

IHRY NEWS

September 2020

Let us know how we are doing by providing a review on Google or Facebook!



CONTACT US:

DEVILS LAKE
701.662.5027

HILLSBORO
701.636.2540

HOPE
800.726.7929

MAHNOMEN
218.935.5330

MCVILLE
701.322.5553

TOWNER
701.537.5942

WEST FARGO
701.492.2223

Understanding Driver Exclusions (Everything You Need To Know.)

WWW.IHRYINS.COM

Article provided by *Trusted Choice*.

Everyone knows “that guy” that you wouldn’t trust behind the wheel of your car, even for a matter of life and death. For the truly unfortunate, “that guy” is a member of your household, and looks not only to your vehicles as a source of transportation but also to your auto insurance as a source for coverage.

Car insurance policies can be extremely broad, extending coverage not only for members of your household, but also others while using your auto with your permission. The broad nature of the policy is excellent from a coverage perspective, seeing as driving other people’s cars is accepted in our society.

Since auto insurance typically “follows the car,” auto insurance companies typically pay a claim if the person

driving the car at the time of an accident is you, your spouse, a family member, or a permitted user. But some drivers are so risky that you, or the insurance company, will simply want to eliminate them from coverage altogether.

What Is an Excluded Driver?

If you live with a teen driver, an older person, someone who rarely drives, or someone who has a very bad driving record, it can be very costly to list them as a household member on your insurance policy. It can even make getting car insurance difficult for you if that driver’s record is bad enough.

In some cases, you may be able to specifically exclude that driver from your auto insurance coverage, effectively eliminating their liability and physical damage coverage if they cause an accident.

An excluded driver is someone you specifically and intentionally remove from your auto insurance policy. If they use your car, with or without your permission, and have an accident, your car insurance won't provide coverage.

Some states, however, don't allow named driver exclusions on auto insurance policies because doing so basically creates uninsured drivers. This is typically illegal, as well as risky for other drivers on the road.

Driver exclusions are typically allowed under very specific circumstances, usually to ensure that a high-risk driver in your household doesn't drive at all. Driver exclusions often apply to:

- Drivers with suspended or revoked licenses
- Drivers with very bad driving records
- Drivers with a recent DUI
- Elderly household members who no longer drive

What Does Excluded Driver Mean on an Auto Insurance Policy?

Car insurance typically operates under the principle of permissive use. First, you, the "named insured" on the policy, are covered. Your policy also covers any family members living in your household, including your spouse and children. Anyone else living in your household (e.g., a roommate or a partner) can be listed as a named insured on your policy, as well.

What's more, anyone who drives your car with your permission can be covered. So if you loan your car to a friend or neighbor who then causes an accident, the claim would probably be covered.

But if a driver has been explicitly excluded from coverage on your policy, the permissive use concept is no longer valid and the insurance company is no longer required to cover any losses caused by the excluded driver. Damage to your vehicle won't be covered, and both you and the driver can be held personally liable (sued) for any damage caused to others in the crash.

Keep in mind that not all insurance carriers allow driver exclusions as a cost-saving measure or to obtain coverage that you're ineligible for with the bad driver in the household. In other cases, an insurance company may

insist that a high-risk driver be excluded in order to offer you coverage. Policies and procedures vary among car insurance companies.

What Happens If an Excluded Driver Gets in an Accident?

Once you've excluded a driver from your car insurance, it's essential that they don't drive your car. This is basically the same as driving without insurance, and can have numerous costly consequences.

If the excluded driver causes an accident while driving your car, you won't have insurance coverage. What's more, you and the excluded driver can be held personally responsible for any injuries or damage resulting from the accident. It could also lead to the cancellation or non-renewal of your auto insurance policy.

If an excluded driver takes your car without permission, it could be considered theft. That means car damage may be covered under your comprehensive coverage, if you have it. Depending on your state's laws, you might not be held liable for injuries and property damage caused by the excluded driver in this situation. You would, however, have to prove that the vehicle was stolen and file a police report.

Can I Sue an Excluded Driver?

Whether you can sue an excluded driver depends on the laws in your state. But in general, if you're in an accident that is the fault of a driver who is actually excluded from a car insurance policy, you can sue the driver directly. However, it's often difficult or impossible to recover any compensation from an uninsured party even if you win a judgment in court.

What States Allow Driver Exclusions?

Not all states allow driver exclusions. Those that do NOT allow named driver exclusions are as follows:

- Kansas
- Michigan
- New York
- Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Hawaii
- Minnesota
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

In the states that do allow driver exclusions, it's not always easy to do. Many insurance companies are reluctant to permit driver exclusions even if they're allowed by the state.

How to Find Excluded Driver Insurance

A local independent **insurance agent** can help you find the affordable auto insurance you need. If you

are thinking about excluding a driver, your agent can help you understand the laws in your state, and find an insurance carrier that fits your needs.

Independent agents aren't tied down to one insurance company, so they can help you shop around for the best coverage for your unique household.



5 Ways to Defend Against Aging Parents Financial Scams and Fraud

Article provided by [Genworth](#).

Financial scams, particularly online, have gotten more sophisticated than ever, putting you and your aging parents at risk.

Here are five easy steps you can take to safeguard yourself and the people you love.

1. Become your parents' active financial partner.

Go with your parents to their bank and get them to add your name as an account custodian so you too will receive statements and can monitor their accounts for unusual activity. If they haven't already done so, set up online banking to avoid putting checks in the mail, where they could be intercepted. Sign your parents up for direct deposit for any benefit checks they receive and help them order their credit reports at least once a year.

Encourage them to reach out to you before they make an online purchase or a major investment. Ask to review any contracts, purchasing agreements, or other written materials they receive before they share their payment information with any sellers, especially if they didn't initiate the purchase.

2. Limit solicitations by opting out.

Sign your parents up for the Federal Trade Commission's "Do Not Call" list. This reduces the risk of unwanted or suspicious calls. In addition, sign them for the Email Preference Service with the Direct Marketing Association (DMA). This can reduce the risk of unsolicited or fraudulent emails.

3. Be a vigilant shredder.

Encourage your parents to shred documents that contain personal information, including Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, and credit card information. Make sure to include unused credit card offers too. If they have an excessive number of documents to shred, check whether your local government sponsors shredding days. ([Here](#) is one way to locate these opportunities.)

4. Educate your parents.

Remind your parents of one of the most important lessons they taught you: don't talk to strangers. Fraud is frequently committed by thieves with enough information to sound credible.

- If someone you don't know calls, don't share any personal details over the phone. If you're in doubt about whether a caller is legitimate, hang up, look up the organization that called, and call back on a number listed with a reputable source.
- Don't buy anything from an unsolicited call, email, letter, or visit.
- If a caller says you've won a contest or lottery that you haven't heard of before, or if you have to pay a fee to claim a free prize, hang up immediately.
- Don't give in to pressure to make an immediate decision about buying something.
- Don't buy from a company you don't know. Check them out with your local consumer protection agency, Better Business Bureau, or state attorney general's office.
- Don't sign anything that you don't understand.
- Don't offer financial help to someone who calls and says they're your friend or relative until you confirm that the request is genuine.
- Don't pay for major purchases or services in cash. Write a check or use a credit card to create a paper trail.
- Don't sign blank insurance forms or blank forms of any kind.
- The government will never call you and ask you to pay your taxes or threaten to throw you in jail. If someone calls and claims to be from the IRS, hang up and call the IRS directly at 800.829.1040.
- Tell unannounced door-to-door solicitors or callers that you don't give to charities or buy from businesses that you don't know.
- Before hiring anyone to do any work around your home or on your behalf, check their credentials and ask for a list of references.
- If people you don't know well (such as contractors or repairmen) are visiting your home, lock up your purse, wallet, checkbook, and anything that contains your personal information, including account statements.
- Get the name, company, address, phone number, and business license number of any salespeople who try to do business with you.
- Pay only after services are delivered.
- Don't share control over your computer with anyone unless you initiated the call.
- Keep your computer's antivirus software and security patches up to date.
- Hang up the phone immediately if a stranger's call makes you uncomfortable.
- Change your account passwords frequently and store them in a place that is secure.

5. Report suspected fraud immediately.

If you or your parents experience attempted or actual fraud or encounter any other suspicious behavior, immediately report it to your local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies. If any bank account or credit card information was shared, call the bank or card issuer immediately to cancel any debit or credit cards linked to the account and reset any personal identification numbers and account passwords.

Following these five steps can help avoid costly financial scams and protect not only personal information, but hard-earned nest eggs.