

To report the driver to DMV, you can write a letter to DMV or use a Driver Evaluation Request form, which is available on the DMV website and at your local DMV field office.

You will need to describe the person's health problem or unsafe driving behavior that causes you to believe the person is no longer safe to drive. A description of how driving is or may be affected is important.

You must include your name and signature, and the driver's name and information sufficient for DMV to identify him or her (date of birth, address, etc.) 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

Many social needs are met through driving. 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.



For more information:

Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Driver Safety Unit

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Transportation Driver and
Motor Vehicle Services

Form 735-7240 (9-18)
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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

What do you do about an older family member who no longer drives safely? 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.



Despite your concerns for the driver's safety, it may be difficult to discuss the problem with the driver or to intervene. 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. Consider available alternatives to driving. An open, early and ongoing discussion can help your family develop a plan before the situation becomes a crisis. Having the support of your family physician, local social service agencies can help.

Oregon DMV's "Drivers 50+" website features a wealth of information on how to discuss the issue of "retiring" from driving and alternative transportation.

For more information, go to: 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 is time to assess the situation. Don't wait for an accident 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. 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.