



Indicators of Unsafe Driving

This tip sheet is to help you identify indicators of your care receiver's ability to drive safely. Ideally, you might consider using this tool to begin a pre-conversation about driving and how you and your loved one, together, can decide when it is time for them to stop driving. I suggest you use this tool on an annual or semi-annual basis to stay informed about your loved one's driving skills.

Familiarize yourself with these indicators and keep an eye out for them when you are observing your loved one's driving. Having objective information about their driving skills will help you have a better discussion with your loved one when it is time for this difficult conversation.

If you want to use a research-based driving assessment, see the Fitness to Drive Screening tool found at www.fitnessstodrive.com.

There are many places to get information about driving courses, such as the local DMV (Division of Motor Vehicles), AAA, or AARP, and automobile insurance carriers. Often when a driver's course is completed, the senior driver's insurance will give them a credit on their account.

The next page has the list of indicators for which you should be watching. These have been gleaned from multiple websites, including www.everdayhealth.com and www.aarpdriversafety.org.



Indicators of Unsafe Driving

- _____ Drifts into other lanes
- _____ Makes sudden lane changes
- _____ Drives straddling lanes
- _____ Ignores or misses stop signs and traffic signals
- _____ Has increased confusion while driving in traffic
- _____ Brakes or stops abruptly without cause
- _____ Accelerates suddenly without reason
- _____ Coasts to a near stop in the middle of moving traffic
- _____ Simultaneously brakes and accelerates while driving
- _____ Has difficulty seeing pedestrians, objects, and other vehicles
- _____ Anxiety levels increase while driving
- _____ Drives slower than the posted speed or general speed of other vehicles
- _____ Backs up after missing an exit or turn
- _____ Has a slower reaction time or slower processing multiple stimuli
- _____ Has difficulty turning back/neck to see traffic or hazards around the car
- _____ Gets lost or disoriented easily, even in familiar places
- _____ Fails to use turn signals or keeps signals on without changing lanes or turning
- _____ Has an increase in the number of “close calls” or “near misses”
- _____ Has received two or more traffic citations or warnings in the past two years
- _____ Has multiple dents and scrapes on their car or on surrounding objects where they drive or park at home, such as fences, mailboxes, and garage doors and curbs