

# Courts, Communities, & Classrooms: Educating the Public About the Law



Presented By  
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Court Administrator  
City of Corinth



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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER  
STATE BAR OF TEXAS  
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## Objectives

**Make traffic safety a high priority in local communities**

- Via municipal courts
- Via public outreach by court personnel

*school groups*

- *Civic, community & school groups*
- *City officials*
- Via public schools
  - *Lessons & resources*
  - *Teacher training*



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## Why Municipal Courts?

- 923 courts in Texas
- 7.5 million cases
- 82.5 % traffic and parking
- 390,589 juvenile cases
- 1,537 judges
- (FY 10 & 11 Annual Reports OCA)



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## Why TMCEC?

### Clerks

- Act as the liaison between the public and the judiciary
- Are respected in the community

### Judges

- Represent our system of justice
- Symbol of authority
- Magistrates and trial judges

### Clerks and Judges

- Are experts
- Make it interesting and interactive
- Serve as role models for young people & citizens of all ages
- More citizens come in contact than any other court

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## From Courtroom to Classrooms

- Each Year over **5,000** teens ages 16 to 20 die due to Fatal injuries caused car accidents.
- About **400,000** drivers age 16 to 20 will be seriously injured.
- For 16 to 19 year olds, the risk of being involved in a car accident is higher than it is for any other age group.

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## Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives

*Did you know:*

- Young drivers between the ages of **15 and 20**, comprise **6.5%** of the licensed population
  - High number injured or killed due to speed, DUI, failure to wear a seat belt and other poor driving habits.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death of 15-20 year olds.
- NHTSA reported that **23%** of the young drivers between the ages of 15 and 20, who were killed in crashes, had a BAC of .08 or higher.

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Mile for mile, teenagers are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers.



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## Teen Drivers



**Alcohol** - Zero Tolerance

**Seat Belt Use** - Teens buckle up far less frequently than adults do.



**Cell Phones** – texting and driving

[www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov)

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ARE YOU WILLING TO RISK YOUR LIFE FOR A TEXT?

STOP TEXTING & DRIVING

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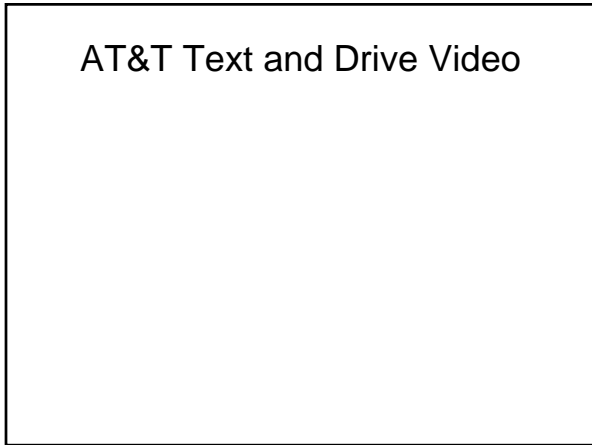
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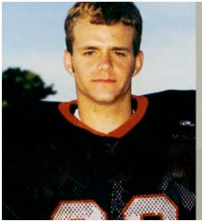
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## Jacqui's Story



The driver got 7 years in prison but the victim is serving a life sentence



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## Motorcycle Safety



All motorists are reminded to safely "share the road" with motorcycles and to be extra alert to help keep motorcyclists safe. Motorcyclists are reminded to make themselves visible to other motorists.

Motorcycle helmets saved 1,829 motorcyclists' lives in 2008

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## BICYCLE SAFETY

IMPORTANCE  
OF  
WEARING  
A  
HELMET

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*BE CREATIVE*



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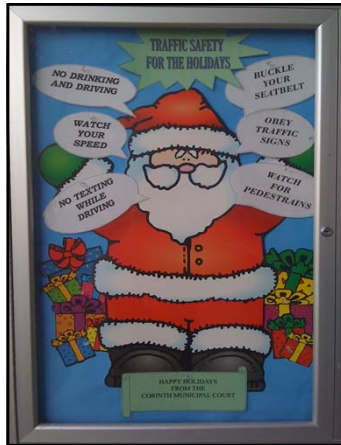
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HOLIDAY  
GREETINGS  
AND  
TRAFFIC  
SAFETY  
REMINDERS

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PUBLIC  
SERVICE  
DISPLAYS

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**Keeping Kids Safe: Inside & Out**

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for ages 3 to 14.

Every day in the United States, an average of 4 children age 14 and younger were killed and 529 were injured in motor vehicle crashes during 2008.

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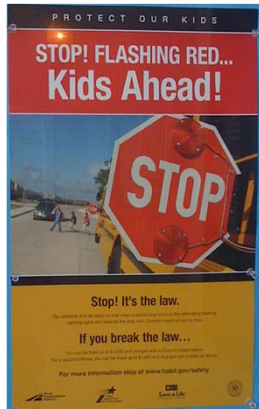
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**School Time Reminders**




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## From Courtroom to Classrooms

### The Court's Involvement in Public Schools

- DRSR
  - series of lessons for social studies classes
    - Law Related Education (LRE)
    - Colorful and interactive
  - elementary, secondary, and high school levels
  - focus on citizenship education and traffic safety.
- Municipal judges and court personnel
  - materials on the TMCEC website
  - Offer to participate in classroom as resource persons.
  - providing real life or hypothetical examples,
  - accurate descriptions of law
  - serve as positive role models.

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Older adults are generally capable, conscientious drivers, but some have experienced changes associated with normal aging, with medical conditions common in older adults, or medications to address those medical conditions that undermine their ability to drive safely.

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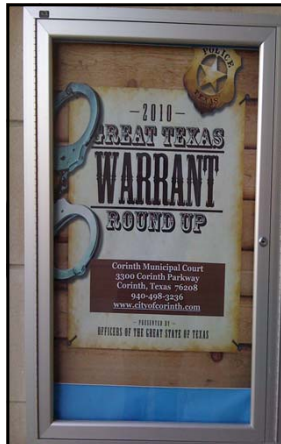
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## ENFORCEMENT

Participate in the  
Annual Warrant  
Round Up

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



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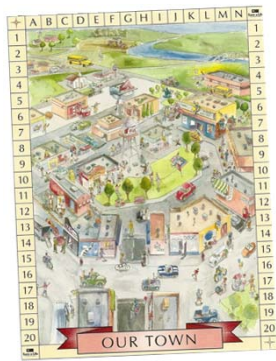
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## “Our Town” Map of Do’s and Don’ts



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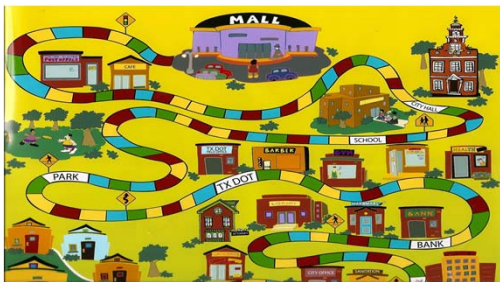
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## Rules of the Road TxDOT Land



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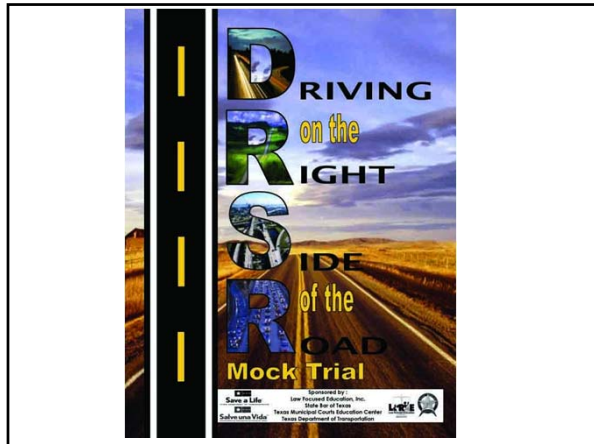
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**Mark Your Calendar** 

**TMCEC Traffic Safety Conference**

**March 19-21, 2012(M-T-W)**  
**Addison, Texas**

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

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