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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Insurance Considerations When Your Teen Is Ready to Drive

The Professional Insurance Agents of Wisconsin offer the following information on teens and driving.

MADISON, Wisconsin (March 12, 2007) – Throughout the insurance industry, drivers between the ages of 16 and 24 are considered to be at most risk for accidents. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for young people 16 to 20 years of age. They are involved in 13 percent of all traffic fatalities and drivers 21 to 24 years of age are involved in 10 percent of all fatalities. Wisconsin's young people track right along with the national average. Out of the 815 traffic fatalities in Wisconsin in 2005, 124 of them were teens between the ages of 16 and 20.

“When your teen starts to drive, you will either have to add them onto your insurance policy or they will have to purchase their own,” says Ron Von Haden, CIC, Executive Vice President of the Professional Insurance Agents of Wisconsin (PIAW). “Most insurance companies require them to be added to your policy as soon as they have their license.”

Von Haden continues, “Insurance companies consider teens to be high-risk customers, because they're inexperienced and make more frequent mistakes than those who have been driving longer. But there is good news for those of you with teens about to get behind the wheel. Many insurance companies offer lower rates to teens that have completed driver's education and earn good grades in school.”

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Many parents simply add their children to their policies, especially if their insurance company has multi-vehicle or safe-driver discounts. However, that isn't always the least expensive way to insure your child. If you have an expensive car in your driveway and your child will drive it, your premium on that vehicle may increase considerably. It may be less expensive to purchase a used car for your new driver and purchase basic coverage on the vehicle.

Your professional independent agent can help you decide the best coverage for you and help you find the best rate on that coverage. They will be able to answer any questions you may have about your policy. To locate a PIA member near you, look for the PIA logo or go to www.PIAW.org.

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