

Elder Driver ~ License Checklist

If you are unsure about your driving, your spouse's driving, or your parents' driving, use this simple checklist to determine if it's time to stop driving.

	New Scrapes, Dings, or Dents in the Car
	Often Lost or Confused in Areas that Should be Familiar
	Recently Received Multiple Tickets or Warnings from Police
	Friends or Neighbors Expressed Concern about Driving Ability
	Frequent Near-Misses
	More Easily Distracted while Driving
	Slower Reaction Times
	More Difficult to Physically Performing Driving Tasks
	Difficulty Turning Around to See Blind Spot
	Difficulty Moving Foot from Pedal to Pedal
	Difficulty Understanding Signs, Traffic Signals, or Pavement Markings
	Misjudging Gaps in Traffic
	Losing Temper More Often (ie. Road Rage)
	Difficulty Parking
	Stopping at Green Lights or When There is No Stop Sign
	Using Turn Signals for No Reason
	Forgetting to Turn on Headlights
	Driving too Slowly

For more legal information on driving safety or elder care visit AccidentAttorneys.org.

Simple Tips for Having the Talk

Don't go into the discussion guns blazing telling your parent "how it's going to be." This could backfire in many ways and you may not have the legal power to prevent your parent from driving, at least in the short-term.

Use these simple tips to make the conversation go easier on both of you:

- Listen to your parent's concerns and feeling on the subject.
- Try to reach a decision that works for both of you.
- Don't expect the subject to be resolved in one conversation. Schedule a time for a follow-up discussion.
- Explore the possibilities. Are there solutions that could keep your parent driving safely longer, such as getting new glasses or only driving during the day?
- Ask your parent to undergo an evaluation by an occupational therapist. This can determine if your parent is still able to drive safely, and the therapist may have unexpected solutions that make driving safe for your parent.
- Suggest alternatives to driving that allow your parent to maintain independence rather than feeling like a burden on others. Many communities have free shuttles for seniors. Public transportation is a great option in places where it is available and safe. For some seniors, the best option is taking a taxi cab.
- Let your parents know how you are willing to help.
- If possible, come up with a gradual transition. Maybe it's still OK for your parent to drive during the day, close to home, on less congested roads, and when traffic is light.