



**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?***

At the heart of the I Promise Program is a safe driving contract developed especially for families with new young drivers. It was developed with the input of youth, parents, police and other stakeholders in traffic safety worldwide. It is likely the most comprehensive safe driving contract available.

***How does it work?***

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.

***How do we start?***

Starting is easy. Go to the I Promise Program website and click on the link for the Parent-Youth Safe Driving Contract. The contract costs a mere \$10.00. After paying on-line, you will be immediately directed to a webpage where you then download the contract.

After you download the Parent-Youth Safe Driving Contract, print it out.

After you print it out, sit down with your young driver and read the contract through together. Discuss the issues presented and fill in the blanks along the way.

***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 vehicle operator. However, following the safe-driving behaviors as recommended in the Parent-Youth Safe Driving Contract can reduce your chances of being in a car crash.

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

There is no catch.

***Whose idea was this anyway?***

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 ...***

Go to:

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

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

Recommended by:          
---