

New Baby - Family Road Safety Agreement





New Baby-Family Road Safety Agreement

In Australia every year, families are devastated by death and injury of children and/or parents on the roads. The contrast between the joy of the arrival of a new born baby and the despair of losing a child in a road crash could not be greater. Equally the loss of one or both parents in a road crash is not something any child should have to deal with. A commitment to road safety by you as parents will also ensure the child grows up in an environment where road safety comes naturally. This early safety conscious environment can be expected to pay dividends when the child eventually reaches driving age him/herself.

The Roads 2 Survival™ Program was developed by young people, parents and other concerned community members to help families discuss and manage issues involving young drivers and road crashes. The cornerstones of the program are discussion, family, trust, responsibility and choice. The Roads to Survival™ Program provides a framework to help you to discuss and hopefully to improve your own safety on the roads.

The Roads 2 Survival™

New Baby- Family Road Safety Agreement

is designed for parents of a new born baby. It can provide a broad road safety framework to build upon. The birth of a new baby is an exciting and life changing event. It is a time that many decisions need to be made.

The loss of a baby or a parent from a road crash is an event few people can completely recover from. As parents of a new child, it is worth investing a little time, to discuss and think about how you will approach your driving.

This agreement contains a number of issues and you are free to omit or modify items as you see fit. It is all about new parents taking responsibility for, and control of their own (and their child's!) destiny. You may even end up just talking and then not signing the agreement but at least you will have considered and discussed the issues.

It is your choice.



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Every year in Australia many children die or lose a parent or are orphaned as a result of car crashes. Many of these crashes are avoidable. The level of injury sustained by a child in a crash is very dependent on use of the correct restraints.

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Parent(s)*

*Parents**, you have a responsibility for the safety of your child. You also have a responsibility to your child to ensure that you are there to care for them as he/she grows up.

You also have a responsibility to your partner to be there to help them with the caring journey and the growth of your child.

Please also remember that very soon your child will be old enough to watch your driving. They will start to develop their own driving behaviour based on what they see you do. This learning is already underway very early in life. Please consider the example you would like your son or daughter to follow.

The birth of your child provides an opportunity for you to review what is important to you.

Make a commitment to be there to watch your child grow up. Your child and you both deserve it.

I acknowledge that the right to drive involves responsibilities.

I acknowledge that the role of parent involves responsibilities.

I acknowledge that my child deserves to be safe whenever in a car or on a road.

I acknowledge that my child deserves to expect that his/her parents will be there for him/her.

I acknowledge that as a parent, I will fulfil a role model for driving behaviour and will therefore drive in a responsible manner.

i will drive safely. My child deserves it.

Dad's Name*

Mum's Name*

•Although this document contains references to "Dad" and "Mum" it is acknowledged that there are single parents and other family combinations including aunts, uncles, grandparents etc. You may even want members of an extended family to sign it in addition to the two parents. Please feel free to change the form to fit your own circumstances.

It is your choice.



Tick or initial the items that you agree on.

Safety is our top priority.

Overall Safety

Parents' Promise to provide a safe road environment for the child:

My child's safety is of overriding importance to me. I will aim to provide a safe environment for him/her, in particular, I will do this as far as car travel and road safety is concerned.

I promise to practice and to teach safe driving and road behaviour to my child.

My child needs me. I will keep myself and him/her alive.

- Dad
- Mum

Every year children die from being unrestrained or inadequately restrained in vehicle crashes.

Safety Devices

I/we agree that all children/infants will use appropriately sized and correctly fitted child seats/infant capsules at all times.

We agree to never hold a child on a lap whilst in a moving car.

We agree that all vehicle occupants will wear seatbelts correctly at all times.

- Dad
- Mum

In Australia over 25% of crashes causing injury are rear end collisions. We agree to drive defensively to protect our family.

Defensive Driving

I agree to allow for a safe margin of space between vehicles, adjusting for road conditions. In particular, I agree not to "tailgate".

- Dad
- Mum

Other people's children are precious too. I acknowledge that there are more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. I will look out for them. I will be especially vigilant around schools and suburban back streets.

- Dad
- Mum

Education is a continual process and involves observation of real life behaviour as well as formal teaching.

Teaching/Learning

As my child grows I agree to teach (child's name)..... safe behaviour in cars and on the roads.

I will do this by providing an example with my own behaviour as well as by teaching.

- Dad
- Mum



New Baby-Family Road Safety Agreement

Distractions are a common cause of crashes. We agree to keep our minds on the road, and our hands on the wheel.

Distractions

I agree to pull over to use a mobile phone to talk, or to send or receive text/video messages.

- Dad
- Mum

I agree to pull over if my child needs attention whilst in the car. I will never remove my child from its safety capsule/child restraint while the car is moving.

- Dad
- Mum

In Australia, hospitalized road crash victims have over 20 times the frequency of alcohol and illicit drug use when compared with other road users.

Drugs/Alcohol

I will not drive if I have been drinking or using drugs.

I will only be a passenger in a vehicle where the driver is sober and drug free.

I will not allow my child to travel in a vehicle where the driver has been drinking or using drugs.

- Dad
- Mum

Australia has long driving distances and fatigue is a recurrent factor in crashes. Families lives are destroyed every year as a result of drivers falling asleep.

Fatigue/Mood/Physical-Health/Environment

I agree to plan and take breaks during long trips as a part of fatigue management.

I agree to stop driving immediately and rest, regardless of trip length, if we should start to doze while driving.

- Dad
- Mum

I understand that being tired, upset, angry, late, sick or injured can affect our driving capability. I will not allow these things to put our child's life at risk.

- Dad
- Mum

I will be aware of weather/road conditions that may affect our driving and will adjust our driving or pull over, as necessary.

- Dad
- Mum



New Baby-Family Road Safety Agreement

Each year sadly many children die when hit by cars while crossing roads.

Crossing Roads

As my child grows I will set a good example to them by teaching my child the rules below and I will also follow them myself.

I will cross roads only when it is safe to do so.

I will always look both ways before crossing.

I will only cross roads at safe places like crossings and corners.

I will always use a pedestrian crossing if one is available.

I will always cross with the green light.

I will never run onto a road, or run across a road, even if chasing something.

I will be especially careful when crossing roads with my friends.

I will look out for cars coming out of driveways when I am on the footpath.

- Dad
- Mum

In Australia, after alcohol, speed is the next most common factor in fatal crashes. Whole families die every year in speed related crashes.

Speed limits and other road rules

I will not exceed marked speed limits.

- Dad
- Mum

I will adjust for road conditions/weather when necessary.

- Dad
- Mum

I will obey all road and traffic laws.

- Dad
- Mum

Legally, “road rage” can be classed as “common assault”. This is also an extremely poor example to set for my/ child. I will never engage in “road rage” behaviour.

- Dad
- Mum



New Baby-Family Road Safety Agreement

Every year a number of children are injured and killed when hit by cars in Australian car parks.

Car Parks

I will be especially vigilant when I am with my child in car parks.

As he/she grows up I will teach my child safety in car parks

- Dad
- Mum

In Australia each year, many children suffer severe head injuries in fall from bikes etc while not wearing helmets.

Bicycles/skateboards etc and Safety Equipment

As my child grows I will ensure he/she has the correct safety equipment, of the correct size, for his/her bike, skateboard etc. I will also ensure he/she knows how to wear it correctly.

I will encourage him/her to use off road places to ride such as cycle paths, skate parks etc to minimise the risk of collision with cars.

- Dad
- Mum

Train versus pedestrian crashes are almost invariably fatal for the pedestrian

Crossing Train Lines

I will ensure my child is educated regarding the safe way to cross train lines.

I will teach him/her to cross train lines at marked places and when it is safe to do so.

I will teach him/her about the danger of the "second train".

As he/she gets older I will teach him/her to always get off his/her bike and cross on foot.

- Dad
- Mum

In Australia, each year a number of children die or are maimed when their parents back their cars over them in their driveways

Reversing

I will never reverse a car in a driveway in a house with children without being absolutely certain where all children are.

- Dad
- Mum



Agreement

We agree to accept the terms of the agreement as indicated by the statements and checked/initialed boxes.

Name of Child.....

Dad's Signature.....Date.....

Mum's Signature.....Date.....

Review

We agree to review the contents of this agreement when our child reaches school age or earlier if required.

Date of Review.....

This Australian pilot program has been based on a number of previous similar initiatives from Australia and around the world. It has been developed in Australia to address Australian issues. It is not currently affiliated with any other program. Please contact Dr Bill Griggs (wgriggs@bigpond.net.au) or see the website below for more information if required.

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