

At Risk Drivers

An **at-risk** driver is one who no longer has the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Age alone does not make an individual an at-risk driver. Some health problems that may affect driving ability are:

- Seizure or loss of consciousness
- Stroke/arthritis - inability to tightly grip a steering wheel, reduced physical strength, inability to easily move foot from gas to brake pedal, inability to look over shoulder.
- Various forms of dementia - reduced ability to react quickly and decisively to traffic conditions and confusion
- Severe eye ailments - lessened ability to focus on object and shift focus quickly, lessened ability to focus on fine details, reduced peripheral vision, poor night vision, sensitivity to glare, weakened depth perception.
- Medication side effects/drug interaction (including over the counter) - drowsiness, blurred vision, dizziness, muscle relaxation.
- Hearing loss - inability to hear high-pitched sounds, hearing loss that leads to inattentive driving, poorly maintained or incorrectly worn hearing aids.
- Catastrophic or chronic disease, such as Parkinson's

Reporting At-risk Drivers

If you are concerned that a family member, friend, or acquaintance can no longer safely operate a motor vehicle you may request that Driver and Vehicle Services evaluate the at-risk driver. If you are related to the driver, your statement is confidential and the evaluator will not reveal your identity unless ordered to do so by a court of law.

Your request must be in writing and include the following information:

- Full name and date of birth of the at-risk driver. Please include the individual's driver's license number if it is available.
- Description of the condition. Explain why you believe the person to be an at-risk driver.
- Your name, address and phone number.

Send your request to: Driver and Vehicle Services, Attn: Medical Unit, 445 Minnesota Street Suite 170, St. Paul, MN 55101

What happens next

- Driver and Vehicles Services will schedule an appointment for the at-risk driver with a driver evaluator. The at-risk driver will receive a letter with the date and time of the appointment.
- If the at-risk driver fails to respond to the letter or keep the appointment, his or her driving privileges may be canceled.

Driver Evaluation

- After the interview is concluded the evaluator may require the at-risk driver to submit a written physician's or vision statement and pass a driver's license test (knowledge and skills).
- If it is determined that the at-risk driver must surrender his or her driver's license, the at-risk driver is still eligible for a Minnesota photo identification card.

Minnesota statutes and rules related to testing and assessing at-risk drivers.

Minnesota Statutes, sections [171.04](#); [171.13](#); [171.14](#)

Minnesota Rules, chapters [7409.2800](#); [7410.2100](#); [7410.2700](#); [7410.2800](#); [7410.3000](#); [7410.4200](#); [7410.4400](#)