On behalf of the Training, Research and Education for Driving Safety (TREDS) program at the University of California San Diego, thank you for helping to promote safety for older drivers and other road users.

This “California Referral Guide for Older Road Users” contains resources to assist older adults and their families with questions and concerns related to safe driving. Topics covered include driving assessment, refresher courses, adaptive equipment for cars, and transportation alternatives. Many older adults will outlive their driving ability by 7–10 years; help is available to address the difficult topic of driving retirement and continued mobility.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for additional resources to include in future editions of this Guide.

Working together, we can make California roads safer for everyone.

Sincerely,

The TREDS Team

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
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### INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

### GENERAL RESOURCES

**ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION**

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<th>Resource</th>
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<td>alz.org</td>
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**California Central Coast**

- Santa Barbara Chapter Headquarters: (805) 892-4259
- San Luis Obispo Office: (805) 547-3830
- Santa Maria Office: (805) 636-6432
- Ventura County Office: (805) 494-5200

**California Southland**

- Beverly Hills Main Office: (323) 309-8821
- Coachella Valley Regional Office: (760) 996-0006
- Inland Empire Office: (909) 406-5376
- Kern County Regional Office: (661) 912-3053
- San Fernando Valley Office: (818) 875-9923

**Northern California**

- California Central Valley Area
  - Chico Office: (530) 895-9661
  - Fresno Office: (559) 753-8200
  - Sacramento Office: (916) 930-9080
- Central Coast Area
  - Monterey Office: (831) 647-9890
  - Santa Cruz Office: (831) 647-9890
- Greater San Francisco Bay Area
  - East Bay Office: (925) 284-7942
  - San Francisco Office: (415) 463-8500
  - San Jose Office: (408) 372-9900
- North Bay Area
  - San Rafael Office: (415) 472-4340
  - Santa Rosa Office: (707) 573-1210
- Orange County
  - Chapter Office: (949) 426-8544
- San Diego
  - Chapter Office: (619) 678-8322

Information, education, care, and vital support for those with Alzheimer’s disease and their families. Can address driving issues and help families work through conversations about driving.
Alzheimer’s Navigator
alzheimersnavigator.org/default.aspx
Guides caregivers with answers concerning loved ones with Alzheimer’s disease. Creates personalized action plans and links people to information, support, and local resources on topics such as driving, safety, financial planning, daily living, and care options.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING
aging.ca.gov ............................................................................................................. (916) 419-7500
The California Department of Aging (CDA) administers programs that serve older adults, adults with disabilities, family caregivers, and residents in long-term care facilities throughout the State. The Department administers funds allocated under the federal Older Americans Act, the Older Californians Act, and through the Medi-Cal program.

ELDERCARE LOCATOR
eldercare.gov ........................................................................................................... (800) 677-1116
Nationwide service that connects older Americans and their caregivers with information on senior services, including brochures and fact sheets on driving matters.

SENIOR INFORMATION LINE ................................................................. (800) 510-2020
This toll-free statewide telephone number links older Californians and their caregivers to information and assistance in their own area. Calls are automatically routed to a specialist housed in one of the 33 Area Agencies on Aging.

SILVER ALERT
chp.ca.gov/news-alerts/silver-alert ........................................................................... (800) 835-5247
California’s Silver Alert program is a quick response system designed to issue and coordinate alerts following the unexplained or suspicious disappearance of an elderly person, or a person who is developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired. The goal of a Silver Alert is to provide immediate information to the public about the missing person, including images or descriptions and the time and location last seen to speed the process to locate the person and return them to safety.

DRIVER–RELATED RESOURCES

CALIFORNIA 511
dot.ca.gov/trafficops/tm/511.html ..................................................................................511
The 511 Traveler Information System provides free real-time traveler information which enables the traveling public to make informed transportation choices. The 511 system can help drivers stay up-to-date on crashes, congestion, construction, severe weather, emergency evacuation and more.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES (DMV)
dmv.ca.gov ............................................................................................................... (800) 677-1116
Information for aging drivers covering topics such as assessing driving, making adjustments, the driver license renewal process, the reexamination process, and when to stop driving.
CALIFORNIA DMV SENIOR GUIDE FOR SAFE DRIVING

dmv.ca.gov/portal/wcm/connect/8a431ac8-535b-4783-b006-a6c6cf58ef18/dl625senior.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

Information for aging drivers covering topics such as assessing driving, making adjustments, the driver license renewal process, the reexamination process, and when to stop driving.

CALIFORNIA DMV SENIOR OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

bit.ly/dmv-ombudsman

Sacramento/Northern California ................................................................. (916) 657-6464
San Francisco/Oakland ............................................................................ (510) 563-8998
Orange/San Bernardino/San Diego Counties ........................................... (714) 705-1588
Los Angeles/Oxnard .................................................................................. (310) 615-3552

Ensures senior drivers are treated fairly and consistently with laws and regulations, and with dignity and respect. Informational resource to support seniors through the licensing process. Available to assist in individual cases as well as participate in outreach seminars to promote driver safety with emphasis on senior issues.

REQUEST FOR DRIVER REEXAMINATION at the DMV

Reporting someone to the DMV does not necessarily mean they will lose their driving privilege. The goal is to preserve driving for as long as it is safe. The DMV can monitor at-risk drivers and impose licensing restrictions to prolong driving.

DMV Form DS699: concerned family members, neighbors, and friends can complete this form to request that the DMV re-evaluate a person’s ability to drive safely. (Appendix 1; page 17)
dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/forms/ds/ds699

DRIVER PRACTICE TESTS AND TUTORIAL

Practice tests: bit.ly/dmv-practice-tests
Sample practice tests for those required to take a written test for renewal of their driver license.
California Drivers Handbook: dmv.ca.gov/web/eng_pdf/dl600.pdf

REQUEST FOR DRIVER REEXAMINATION at the DMV

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dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/forms/ds/ds699
CHORUS: CLEARINGHOUSE FOR OLDER ROAD USER SAFETY
roadsafeseniors.org/

Information for aging drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Covers three major components of highway safety: roadways, road users, and cars. Includes a public forum where users can ask questions on safe driving, dangerous roads, and more.

LIFELONG DRIVER
lifelongdriver.com

Program to improve skills older drivers need to stay safe on the road. Materials online include computer-based training, point-of-view driving simulations, interactive video segments, at-home activities, and optional in-car exercises. Check website for current course pricing.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGING – DRIVING SAFETY AND ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE
nia.nih.gov/health/driving-safety-and-alzheimers-disease

Includes information on Alzheimer's disease, driving safety, and other transportation options.

SAFERCAR – THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
safercar.gov

Provides car crash test and rollover ratings, as well as information about safety technology.

TRAINING, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOR DRIVING SAFETY (TREDS)
treds.ucsd.edu ..........................................................(858) 534-8386

Based at the University of California School of Medicine, TREDs works to improve driver safety through education and training programs for health professionals, law enforcement, and the community, and conducts research to inform and improve public policy. TREDs also serves as a resource to professionals and the public on driving issues and referrals.
FITNESS TO DRIVE AND CAR COMFORT

GENERAL RESOURCES

ASSISTIVE ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR CAR
seniordriving.aaa.com/maintain-mobility-independence/car-buying-maintenance-assistive-accessories/assistive-accessories
Helps drivers choose accessories or make alterations to their cars to optimize driving performance and safety. Includes resources for adaptive car devices designed for in-car use, such as hand controls, pedal extenders, and special mirrors.

CARFIT
car-fit.org/
Offers older adults the opportunity to assess how well their car “fits” them. Process is completed by a team of specialists at a CarFit event, which includes technicians and/or health professionals. Visit website for scheduled events.

DRIVING FOR SENIORS BROCHURE
insurance.ca.gov/flipbook/driving-for-seniors-fb/18/
This booklet has tips to help you drive safely, drive longer, and avoid accidents. It also provides information to help you discuss your automobile insurance needs, ask informed questions, and understand your rights and responsibilities.

FLEXIBILITY FITNESS TRAINING FOR IMPROVING OLDER DRIVER PERFORMANCE
Exercises designed to improve flexibility as it relates to driving. Useful for parallel parking, backing up, adjusting mirrors, and looking over shoulders.

MY CAR DOES WHAT?
https://mycardoeswhat.org/
Helps drivers understand how to utilize car safety technology such as backup cameras, blind-spot monitoring, automatic emergency braking, and lane departure warnings. Informs drivers about how these safety features work to equip drivers with the knowledge to use these assistive technologies to drive safely on the road.

PERFORMANCE HEALTH
performancehealth.com
Performance Health is a leader in consumer healthcare and the largest global manufacturer and distributor of products to the rehabilitation and sports medicine markets. Resources for non-prescription items such as the handybar, leg lifters or swivel seat.
SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR ANY CAR CHECKLIST

thehartford.com/sites/thehartford/files/your-road-to-confidence.pdf

Page 21 of this resource includes a checklist of safety features that maximize safe driving for older drivers. (Appendix 4; page 20)

SMART FEATURES FOR OLDER DRIVERS

seniordriving.aaa.com/smartfeatures

Helps identify smart features in cars for older drivers to optimize their comfort and safety, as well as be tailored for personal needs, including diminished vision, short-stature, limited knee range of motion, and arthritic hands.

DRIVER REFRESHER COURSES

AAA ROADWISE DRIVER ................................................................. (877) 476-1254

seniordriving.aaa.com/maintain-mobility-independence/driver-improvement-courses-seniors

An online senior defensive driving program designed to positively affect driving behavior and help learn about and adjust to age-related physical changes. Price based on membership. Visit website for class locations.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE

aarp.org/auto/driver-safety/ ................................................................. (800) 350-7025

Classroom and online driver safety course designed specifically for drivers 50+. Seniors review rules of the road, defensive driving techniques, and how to operate cars safely. Eight-hour course taught in two, 4-hour sessions. Price based on membership. Visit website for class locations.

AGE WELL DRIVE SMART ................................................................. (800) 835-5247

chp.ca.gov/programs-services/programs/age-well-drive-smart

Free classroom program created by the California Highway Patrol, designed to raise awareness of senior driving and warning signs of diminished capabilities. Also reviews alternatives to driving. To contact the Public Information Office at your local CHP office, go to chp.ca.gov/find-an-office

AMERICAN SAFETY COUNCIL MATURE DRIVER COURSE

maturedrivercourse.com/california/ .................................................. (800) 732-4135

Online mature driver program comprised of text, pictures and animations that reinforce safe driving concepts in a user-friendly format. Visit website for current pricing information

iDRIVE SAFELY

idrivesafely.com/insurance-discount/mature/?vID=z3Xc&eID=827 ....................... (866) 388-9068

Six-hour, self-paced, online mature driver program uses fun and informative animation to make content easy to learn and retain. Visit website for current pricing information.

IMPROV MATURE DRIVER COURSE

myimprov.com/mature-driver/california/ .................................................. (800) 660-8908

Fun online course that highlights helpful driving techniques to keep drivers safe, and brushes up on state-specific rules, regulations, and traffic facts. Visit website for current pricing information.
TRAFFIC SAFETY CONSULTANTS MATURE DRIVER ONLINE
cheapmaturedriver.com/ ...........................................................................................................(800) 259-0530
Online crash prevention course designed specifically to educate older drivers about the effects that aging can have on a person’s ability to safely control a car, and suggests helpful remedies and alternatives. Visit website for current pricing information.

DRIVER REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

CALIFORNIA PROGRAM LOCATOR
treds.ucsd.edu/driver-evaluation/
Contains information about California Occupational Therapist Driving Programs with professionals who are trained in driving assessment and evaluation. A trained Occupational Therapist can help seniors determine how health impairments and other limitations may be affecting their driving and then help develop and implement a plan for how he or she can reduce their risks and stay safely mobile.
If your county is not listed, search nearby counties for a program.

NATIONAL PROGRAM LOCATORS

AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
aota.org/Practice/Productive-Aging/Driving.aspx

ASSOCIATION OF DRIVER REHABILITATION SPECIALISTS
aded.site-ym.com/search/custom.asp?id=1984 .........................................................(866) 672-9466
ASSESSMENTS

SELF - ASSESSMENTS

“AM I A SAFE DRIVER?”

nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/812228-CliniciansGuideToOlderDrivers.pdf

Pages 208 and 209 in the Clinician’s Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers, 3rd Edition, offer a checklist of statements for an older driver to determine whether or not their driving is at risk. (also in Appendix 7; page 29)

DRIVERS 65 PLUS: CHECK YOUR PERFORMANCE


Free, online self-rating form to help older drivers examine ability to keep driving safely. Consists of questions to identify strengths and weaknesses, along with suggestions to improve driving.

DRIVESHARP

calif.aaa.com/automotive/driver-education/senior-programs/drivesharp.html

Online brain training program to help older drivers see more, improve their ability to monitor multiple moving objects, and increase their processing speed in order to reduce their risk of crashing. Check website for current course pricing.

DRIVING DECISIONS WORKBOOK

deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/1321/94135.0001.001.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y

Self-assessment includes five sections, each having to do with areas that affect safe driving: on-the-road, seeing, thinking, getting around, and health.

DRIVING SAFELY WHILE AGING GRACEFULLY

nhtsa.gov/people/injury/olddrive/Driving%20Safely%20Aging%20Web/

Contains questions for older drivers to consider, including an outline of the physical effects of aging. Offers tips on how to cope with these changes so seniors can remain safe drivers longer.
MEDICATION ASSESSMENTS

ROADWISE RX
roadwiserx.com/
Online tool designed to help drivers learn more about their medications and how they may affect driving. Roadwise Rx records your prescription and over-the-counter medications in one central location, and provides personalized feedback about your medications and how they can impact your ability to drive safely.

ASSESSMENTS BY FAMILY MEMBERS/CAREGIVERS

FITNESS-TO-DRIVE
fitnessstodrive.phhp.ufl.edu/
Screening assessment completed by someone concerned about an older driver with recommendations on actions to take. Evaluators should have driven with the person within the past three months.

REQUEST FOR DRIVER REEXAMINATION at the DMV
Reporting someone to the DMV does not necessarily mean they will lose their driving privilege. The goal is to preserve driving for as long as it is safe. The DMV can monitor at-risk drivers and impose licensing restrictions to prolong driving.

DMV Form DS699: concerned family members, neighbors, and friends can complete this form to request that the DMV re-evaluate a person’s ability to drive safely. (Appendix 1; page 17)
dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/forms/ds/ds699
TRANSITIONING FROM DRIVING

FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT DRIVING
seniordriving.aaa.com/resources-family-friends/conversations-about-driving/

A guide for conversations about safe driving that allows families to strategize before future changes in driving abilities become a concern.

DRIVEWELL: PROMOTING OLDER DRIVER SAFETY AND MOBILITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Developed for people who work directly with older adults (including family members) to better understand and deal with issues related to older drivers, such as later-life dependence and mobility. Pages 44-52 outline tips for conversations with older drivers about their driving ability.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND & INFLUENCE OLDER DRIVERS
nhtsa.gov/people/injury/olddrive/UnderstandOlderDrivers/

Step-by-step suggestions on how to initiate conversations with older adults about driving.

LET’S TALK ABOUT DRIVING
caregiverstress.com/senior-safety/lets-talk-about-driving/

Helps families build a roadmap for limiting or stopping driving when the time is right. Includes an interactive Safe Driving Planner to help assess a senior loved one’s driving habits and provide tools for safe driving, options for driving reduction or cessation, and alternative transportation options.

STEP-BY-STEP RESOURCES FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES
seniordriving.aaa.com/resources-family-friends

Tools and resources for friends and families to effectively and compassionately help the senior driver in their lives.

WE NEED TO TALK…
https://s0.hfdstatic.com/sites/the_hartford/files/we-need-to-talk.pdf

Suggestions to help families address the subject of older driver safety and foster meaningful family conversations about the subject.
PLANNING TOOLS

GETTING BY WITHOUT DRIVING

nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/older_drivers/pdf/812228_CliniciansGuideToOlderDrivers.pdf

Pages 214-217 of the resource offer older drivers suggestions on how to get by without driving. Includes alternative ways to meet transportation needs, such as having groceries and prescriptions delivered. (Appendix 6; page 23)

“GETTING THERE” WORKSHEET

https://s0.hfdstatic.com/sites/the_hartford/files/we-need-to-talk.pdf

Pages 17-18 of the resource help older drivers identify the best alternative transportation methods in their area. (Appendix 7; page 25)

TRANSPORTATION COST WORKSHEET

https://s0.hfdstatic.com/sites/the_hartford/files/we-need-to-talk.pdf

Page 19 of the resource helps drivers track costs involved in owning a car, such as regular operating and maintenance expenses. (Appendix 8; page 27)
CLINICIAN’S GUIDE TO ASSESSING AND COUNSELING OLDER DRIVERS, 3RD EDITION

Updates and expands upon the Physician’s Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers. Assists clinicians to better identify older drivers at risk for crashes, help enhance driving safety, and ease transition to driving retirement if and when it becomes necessary.

PHYSICIAN REPORTING

Reporting someone to the DMV does not necessarily mean they will lose their driving privilege. The goal is to preserve driving for as long as it is safe. The DMV can monitor at-risk drivers and impose licensing restrictions to prolong driving.

Physicians are required to report conditions that cause lapses of consciousness, seizures, or diseases related to Alzheimer’s (and other dementia). Disorders characterized by lapses of consciousness refer to conditions that involve: marked reduction of alertness or responsiveness to external stimuli; inability to perform one or more activities of daily living; and impaired sensory motor functions used to operate a motor car.

Physicians are required to report a patient to the California Department of Public Health using the following form:

Confidentiality and Morbidity Report (CMR 110c): this form should be faxed to the California Department of Public Health who will notify DMV. For faster action, clinicians can also send the report directly to DMV. (Appendix 2; page 18)

cdph.ca.gov/CDPH%20Document%20Library/ControlledForms/cdph110c.pdf

Physicians can also report on the:

Request for Driver Reexamination (DMV Form DS699): concerned physicians can complete this form to request that the DMV reevaluate a person’s ability to drive safely. (Appendix 1; page 17)

dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/forms/ds/ds699

Physicians can also report directly on office letterhead.

Once a driver is referred for re-examination, the DMV may request a driver provide the Driver Medical Evaluation Form (DMV Form DS326). The physician will be asked to complete information about the patient’s health status with respect to vision, current treatment, functional impairments, and other health matters. (Appendix 3; page 19)

dmv.ca.gov/portal/wcm/connect/f92586ac-be7a-456b-af31-b35acc029982/DS+326+R5-2016AS+WWW.pdf?MOD=AJPERES
HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES

AETNA ACCESS2CARE TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT FOR MEDICARE

https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/california/members/resources/transportation

Covers 24 one-way non-emergency trips to doctors and facilities. Schedule a ride at least three business days before the appointment.

ANTHEM BLUE CROSS MEDI-CAL


Provides rides to approved medical services and visits at no cost. Schedule a ride at least two business days before the appointment.

CARE1st HEALTH PLAN

care1st.com/ca/members/members-services.asp?section=GetToKnowYourHealthPlan

Free transportation to doctor’s appointments. Some restrictions apply. Call 8am-6pm, Monday through Friday, at least 24 hours in advance.

HEALTH NET NON-EMERGENCY ROUTINE MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

The Health Net Transportation Department provides routine transportation for Health Net of California members. Check your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) to determine membership and amount of one-way trips included. Transportation should be requested 24 hours in advance (48 hours for wheelchair vans).

MOLINA MEDI-CAL NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Provides transportation via ambulance, litter van, or wheelchair van to Medi-Cal beneficiaries to medical appointments if they cannot travel by car, bus, train, or taxi. Must have prior authorization from physician. Schedule transportation at least three business days before the appointment.

MOLINA MEDICARE NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Provides transportation to Medicare beneficiaries to healthcare appointments, including PCP visits, labs, x-rays, and therapy. Does not require prior approval. A wheelchair van or other services can be provided. Schedule transportation at least three business days before the appointment.
RIDESHARE

FLYWHEEL
flywheelnow.com/
Cell phone application that allows users to hail the closest taxi.

ARRIVE RIDES
arriverides.com......................................................................................................... (866) 626-9879
Arrive is a members-only service that arranges on-demand rides for people without smartphones by dispatching Lyft and Uber rides for members. Membership is $10 per month; rides cost usual fare plus $3 transportation fee. Available 9am-6pm PST. Fare estimated online and paid electronically.

LYFT
lyft.com/
Ride-sharing cell phone application allows users to request rides. Offers several ride options, including a lower-cost carpool service. Payment is by credit card and no money changes hands.

UBER
uber.com
Ride-sharing cell phone application allows users to request rides. Offers several ride options, including a lower-cost carpool service. Payment is by credit card and no money changes hands.

GoGoGrandparent ...............................................................(310) 400-5082
gogograndparent.com/
This is an Uber service for those who don’t have smartphones. Clients call and the service orders a ride from Uber. Can also deliver meals or household items to the home. Offers a Control Panel for families to request services for older adults and receive texts that will provide by-the-minute updates. Pricing depends on distance. No service charge in addition to usual Uber pricing. Fare estimate offered online. Payment is by credit card and no money changes hands.

RideWith24 ..............................................................................(949) 607-8115
Ridewith24.com
Uber ride ordering to go anywhere. Includes uberASSIST, in which drivers assist clients door-to-door rather than curb-to-curb as a traditional taxicab. Rides cost usual fare plus $6.99 service fee. Rides can also be requested through the website.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

AMTRAK
amtrak.com
Daily trips to and from Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and San Diego with stops in Orange County. Check website for more information on discounts available for seniors (62+), veterans, persons with disabilities, and their companions.
METROLINK
metrolinktrains.com
Commuter rail system with service to Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties. Senior and disabled discounts are available. Attendants ride free with disabled passenger. Proof of disability required. See website for stations, schedules, and ticket pricing.
1. **DMV Form DS699**: concerned family members, neighbors, and friends can complete this form to request that the DMV re-evaluate a person’s ability to drive safely.

![Request for Driver Reexamination Form](image)

For printable version: [CLICK HERE](#)
2. CMR 110c: Physicians are required to report conditions that cause lapses of consciousness, seizures, or diseases related to Alzheimer’s (and other dementias) to the California Department of Public Health, who will notify the DMV. Fax to (858) 715-6458.

For printable version: CLICK HERE
3. DMV Form DS326: The DMV may request a driver provide the **Driver Medical Evaluation (DMV Form DS326)**. The physician will be asked to complete information about the patient’s health status with respect to vision, current treatment, functional impairments, and other health matters.

For printable version: [CLICK HERE](#)
## Shopping for Safety

### Safety Considerations for Any Car

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5. “Am I a Safe Driver?”

Am I a Safe Driver?

Check the box if the statement applies to you.

☐ I get lost while driving.

☐ My friends or family members say they are worried about my driving.

☐ Other cars seem to appear from nowhere.

☐ I have trouble finding and reading signs in time to respond to them.

☐ Other drivers drive too fast.

☐ Other drivers often honk at me.

☐ Driving stresses me out.

☐ After driving, I feel tired.

☐ I feel sleepy when I drive.

☐ I have had more “near-misses” lately.

☐ Busy intersections bother me.

☐ Left-hand turns make me nervous.

☐ The glare from oncoming headlights bothers me.

☐ My medication makes me dizzy or drowsy.

☐ I have trouble turning the steering wheel.

☐ I have trouble pushing down the foot pedal.

☐ I have trouble looking over my shoulder when I back up.

☐ I have been stopped by the police for my driving.

☐ People no longer will accept rides from me.

☐ I have difficulty backing up.

☐ I have had accidents that were my fault in the past year.
☐ I am too cautious when driving.

☐ I sometimes forget to use my mirrors or signals.

☐ I sometimes forget to check for oncoming traffic.

☐ I have more trouble parking lately.

If you have checked any of the boxes, your safety may be at risk when you drive.

Talk to your doctor about ways to improve your safety when you drive.
6. Getting By Without Driving

Getting By Without Driving

Who doesn’t drive?

If you live long enough, you will eventually have to stop driving. The average male will have seven years without the ability to drive, and the average female ten years! Many people choose to stop driving because of the hassle and expense of auto insurance, car maintenance, and gasoline. Other people stop driving because they feel unsafe on the road. And some people have never learned to drive!

If you don’t drive, you’re in good company. Although most Americans use their cars to get around, many people get by just fine without one. In this sheet, we suggest ways to get by without driving.

Where can you find a ride?

Here are some ways to get a ride. See which ones work best for you.

- **Ask for a friend or relative for a ride.** Offer to pay for the gasoline.
- **Take public transportation.** Can a train, subway, or bus take you where you need to go? Call your regional transit authority and ask for directions.
- **Take a taxi cab.** To cut down costs, try sharing a cab with friends or find out if your community offers discounted fares for seniors.
- **Ride a senior transit shuttle.** Call your community center or local Area Agency on Aging to see if your neighborhood has a shuttle service.
- **Ask about volunteer drivers.** Call your community center, church, synagogue, temple, or mosque to see if they have a volunteer driver program.
- **Ride a Medi-car.** If you need a ride to your doctor’s office, call your local Area Agency on Aging to see if a Medi-car can get you there.
if you can't go out to get something, have it come to you.

Many stores can deliver their products straight to your door.

- **Have your groceries delivered.** Many stores deliver for free or for a low fee. You can even call your family and friends, or volunteers from your local community center, church, synagogue, temple, or mosque to see if someone can pick up your groceries.

- **Order your medicines by mail.** Not only is this more convenient—it's often less expensive, too.

  Order only from pharmacies that you know and trust. Some pharmacists will also deliver medications to the home.

- **Have your meals delivered to you.** Many restaurants will deliver meals for free or for a low fee. Also, you may be eligible for Meals-on-Wheels, a program that delivers hot meals at low cost. Call your local Area Agency on Aging for more information about Meals-on-Wheels.

- **Shop from catalogs.** You can buy almost anything you need from catalogs: clothing, pet food, toiletries, gifts, and more! Many catalogs are now online, with the most recent selections available from Internet websites.
FOR THE FAMILY

“GETTING THERE” WORKSHEET

Prior to talking to an older driver about limiting or stopping driving, thought should be given to ways the driver can remain engaged in life’s activities. No single method of transportation is likely to meet all needs. This worksheet is designed to help you identify available transportation alternatives in your area.

FAMILY/FRIENDS
Family and friends are the top alternative to driving for older adults. This mode of transportation may seem more familiar, comfortable and social to many older adults. That said, there may be conflicting feelings of burdening or inconveniencing others. Some older adults may want to do something in exchange for the ride.

Questions to Ask
1. Are people available to provide rides at the times required?
2. To what extent are family or friends able or willing to provide rides?
3. Do people provide the rides willingly or do they resent having to adjust their schedules?
4. Is there something the older adult can “trade” for a ride (making dinner, taking the driver to lunch, paying for gas)?

Notes:

DEMAND-RESPONSIVE SERVICES OR PARATRANST
Often referred to as the Dial-a-Ride or Elderly and Disabled Transportation Service, these programs are almost always subsidized by government funds and provide door-to-door service and offer rides by appointment. Fees or donations are common. Many use vans and offer accessible services for riders with special needs.

Questions to Ask
1. Is there a minimum age or other physical or cognitive criteria for using the service?
2. How much does it cost?
3. Can an account be set up in advance with the service?
4. How far in advance do reservations need to be made?

Continued
PRIVATE PROGRAM SERVICES
Services such as adult day centers, housing programs, stores, malls, or other businesses may offer transportation for program participants or customers.

Questions to Ask
1. What ride destinations are provided?
2. Is there a cost?
3. What hours does the service run?
4. What are the routes?
5. Is there any assistance available to people with physical or other health constraints?
6. Is there assistance for people with bags, etc.?
7. Is pre-registration with the service required?
8. Are wheelchair lifts available?

Notes:

6. Can an account be set up in advance with the service?
7. How are tips handled with an account system?
8. Will drivers provide assistance with bags, packages, etc.?
9. Can the service accommodate wheelchairs?

Notes:

MASS TRANSIT
Public transportation, where available, can be an affordable option for some older adults.

Questions to Ask
1. How much does it cost?
2. Are there discounts for older/disabled people?
3. Can an account be set up in advance with the service? Or are there monthly passes?
4. What hours does the service run?
5. What geographic area does the service cover?
6. Will drivers provide assistance with bags, packages, etc.?
7. Can companions accompany the person on the service?
8. Are wheelchair lifts available?
9. Does the older adult have cognitive or physical limitations that prevent him or her from using this mode of transportation?

Notes:
 Owning and operating a vehicle can be more expensive than you think! By writing down your actual expenses, you can get an idea of how much money could be available for alternative transportation if you were to stop driving.

To determine the annual expense to own and operate a car, list all the related expenses below. Don’t forget to multiply by 12 for monthly expenses, or by 52 for weekly expenses. For less frequent expenses, such as tires, estimate the cost and divide by the number of years between expenses. Once you have the annual expense for owning and operating the vehicle, you can get a better idea of how much you are already spending on transportation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VEHICLE COST PER YEAR</th>
<th>ANNUAL COST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car/Lease Payment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>• Gas</td>
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<td>• Washer Fluid</td>
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<td>• Other</td>
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<td>Regular Maintenance</td>
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<td>• Oil Changes</td>
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<td>• Minor Tune-ups</td>
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<td>• Wiper Blades</td>
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<td>• Lights</td>
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<td>• Car Wash/Wax</td>
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<td>• Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-Term Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Estimate the cost and divide by the number of years between expenses)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Tires</td>
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<td>• Brakes</td>
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<td>• Major Tune-ups</td>
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<td>• Repair/Replace Parts</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other</td>
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Insurance – Annual Cost

Motor Club/Roadside Assistance
Registration-License Plate Fees
License Fees
Vehicle Inspection/Emissions Fees

Total Cost Per Year $