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Mrs. Stein

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An Unforeseen Cost

Every time you were on your phone, texting or answering a call, your little girl would see it. As she sat in the backseat she saw every call, text, playing music. You didn't know this at the time, but she would pick up that since you did it and made it seem it was safe. There was no way of telling how destructive that would be later in her life. She is 10 and just learned that using a phone while driving was bad, but you tell her "Ssshhh, it's ok". So she thought nothing bad could ever happen while using a phone and driving. She saw you drink and drive for the first time and was scared beyond belief. The way you said you were fine to drive but your swerving said otherwise. She learned that nothing bad could happen while drinking then driving as long as "I'm fine" was said. She is 15 and taking drivers ED. All the things she grew up thinking and knowing as fact was thrown back at her. She didn't believe it because she saw you do it and be ok countless times. So she ignored that part of the course. She drives with you and you tell her to never use her phone while driving. She is so confused and conflicted because she learned how to drive from you. Then you tell her that everything she grew up thinking was wrong. But she refuses your warnings because you did all those things and you were fine. She is 18 and driving home late at night from a party. She thinks she is "fine" to drive. The next morning police officers arrive at your door. The news they tell you shatters your world. She didn't know that she

was heading straight for a tree when going home. She didn't even have time to react. She didn't think this would ever happen because you did it and you were fine. All those times you looked at your phone, answered a call, checked FaceBook. All those times you didn't know your daughter was looking, she really was. Watching, learning from Mommy. Don't let this be the wake up call you need to stop looking at your phone, or drinking and driving. Practice safe driving because all parents want their kids to come home to them. To arrive alive.