

# Mintz Girgan & Brightly INCORPORATED

Insurance E-News and Views

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### Our Website

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

### Products & Services

Mintz Girgan & Brightly specializes in obtaining property and liability insurance for both individuals and businesses.



Greetings!

Do you have a teenage driver? Or a recent college graduate? If so, this newsletter will provide a few tips to help protect you and your children. If this issue doesn't apply to you, perhaps you have a friend or relative who would benefit from this information. If not, be on the lookout for next month's newsletter!

### **Teenagers Behind the Wheel - What's a Parent to Do?**

As you're probably aware, young drivers in the 16-19 year old age group have one of the highest accident and fatality rates of all drivers. In 2009, over 3,000 teens were killed and more than 350,000 were treated in emergency rooms for injuries suffered in motor vehicle accidents. Per mile driven, drivers aged 16-19 are four times more likely to be in an accident than older drivers. Some of the principal reasons for the nation's dismal teenage driving statistics are speeding, driving at night, lack of seat belt use, teens driving with other passengers, inexperience, and drinking and driving.

As a parent, you can greatly reduce the risks associated with your teen's driving by encouraging safe driving practices such as:

- When buying a car for your teen's use, choose a vehicle for safety - not image! Make sure the car has airbags and antilock brakes.
- Provide new drivers with plenty of supervised practice even after they obtain their license, including night driving and driving in hazardous road conditions.
- Insist on seat belt usage every time your teen is in a car!
- Restrict the number of passengers your child transports - this law is frequently broken by teen

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drivers as they do not want to exclude any of their friends.

- Enforce "no drinking and driving" rules.
- Emphasize that safe driving requires constant attention behind the wheel - cell phones and text messaging are huge distractions and should not be permitted!
- Restrict night time driving and enforce curfews.
- Discuss and reinforce responsible driving behavior with teenagers.

Teenagers simply lack the behind-the-wheel experience necessary to completely understand the dynamics associated with driving a motor vehicle. By teaching and reinforcing responsible driving behavior, you can help prevent accidents.

**Tip:** Most auto insurers offer driver training, good student, and away at school discounts. If you have a new teenage or college aged driver in your household, contact your account manager to make sure you're receiving all applicable discounts!

### **Renters Insurance - Is Your College Graduate Covered?**

Has your college student recently graduated and moved out of the house to an apartment? With all of the expenses associated with buying furniture and setting up an apartment, your son or daughter may not want to spend money on something like "renters insurance". They may think they don't need insurance because their possessions are not worth very much. If so, they're not alone. According to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, less than half of all renters purchase renters insurance. This is an alarming statistic given that rented dwellings are much more likely to be burglarized than owned homes, and because renters insurance is extremely affordable.

So, why is renters insurance important? First, it provides protection for your belongings in the event of a loss. At first glance, your possessions might not seem like they would add up to much, but it's surprising how much it would cost to start over if they had to be replaced due to a theft or fire. While a renters policy does not cover the physical structure they are renting, it does protect the items within it. Replacement cost coverage for these contents would allow your child to repair or replace most personal property in their apartment with no deduction for depreciation.

Next, renters insurance provides personal liability protection for lawsuits filed for property damage or bodily injury if someone gets hurt. In our opinion, personal liability coverage is CRITICAL protection in case of a lawsuit arising from an

accident. Given that young adults are likely to entertain and perhaps have parties in their apartment..... we think they need insurance!

A basic renters policy with replacement cost coverage for the contents is a good place to start. As your child acquires more possessions, the amounts of coverage can be increased as needed. For example, if he or she gets engaged or purchases special property such as an expensive computer, the policy can be endorsed to add coverage for these valuable items.

**Tip:** Most insurers offer home and auto discounts. If your son or daughter has an auto policy, adding a renters insurance policy usually pays for itself with this discount!

Enjoy the rest of the summer!