



## HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# Texting & Driving ... It Can Wait: Parent & Teen Pledge

Dear Parent and Teen,

In our 24/7 world, text messaging is increasingly becoming the way we communicate today. Unfortunately, some people may be texting from behind the wheel of a moving vehicle.

Did you know that a recent study by Virginia Tech Transportation Institute found those who text while driving are 23 times more likely to be involved in some type of safety critical event as compared to those drivers who don't text while driving\*?

You can help ensure that America's roads are safer. Please read and discuss the tips below with your whole family. Then make it official by signing the pledge.

- **Be smart.** Never text while driving. No text message is worth being distracted and getting into an accident.
- **Be caring.** Don't send a text to anyone when you know they are driving, or to anyone you know is likely behind the wheel.
- **Be in control.** Remember it's your phone. You decide if and when to send and read texts so take control. Consider turning your phone off, setting it to silent or even storing it in the glove box before hitting the road.
- **Be an example.** Don't send the wrong message by texting while you drive. Your family and friends will follow your example.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have read and discussed the tips and pledge to be safe drivers by not texting while driving.

For more information or resources on texting and driving, visit [www.att.com/txtngcanwait](http://www.att.com/txtngcanwait). In addition, be sure to visit [www.facebook.com/att](http://www.facebook.com/att) to take the pledge to not text and drive online, and encourage your friends and family to do the same.

\* The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute ([http://www.vtti.vt.edu/PDF/7-22-09-VTTI-Press\\_Release\\_Cell\\_phones\\_and\\_Driver\\_Distraction.pdf](http://www.vtti.vt.edu/PDF/7-22-09-VTTI-Press_Release_Cell_phones_and_Driver_Distraction.pdf))