



**Car crashes are the leading cause of permanent injury and death in youth.**

**The *I Promise Program* - youth safe driving initiative, is designed to reduce the risk of young driver car crashes.**

***What is the I Promise Program?***

The I Promise Program is a free, safe driving initiative developed for families with new young drivers. It consists of a Parent-Youth Safe Driving Contract and a rear-window sign.

***How does it work?***

1. Together parents and youth discuss, negotiate, and complete the Parent-Youth Safe Driving Contract. The contract is a multi-item comprehensive agreement developed by youth, parents and community members for parents and young drivers.

Sample contract items include:

- I promise to drive sober.
- I promise to wear my seat belt.
- I promise to drive defensively.
- I promise to keep my mind on the road.

2. Families may choose to place a rear-window sign with their phone number in the car. This enables community members to monitor and report on driver behavior. Research demonstrates that calls are rare and false reports are also highly unlikely to ever occur. However, some parents and youths may have reservations about this aspect of the program. As such, they may be satisfied with the Parent-Youth Safe Driving contract only. *These items are available separately and for free.*

***What do we do if we get a report?***

If you use the rear-window sign and you do receive a call, parents and youth should discuss the information provided and then follow through as set out in their safe driving contract.

***Will the I Promise Program keep my family members safe?***

Participation in the I Promise Program cannot guarantee to keep you safe from car crashes. Safety resides with the motor vehicle operator. However, following the safe-driving behaviors as recommended in the I Promise Program can reduce your chances of being in a car crash.

Recommended by:

***Who should participate?***

All families with new young drivers should participate. The first year tends to be the most dangerous for new drivers and sets driving habits that carry on life-long.

***What's the catch?***

There is no catch. The I Promise Program was developed by Social Worker, Gary Direnfeld, when his son came of driving age. Direnfeld's social work practice includes clinical work with youth and their families. Direnfeld was also the developer and director of a brain injury rehabilitation program in Canada during the 1990's and knew too well the tragedy of car crashes, brain injuries and the over-representation of youth. The I Promise Program is his brainchild. Letters of support have been received from over 100 organizations worldwide. Direnfeld's goal is the same as every parent: "*Youth should return home safely each time they use the car.*"

***Ready to participate? It's easy and it's free ... Go to:***

[www.ipromiseprogram.com](http://www.ipromiseprogram.com)

Print your Parent-Youth Safe Driving Contract and sign it today.

