

Driver Training, Evaluation and Modification Resources

AAA –Senior Driver Safety and Mobility

800-236-1800

<https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/senior-driver-safety-mobility/>

Offers several tools; self-evaluation, car fit clinics and refresher courses, and has resources for family and friends. Can access information on the AAA Roadwise Review, and more.

AARP Driver Safety Program

800-350-7025

<https://www.aarpdriversafety.org/>

Driver improvement course for motorists age 50 and over that consists of 4 hours of classroom instruction aimed at refining existing skills and developing safer, more defensive driving habits. It is offered in local locations and can be taken online.

Adaptive Driving Specialists

414 721-8636

<https://adaptivedrivingspecialists.wordpress.com/>

Paul Schmidt, OTR/L, LDI, CDRS - Adaptive Driving Specialists is a licensed driving school specifically geared toward providing comprehensive driver rehabilitation services, offering on-site evaluation and training throughout southeast Wisconsin. Qualified to provide clinical screening, behind-the-wheel evaluation, and on-road training.

Experienced staff is prepared to work with individuals with a wide range of disabilities, and with beginning or experienced drivers. We work with clients, families, and professionals to assist in making appropriate decisions with respect to driving. Services provided at your location

Adaptive Experts

414-570-0441

<http://www.adaptiveexperts.com/wi.html>

Comprehensive driving evaluation determines the extent of a disability and how this impacts the ability to drive safely. Evaluation includes clinical pre-driver screening along with behind-the-wheel assessment and adaptive equipment recommendations. Services provided at your location

Ascension Health Care - St Joseph Campus

414-447-2208

5000 W Chambers St, Milwaukee, WI 53210

A physician's prescription is required. Driver Skill Assessments are available at Wheaton Franciscan – St. Joseph Campus. Assessments will benefit anyone experiencing physiological or neurological changes that may affect driving ability. These might include a stroke, confusion or slowed reflexes.

Skills Assessed

Assessments are performed by specially trained Occupational Therapists who assess the following areas:

- Physical skills including range of motion, strength and reaction time
- Visual perceptual skills: visual acuity, depth perception and peripheral vision
- Judgment and reasoning skills focused on knowledge and problem solving required for driving

Based on the results of the assessment, an on-the-road assessment can be facilitated through an independent agency.

Program Components

- Driving skill assessment utilizing specialized equipment
- Referral for on-the-road assessment
- Community linkages for resources when driving is not recommended

Written report sent to referring physician including recommendations for therapeutic intervention.

Aurora Health Care – Clinical Driving Assessment

Must have a physician referral to access the services of this program

See link below or contact your Aurora physician for a referral to the nearest location.

<https://www.aurorahealthcare.org/services/physical-therapy-rehabilitation/driver-readiness-program>

National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

866-983-3222

<https://www.nadtc.org/>

Promotes the availability and accessibility of transportation options for older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers.

Senior Driving Resource

262-210-3707

www.SeniorDriverResource.com

Online driving assessment and information resources to assist with continued driving safety.

Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired –

800-783-5213

“When to Stop Driving and How to Talk to Your Loved Ones About It”

One-hour video presentation, tips on how to respectfully discuss no longer driving with loved one, along with several resources for evaluating the ability to drive, and ways to find safe and alternative modes of transportation. View this webinar at <http://tinyurl.com/h2q5zwn>

Helpful Publications (contact the ADRC if you need paper copies of these):

A Talk with an Older Driver:

https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Resources/Factsheets/Talk_Elder_Driver.aspx

Before you give up the Keys:

https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Resources/Brochures/docs/Give_Up_The_Keys_Roadmap_for_Transportation_Independence.pdf

The items below are available on the ADRC website at:

<https://adrc.racinecounty.com/site/471/transportation.aspx>

Driving Retirement

Hanging Up the Keys

DMV -Driver medical concerns - overview

- [Driver medical concerns](#)
- [Driving with a disability](#)
- [Driving with a medical condition](#)
- [Reporting an unsafe driver](#)
- [State medical waivers for CDL drivers](#)
- [Driver license/ID cards](#)
- [Commercial license](#)
- [Teen drivers](#)
- [Vehicles](#)

Please use these links, forms and publications as needed if you or someone you know has a medical concern that may affect safe driving.

Special driving circumstances

- [Driving with a disability](#)
- [Driving with a medical condition](#)
- [Reporting an unsafe driver](#)

DMV medical forms

- [MV3141](#) - Driver Condition or Behavior Report
- [MV3454](#) - Pledge of Confidentiality
- [MV3644](#) - Medical Examination Report
- [MV3030V](#) - Driver License Vision Standard
- [MV3746](#) - Certificate of Substance Examination by Competent Authority
- [MV3030B](#) - Physical Examination Report for S or P Endorsement (school bus drivers)
- [MV3581](#) - Voluntary Temporary Surrender

DMV "Be Safe, Not Sorry" series of medical outreach publications

- [BDS344](#) – Medical professional guide for reporting drivers
- [BDS345](#) – Older driver workbook
- [BDS225](#) – Public guide for reporting medically-impaired drivers
- [BDS343](#) – Law enforcement guide for reporting drivers

Alternative transportation options

Check your county's [alternative transportation options](#) for those who choose not to or cannot drive.

Medical Review & Fitness Unit

P.O. Box 7918

Madison WI 53707-7918

Email: <https://trust.dot.state.wi.us/eif/emailInq.do?action=lookUpInquiry>

Phone (608) 266-2327

Fax (608) 267-0518

Automotive Modifications:

A & J Mobility

3058 Helsan Dr.
Richfield, WI 53076

www.aandjmobility.com

Provides installation of a variety of adaptive equipment for vehicles, including hand controls, mobility transfer seats, steering devices and wheelchair and scooter lifts. Sells new and pre-owned wheelchair accessible vans and has wheelchair accessible vehicles for rent by the day, week, month or weekend.

262-623-6236

800-517-1024

Access Mobility Vans

<https://www.accessmobilityvans.com/>

Lifts, ramps and many other home and vehicle modifications

414-727-2524

Erickson Mobility

2210 Lathrop Ave
Racine, WI 53405

<http://www.ericksontrim.com/Mobility>

Automotive adaptations and ramps to load equipment only, stair lifts.

262-554-1202

800-570-3340

GT Mobility & Service LLC

222 Linnerud Dr, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

<http://gtmobility.com>

New and pre-owned accessible vehicles, adaptive equipment, accessible rentals.

608-395-2350

Mobility Works

N8W22195 Johnson Dr, Suite 130
Waukesha, WI 53186

<http://www.mobilityworks.com>

Accessible transportation modifications. Services: - Wheelchair and scooter lifts - Vans and van conversions - Driving aids - Driving evaluation/training - Ramps for vehicles - Accessible van rental - Service and repair.

262-574-0970

800-649-3434

Wheelchair Getaways

W223 N798 Saratoga Dr, Suite H
Waukesha, WI 53186

Accessible van rentals for those going through rehab, replacing a vehicle that has been in an accident or in for servicing, or are simply traveling in Wisconsin. Rentals are available by the day, week, month, or longer. Pick up and delivery available. Also, sales of pre-owned converted vehicles.

262-522-1105

866-748-3004

National Institute on Aging – Age Page – Older Drivers

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/older-drivers>

Older Drivers

At age 78, Sheila thinks she's a good driver, but, this year, she's had a minor accident and several near misses. She's noticed a few new dents on her car and doesn't know how they got there. Sheila wonders how she can stay safe behind the wheel.

Have you been worried about your driving? Have your family or friends expressed concern? Changes in your health may affect your driving skills over time. Don't risk hurting yourself or others. [Talk with your doctor](#) about any concerns you have about your health and driving.

Stiff Joints and Muscles

As you age, your joints may get stiff, and your muscles may weaken. [Arthritis](#), which is common among older adults, might affect your ability to drive. These changes can make it harder to turn your head to look back, turn the steering wheel quickly, or brake safely.

Safe driving tips:

- See your doctor if [pain](#), stiffness, or arthritis seem to get in the way of your driving.
- If possible, drive a car with automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, and large mirrors.
- Be [physically active or exercise](#) to keep and even improve your [strength](#) and [flexibility](#).
- Think about getting hand controls for both the gas and brake pedals if you have leg problems.

Trouble Seeing

Your [eyesight](#) can change as you get older. It might be harder to see people, things, and movement outside your direct line of sight. It may take longer to read street or traffic signs or even recognize familiar places. At night, you may have trouble seeing things clearly. Glare from oncoming headlights or street lights can be a problem. Depending on the time of the day, the sun might be blinding.

Eye diseases, such as glaucoma, cataracts, and macular degeneration, as well as some medicines, can also cause vision problems.

Safe driving tips:

- If you are 65 or older, see your eye doctor every year. Ask if there are ways to improve your eyesight.
- If you need glasses or contact lenses to see far away while driving, make sure your prescription is up-to-date and correct. Always wear them when you are driving.
- Cut back on or stop driving at night if you have trouble seeing in the dark. Try to avoid driving during sunrise and sunset, when the sun can be directly in your line of vision.

Trouble Hearing

As you get older, your [hearing](#) can change, making it harder to notice horns, sirens, or even noises coming from your own car. Hearing loss can be a problem because these sounds warn you when you may need to pull over or get out of the way.

Safe driving tips:

- Have your hearing checked at least every 3 years after age 50.
- Discuss concerns you have about hearing with your doctor. There may be things that can help.
- Try to keep the inside of the car as quiet as possible while driving.

Dementia and Driving

In the early stages of [Alzheimer's disease](#) or [other types of dementia](#), some people are able to keep driving. But, as memory and decision-making skills get worse, they need to stop.

People with dementia often do not know they are having driving problems. [Family and friends](#) need to monitor the person's driving ability and take action as soon as they observe a potential problem, such as forgetting how to find familiar places like the grocery store or even their home. Work with the doctor to let the person know it's no longer safe to keep driving.

Learn more about [driving safety and Alzheimer's disease](#).

Slower Reaction Time and Reflexes

As you get older, your reflexes might get slower, and you might not react as quickly as you could in the past. You might find that you have a shorter attention span, making it harder to do two things at once. Stiff joints or weak muscles also can make it harder to move quickly. Loss of feeling or tingling in your fingers and feet can make it difficult to steer or use the foot pedals. [Parkinson's disease](#) or limitations following a [stroke](#) can make it no longer safe to drive.

Safe driving tips:

- Leave more space between you and the car in front of you.
- Start braking early when you need to stop.
- Avoid heavy traffic areas or rush-hour driving when you can.
- If you must drive on a fast-moving highway, drive in the right-hand lane. Traffic moves more slowly there, giving you more time to make safe driving decisions.

Medications Can Affect Driving

Do you take any [medicines](#) that make you feel drowsy, lightheaded, or less alert than usual? Do medicines you take have a warning about driving? Many medications have side effects that can make driving unsafe. Pay attention to how these drugs may affect your driving.

Safe driving tips:

- Read medicine labels carefully. Look for any warnings.
- Make a list of all of your medicines and talk with your doctor or pharmacist about how they can affect your driving.
- Don't drive if you feel lightheaded or drowsy.

Be a Safe Driver

Maybe you already know that driving at night, on the highway, or in bad weather is a problem for you. Some older drivers also have problems when yielding the right of way, turning (especially making left turns), changing lanes, passing, and using expressway ramps.

Safe driving tips:

- Have your driving skills checked by a driving rehabilitation specialist, occupational therapist, or other trained professional.
- Take a defensive driving course. Some car insurance companies may lower your bill when you pass this type of class. Organizations like [AARP](#), [American Automobile Association \(AAA\)](#), or your car insurance company can help you find a class near you.
- When in doubt, don't go out. Bad weather like rain, ice, or snow can make it hard for anyone to drive. Try to wait until the weather is better, or use buses, taxis, or other transportation services.
- Avoid areas where driving can be a problem. For example, choose a route that avoids highways or other high-speed roadways. Or, find a way to go that requires few or no left turns.
- [Ask your doctor](#) if any of your health problems or medications might make it unsafe for you to drive. Together, you can make a plan to help you keep driving and decide when it is no longer safe to drive.

Do You Have Concerns About an Older Driver?

Are you worried about an older family member or friend driving? Sometimes, it can be hard for an older person to realize that he or she is no longer a safe driver. You might want to observe the person's driving skills.

If it's not possible to observe the older person driving, look out for these signs:

- Multiple vehicle crashes, "near misses," and/or new dents in the car
- Two or more traffic tickets or warnings within the last 2 years; increases in car insurance premiums because of driving issues
- Comments from neighbors or friends about driving
- Anxiety about driving at night
- Health issues that might affect driving ability, including problems with vision, hearing, and/or movement
- Complaints about the speed, sudden lane changes, or actions of other drivers
- Recommendations from a doctor to modify driving habits or quit driving entirely

Having "The Talk" About Driving

Talking with an older person about his or her driving is often difficult. Here are some things that might help when having the talk.

- **Be prepared.** Learn about local services to help someone who can no longer drive. Identify the person's transportation needs.
- **Avoid confrontation.** Use "I" messages rather than "You" messages. For example, say, "I am concerned about your safety when you are driving," rather than, "You're no longer a safe driver."
- **Stick to the issue.** Discuss the driver's skills, not his or her age.

- **Focus on safety and maintaining independence.** Be clear that the goal is for the older driver to continue the [activities he or she currently enjoys](#) while staying safe. Offer to help the person stay independent. For example, you might say, "I'll help you figure out how to get where you want to go if driving isn't possible."
- **Be positive and supportive.** Recognize the importance of a driver's license to the older person. Understand that he or she may become defensive, angry, hurt, or withdrawn. You might say, "I understand that this may be upsetting" or "We'll work together to find a solution."

Is It Time to Give Up Driving?

We all age differently. For this reason, there is no way to set one age when everyone should stop driving. So, how do you know if you should stop? To help decide, ask yourself:

- Do other drivers often honk at me?
- Have I had some accidents, even if they were only "fender benders"?
- Do I get lost, even on roads I know?
- Do cars or people walking seem to appear out of nowhere?
- Do I get distracted while driving?
- Have family, friends, or my doctor said they're worried about my driving?
- Am I driving less these days because I'm not as sure about my driving as I used to be?
- Do I have trouble staying in my lane?
- Do I have trouble moving my foot between the gas and the brake pedals, or do I sometimes confuse the two?
- Have I been pulled over by a police officer about my driving?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, it may be time to talk with your doctor about driving or have a driving assessment.

How Will You Get Around?

Are you worried you won't be able to do the things you want and need to do if you stop driving? Many people have this concern, but there may be more ways to get around than you think. For example, some areas provide free or low-cost bus or taxi services for older people. Some communities offer a carpool service or scheduled trips to the grocery store, mall, or doctor's office. Religious and civic groups sometimes have volunteers who will drive you where you want to go.

Your local Area Agency on Aging can help you find services in your area. Call **1-800-677-1116** or go to <https://eldercare.acl.gov> to find your nearest Area Agency on Aging.

You can also think about using a car or ride-sharing service. Sound pricey? Don't forget—it costs a lot to own a car. If you don't have to make car payments or pay for insurance, maintenance, gas, oil, or other car expenses, then you may be able to afford to take taxis or other transportation. You can also buy gas for friends or family members who give you rides.

More Safe Driving Tips

Before you leave home:

- Plan to drive on streets you know.
- Only drive to places that are easy to get to and close to home.
- Avoid risky spots like ramps and left turns.
- Add extra time for travel if you must drive when conditions are poor.
- Limit how much you drive at night.
- Don't drive when you are stressed or [tired](#).

While you are driving:

- Always wear your seat belt and make sure your passengers wear their seat belts, too.
- Wear your glasses and/or hearing aid, if you use them.
- Stay off your cell phone.
- Avoid distractions such as eating, listening to the radio, or chatting.
- Use your window defrosters to keep both the front and back windows clear.

Read about [this topic in Spanish](#). Lea sobre [este tema en español](#).

For More Information About Driving

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

1-888-327-4236 (toll-free)

1-800-424-9153 (TTY/toll-free)

nhtsa.webmaster@dot.gov

www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/older-drivers

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

1-202-638-5944

info@aaaafoundation.org

www.seniordriving.aaa.com

www.aaaafoundation.org

AARP

1-888-687-2277 (toll-free)

1-877-434-7598 (TTY/toll-free)

member@aarp.org

www.aarp.org/auto/driver-safety

Eldercare Locator

1-800-677-1116 (toll-free)

<https://eldercare.acl.gov>

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