

The following underscores the dangers of careless and reckless driving behaviors and emphasizes the importance of responsible driving habits. It highlights the risks associated with distracted driving, including cellphone usage, and warns against engaging in activities that divert attention from the road. Aggressive driving, characterized by willful actions that endanger others, is discussed, along with the potential legal consequences. Furthermore, it provides advice on protecting oneself from aggressive drivers and encourages reporting such behavior to authorities. Lastly, it prompts self-reflection by posing questions to help individuals assess their propensity for becoming aggressive drivers.

CARELESS/RECKLESS DRIVING Sharing the road is important not only for your safety and the safety of others, it is the law. Distracted Driving: Drivers younger than age 18 are not allowed to use a cell phone while driving; even hands free usage is prohibited. If you drive carelessly because you were texting, or using your cell phone for any other manual entry, you could be fined or charged with a misdemeanor. Pull off the road to a safe area for longer cell phone conversations or to control children. Because many drugs, including alcohol and marijuana, reduce a driver's ability to manage multiple tasks, distractions that could be merely hazardous for a normal driver may pose a life-threatening danger to the impaired driver as well as other drivers and pedestrians. Do not attempt to eat or drink, read, smoke or vape, apply makeup, or adjust the music while you are driving. In the time it takes to change radio stations, lives can be changed forever. Aggressive driving: Aggressive driving is any behind-the-wheel behavior that places others and/or property in danger through willful action without regard to safety. Reckless driving: Reckless driving is operating a vehicle in such a way that puts either people or property in danger, whether intentional or not. If a law enforcement officer notes your actions as endangering another person or property (including the other motorist's vehicle) you can be charged under Colorado's reckless driving statute and if convicted, up to eight points can be assessed against your driving record. Acts such as tailgating another driver, passing on the shoulder or running a red light could be seen by a law enforcement officer as aggressive if the officer believes the action is willful and places others in danger. A combination of acts, such as speeding, cutting off other vehicles, swerving toward another motorist, honking, flashing headlights, yelling and using inappropriate hand gestures can also be considered aggressive driving. Some acts, such as displaying a weapon at another motorist, bumping or ramming another vehicle or high speed pursuit of a vehicle can result in criminal charges beyond a reckless driving charge. Protecting yourself from aggressive drivers: To protect yourself from an aggressive driver, don't engage with that driver. Avoid eye contact and don't attempt to match an aggressive act. If the other driver is angry, back off, give way to the other driver and let the aggressive driver go. A few seconds engaged with an aggressive driver could change your life, or the lives of the loved ones riding with you - forever. Reporting aggressive or impaired drivers: Dial *CSP (*277) to report aggressive drivers. The Colorado State Patrol has set aside this special cellphone number for motorists and bicyclists to use in reporting aggressive drivers. The call will be handled by the closest state patrol trooper, or will be referred to a participating local law enforcement agency. There is no charge for the call. Could I become an aggressive driver?: Anyone is capable of becoming an aggressive driver. Some drivers may be more likely to become aggressive. Here are some questions to see if you have a greater potential to become an aggressive driver. Take a few minutes to ask yourself these questions and be honest with yourself. Do you: ● Mentally condemn other drivers as incompetent or stupid? ● Make negative comments about other drivers to your passengers? ● Close up space to stop other motorists from merging or changing lanes? ● Prevent another driver from passing? ● Tailgate a driver to get them to speed up or get out of your way? ● Angrily speed past another driver? ● Run a stop

sign, red light or other traffic control device out of frustration or anger? ● Honk or yell at someone to express your anger or frustration? ● Make an obscene gesture at another driver? ● Pursue another vehicle to express your anger? ● Deliberately bump or ram another vehicle? ● Exit your vehicle to teach the other driver a lesson through either a verbal exchange or physical confrontation? ● Think about physically attacking another driver? If you answered yes to any of these questions, even just a couple, you may be at risk to become an aggressive driver.