

DMV & SENIOR DRIVERS

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DMV does not license based on age*

* after you are 18

Wisconsin DMV licenses drivers based on functional ability to drive – not on age or diagnosis.

Medications don't make you unsafe to drive – unless they impact your functional ability to drive.

How do we define “functional ability”? [next slide]



Wisconsin law requires the DMV to determine whether drivers are fit to drive.

What does it mean to be “functionally” able to operate a motor vehicle?

- Physical [range of motion, strength, motor skills, vision to manipulate the vehicle with/out modifications & check the environment] – this can be the easiest to spot
- Cognitive [know what to do in a driving environment – understand and follow the rules, and keep the car going safely]
- Emotional stability [no over-the-top road rage, no active hallucinations, e.g., the driver pulled over who was hitting her car with her cane. When asked what was going on, she said, “I am just so sick & tired of these werewolves. They won’t get off my car.”]

Once we know there are concerns about a driver, we have a number of tools that allow us to do this. What are these tools? [next slide]



DMV is keeping highways – and seniors – safe

We use information from the following sources to understand whether a driver can safely operate a motor vehicle – sometimes with vehicle modifications (additional mirrors, hand controls), **sometimes with restrictions on their license** (glasses, daytime only, speeds under 50, within a certain radius of their home):

- Medical professional's exam and report – **we rely on medical professionals to tell us about their patient's physical and mental abilities – we don't ask them to be driving experts** – based on what we learn from them, or from what we see when the driver comes into the service center, we may require testing:
- Knowledge & signs test
- Vision test
- Skills test (special exam – last 60 mins)(approximately 70% passing rate)

DMV will work with the driver to help him or her gather all the necessary information and take all necessary tests.



There are a range of possible outcomes based on functional ability.

- Licensed – no follow up
- Licensed – follow up
- Some of those licenses would include restrictions – or limited area licenses
- License surrendered or cancelled

**** DMV only cancels a license without further testing upon the recommendation of a medical professional or upon medical information that tells us the driver doesn't meet licensing standards****



You have a responsibility.

Wisconsin relies on five sources of information to help raise concerns about driver fitness

- 1) Self-reporting:** talk to your doctor; talk to the DMV [we will probably tell you to get a medical report]
- 2) Medical professionals:** talk to your patients; tell the DMV [MD,DO,APNP,PACs can fill out and sign a behavior report]
- 3) Law enforcement:** write the ticket; tell the DMV [TraCS or paper, but we prefer TraCS]
- 4) Family & community members:** talk to your family member; tell the DMV
- 5) DMV employees**

To learn more:

www.dot.wisconsin.gov

search: "senior driver"



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