety • trafficsafetymarketing.gov

PASSENGERS: SPEAK UP. YOUR SAFETY GETS A SAY.



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KNOW THE LAW. PROTECT YOUR LICENSE.

MARYLAND RULES FOR TEENS & DISTRACTED DRIVING

UNDER 18? HANDS-FREE IS NOT A FREE PASS.

Drivers under 18 may not use a wireless phone device, handheld or hands-free, while operating a vehicle. Contacting 911 is an exception. Texting is governed separately below. MVA may suspend a license for up to 90 days for a violation.

Md. Code, Transportation: § 21-1124

NO TEXTING. NO SCROLLING THROUGH MESSAGES.

All drivers: do not write, send or read texts or electronic messages while operating in the travel portion of the roadway. Statutory exceptions cover GPS use and contacting 911. Drivers under 18 may face up to 90 days of MVA suspension. Set navigation before driving.

Md. Code, Transportation: § 21-1124.1

18 OR OLDER? HANDHELD RESTRICTIONS STILL APPLY.

Learner's permit and provisional license holders age 18+ may not use a handheld phone while operating a vehicle. Other drivers in motion may use their hands only to start/end a call or turn the phone on/off. Statutory exceptions apply. Maximum fines: \$75 first, \$125 second, \$175 third or later offense.

Md. Code, Transportation: § 21-1124.2

PROVISIONAL LICENSE + UNDER 18 = EXTRA RULES.

Passengers: until the 151st day after issuance, no passengers under 18 unless a listed family exception or qualified supervisor applies. Midnight-5 a.m.: driving is restricted; supervision, work, school, volunteer and athletic exceptions apply. Everyone must be properly restrained; medical exceptions apply.

Md. Code, Transportation: § 21-1123 | § 16-113

BUCKLE UP. STAY SOBER. KEEP YOUR FUTURE.

Seat belts are required in front and rear seats. Under 21: Maryland licenses carry a no-alcohol restriction. Drug-impaired driving is illegal. A texting or handheld-phone violation causing a crash that directly kills or seriously injures another person can mean up to 1 year in jail, a \$5,000 fine, or both.

Md. Code, Transportation: § 22-412.3 | § 16-113 | § 21-902 | § 21-1124.3

Sources: Maryland General Assembly statutes (linked above); MDOT MVA Rookie Driver guidance; NHTSA Teen Driver Safety. Reviewed October 16, 2026. Summaries omit some exceptions; consult the full law. Fine amounts above are statutory maximums, excluding court costs.