

Student Motor Vehicles

Boarding Hostels must take steps to avoid reasonably foreseeable risks of injury to all persons on boarding premises. If a hostel breaches its duty of care, either by acting in a way that puts persons at risk or failing to prevent a hazard or failing to adequately supervise, then it may be liable for damages.

The law also imposes a duty of care on drivers of vehicles to take care of the safety of passengers and other road users and pedestrians.

While hostels cannot prevent students from driving to the hostel, they do have a duty to ensure that parental consent is obtained from all relevant parents for student drivers transporting other minors. As a general rule, managers should not allow students to transport other students in private vehicles in connection with any school or hostel activity.

Hostels should have well defined policies regarding students driving themselves and other students to and from home and school excursions and the like.

All policies should address the following essential criteria:

1. Drivers are expected to obtain written permission by the manager and parents prior to driving to the hostel.
2. Students should be discouraged from using their own vehicle going to and from school organised activities during school hours. Schools and hostels should provide adequate transport for all parties concerned.
3. Where private vehicles are used to transport students to hostel organised activities, specific written consent should be give by all relevant parents, including parents of student drivers and passengers.
4. Student driver's licences should be checked for authenticity and sighted by manager or delegates.
5. Students with Learner's permits should not be allowed to transport other students under any circumstances.
6. Registration number and make of vehicle being driven should be provided.
7. Vehicles should be parked in designated areas only.
8. Students should not use their cars as a place for recreation or leisure.
9. Parents should be advised that the hostel takes no responsibility for damage to any vehicles left on hostel premises, and that drivers park on hostel premises at their own risk.