



LIVINGSTON COUNTY
SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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The Livingston County Sheriff's Department, in cooperation with AAA Michigan and the Michigan Sheriff's Association, recently initiated the **STOPPED** (Sheriff's Telling Our Parents & Promoting Educated Drivers) program within Livingston County.

Although teen and young drivers, ages 16-24, represent less than 15% of all licensed drivers in the state of Michigan, they are involved in over 25% of all vehicle crashes. Statistics indicate that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children 15-20 years of age. The risk for motor vehicle crashes is higher among 16 to 19 year olds than any other age group, and a 16-year old is seven times more likely to crash than a driver 25 to 29 years old. Additionally, research indicates the risk for vehicle crashes involving a 16 year old driver will increase 39% with one peer passenger, 86% with two peer passengers and 282% when driving with three or more peer passengers.

STOPPED has been designed to increase parental involvement in an attempt to reduce traffic crash injuries and deaths among teenagers and young adults.

STOPPED emphasizes the tremendous responsibility required when operating a motor vehicle and is designed to reinforce the mature driving habits exhibited when young drivers are accompanied by their parents.

STOPPED will provide parents with notification when young drivers fall short of parental expectations as well as a tool to immediately address risky driving behavior by their teens. Notifications will contain location, time, number of passengers and reason for the stop.

Parents are encouraged to come in to the Sheriff Department to register their vehicle(s) or, if this presents an inconvenience, they can register online at www.michigansheriff.com. A **STOPPED** sticker will be mailed to their home to be placed on the vehicle's windshield. The sticker provides a visible reminder to the young driver to drive safely and responsibly, and that should he or she be pulled over for any reason, the parents will receive a letter of explanation regarding the incident.

STOPPED has been implemented by 67 of the 83 counties in Michigan. What this equates to is, if an observation is made in a participating county, parents will be notified. Surrounding counties currently partnering in the **STOPPED** program include Genesee, Ingham, Jackson, Mason, Oakland, Shiawassee, Washtenaw and Wayne. The sticker provides a visible reminder to the young driver to drive safely and responsibly, and that should he or she be pulled over for any reason, the parents will receive a letter of explanation regarding the incident.

Updates to this and other Press Releases will be posted at:
www.livingstonsheriff.com