

To report the driver to DMV, you can write a letter to DMV or use a Driver Evaluation Request form available on the Reporting an Unsafe/At-Risk Driver via [DMV's Driver Fitness web page](#)\* or at your local DMV field office.

When reporting, it's important to describe the health problem or unsafe driving behavior that causes you to believe the person is no longer safe to drive.

You must include: the driver's name, information sufficient for DMV to identify him or her (date of birth, address, etc.), and your name and signature. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. You can request that your name be kept confidential. You may mail or fax this to DMV.

Upon receipt of the report, DMV may require retesting, request medical information, or suspend driving privileges outright. DMV will determine whether the person may continue to drive with or without restrictions or whether the person should stop driving.

## Alternatives To Driving

The Getting Around section of DMV's Driver Fitness web page has links to many driving alternatives. With many social needs met through driving, staying independently mobile is important. People who live alone and no longer drive may feel isolated. Arrange for frequent visits to the home, and plan outings with friends and family that will help the person remain socially active. Family members, neighbors and caregivers can provide transportation to appointments and errands. Explore options to have groceries or prescriptions delivered. The local senior center may offer a shuttle service. For resources in your community, call **(800) 282-8096** and ask for your local Area Agency on Aging.

\*<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/dmv/50plus/pages/index.aspx>



### For more information: Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Driver Specialty Services

1905 Lana Ave. NE  
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Ph: (503) 945-5083  
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Transportation Driver and  
Motor Vehicle Services

Form 735-7240 (4-24)



# Retiring From Driving

## When Someone You Know Should Give Up Driving



Oregon Driver and Motor  
Vehicle Services

## When Someone You Know Should Give Up Driving

*Physical or medical conditions such as poor vision, restricted movement, illness or dementia can put a driver and the public at risk. Sometimes the signs are readily apparent, but usually the signs are gradual and take place over a period of time.*



One's sense of freedom, control and competence is strongly tied to the ability to drive. It's not always easy to give up the independence that driving provides and to find alternative transportation.

To help an unsafe driver, begin by assessing the individual's ability to drive. An open, early and ongoing discussion can help your family develop a plan before the situation becomes a crisis. Consider available alternatives to driving. Having the support of your family physician and local social service agencies can help.

Oregon DMV's Driver Fitness web page features a wealth of information on alternative transportation and how to discuss the issue of "retiring" from driving.

For more information, go to:  
[www.oregondmv.com](http://www.oregondmv.com)  
and click on the "Driver Fitness" link.



### Signs Of Unsafe Driving

Family members and caregivers are in the best position to observe signs of declining driving ability. Does the older driver:

- Experience other drivers honking at them in traffic?
- Move into a wrong lane?
- Become easily lost or confused?
- Have new dents or scratches on the car?
- Drive at inappropriate speeds?
- Have an increase in traffic tickets or warnings?  
or
- Experience near misses?

### What You Can Do

If you notice any of these warning signs, it's time to assess the situation. Don't wait for a collision to happen. Share your observations with the driver, their physician and other family members. The steps you take depend on the nature and seriousness of the unsafe driving behavior.

In some cases, you can help the driver stay mobile as long as safely possible by suggesting simple changes. These include driving shorter distances, staying on familiar roads, and avoiding night driving, heavy traffic and unprotected left turns. The driver may also benefit from a driver improvement or refresher course.

Someone who is ready to give up driving may choose to exchange a current driver license for an identification card at no charge. A local DMV office can help with this option.

The transition from driving can be emotionally difficult for the driver and for family members. Begin the discussion early. Seek assistance from the family physician to help assess and monitor any medical conditions that can affect driving. Some health care professionals are required to refer a driver to DMV when an individual's impairment becomes severe and uncontrollable.