

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – Foster Parent Handbook

REGARDING TEEN DRIVERS

Driver's Education

Every School district in Iowa must offer or make available to all students residing in the school district or Iowa students attending a non-public school in the district an approved driver education course.

In order for a youth to participate in Driver's Education, a signed and notarized "Parental Consent to Drive" must be complete. This is a Department of Transportation form that can be obtained from the school or the DOT.

Foster Parents may NOT sign the form. Contact the youth's worker about getting this form signed. Driver's Education fees are waived for the foster child. Contact your insurance agent to see if the child is covered on your insurance while driving with a valid permit.

Driver's Education Fee Waiver

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price school lunch also qualify for free or reduced fees for driver education. Foster parents need to be aware that even if the school district contracts to have an approved driver education provider, the district still must provide free or reduced driver education fees to all students in their district.

Auto Insurance

After a teen in foster care obtains a driver's license, it is up to you to decide whether to allow the child to drive your car. If you do allow the child to drive your car, you will need to add the child to your automobile insurance and pay additional insurance fees. You may want to consider having the child help pay all or part of the additional premium.

Vehicle Ownership

Foster children aged 16 or above may own their own vehicles. However, when the child is in custody or guardianship of the DHS or JCS, this should be discussed with the social worker or juvenile court officer. A teen who purchases a car must carry insurance on the vehicle and have a valid driver's license. You need to verify that these conditions are met.

Foster Children Providing Transportation for Others

Foster children should not be expected to provide transportation for other children in the home. Liability issues may exist. You are responsible for assuring adult transportation for the foster children in the home.