



## **Alabama Car Accident Attorney Says Parents Should Talk to Teens About Safe Driving During the Holidays**

*Speeding, distracted driving and drunk driving contribute to Alabama being one of the deadliest states in the country for teenage drivers, says Birmingham car accident lawyer Keith T. Belt.*

Birmingham, AL ([PRWEB](#)) December 16, 2010 -- With the traditionally dangerous holiday driving season here, it's a perfect time for parents to talk about safe driving with their teenagers, says [Birmingham, Alabama personal injury lawyer](#) Keith T. Belt Jr.

“Because of their lack of driving experience, teens may not fully realize the dangers of speeding, drunk driving or texting or talking on a cell phone when behind the wheel,” says Belt, the founding member of the Birmingham personal injury law firm, Belt Law Firm, P.C., which represents [car accident](#) victims throughout Alabama.

“Although our state recently passed a graduated license law that’s aimed at preventing teen driving crashes and fatalities, teen drivers also need to hear from their parents about the consequences of risky driving behavior – especially at a time of year when our state sees its highest number of traffic accidents and fatalities,” Belt says.

Belt points out that Alabama ranks among the most dangerous states in the country for teen drivers. According to a 2008 Allstate Insurance study of “America’s Teen Driving Hotspots,” which examined federal statistics and Allstate claims data, Alabama ranked No. 2 behind Mississippi for the highest rate of fatal teen car accidents in the nation. The state had 1,143 deadly car crashes involving teen drivers from 2000-2006, the study said.

According to the same study, the Birmingham-Hoover, Alabama-area ranked as the fifth deadliest “hotspot” for teen drivers among the nation’s 50 largest metro areas.

Saferoads4teens.org reports that 142 people were killed in Alabama in 2009 in auto accidents involving teen drivers.

In an effort to curb teen driving accidents, injuries and deaths, the state enacted a graduated licensing law this year that does not allow a teenager to become fully licensed until age 17. In order to become fully licensed, the teen must complete a minimum of 30 hours of supervised practice driving during the learner’s permit stage.

Additionally, the law bars teens from unsupervised nighttime driving between midnight and 6 a.m., restricts them to one passenger and prohibits the use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices, such as smart phones commonly used for texting, while the teen is in the learner’s permit stage and for the first six months of the intermediate stage.

“I think parents should warn their teens against texting or talking on a cell phone at any time,” Belt says.

“Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of car accidents for all ages.”

Belt says December is an important time of year to discuss safe driving because of the high number of traffic accidents that occur during the month.



According to the University of Alabama Center for Advanced Public Safety's 2008 Alabama Traffic Crash Facts, more than 11,323 accidents took place in December of that year – a significantly higher total than any other month. Additionally, the month saw 77 traffic fatalities.

About Belt Law Firm, P.C.

Belt Law Firm, P.C., is a [Birmingham personal injury law firm](#) that represents the victims of negligent or drunk drivers throughout Alabama, including the communities of Bessemer, Cullman, Tuscaloosa, Jasper, Homewood, Jefferson County, Shelby County, Walker County, Blount County and Saint Clair County. Although the firm's focus is on regional litigation in Alabama, the firm's attorneys have also represented clients in Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Delaware. To learn more, call the firm toll-free at 1-888-933-1514 or use its [online form](#).

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**Contact Information**

**Keith T. Belt Jr.**

Belt Law Firm, P.C.

<http://www.beltlawfirm.com/default.asp>

(888) 933-1514

**Mike Dayton**

Consultwebs.com

<http://www.consultwebs.com>

(919) 880-1748

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