




KEEPING SENIOR DRIVERS SAFE IN ILLINOIS AND BEYOND

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Age, Driving Skills and Independence HOW OLD IS TOO OLD TO DRIVE?

The ability to drive is a necessity for daily existence and the elderly population is no exception. Driving represents freedom and independence. Who is elderly? You decide. Age should never be used as the sole indicator of a person's driving ability. However, it is not uncommon for some of the skills necessary for safe driving to deteriorate with age.

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DRIVING SKILLS THAT MAY BECOME DIMINISHED AS WE GET OLDER

Research shows a correlation between increased age and decreased physical and mental capacity to drive.

- Driving requires swift reflexes.
- Accident avoidance requires acute awareness.
- Sufficient visual perception and visual fields are necessary for safe driving.
- Distracted driving (pets, mobile phones, loss of surroundings etc.) increase with a person's age.

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ILLINOIS LAWS ARE DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED TO KEEP OLDER ADULTS SAFE ON ROADS




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Illinois Offers More Discriminating License Renewal Policies for Older Drivers

- Extra testing for Senior Drivers: a 1958 state law required drivers at age 69 years or older to undergo a full Driving Exam during renewal.
- A 1990 state law raised age from 69 to 75 years old for mandatory behind the wheel testing.
- Drivers who are between 81 – 86 are examined every 2 years.
- Drivers 87 and older are tested every year.

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MEDICAL REFERRALS

- Physicians or Law Enforcement May Refer Drivers for Evaluation
- A Form Submitted to Illinois Secretary of State c/o Medical Review Unit
- A Driver Has 18 Days to Comply with Required Testing

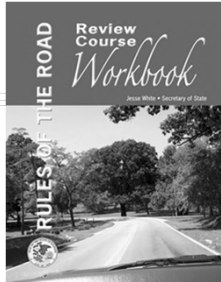
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WHAT PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED TO ILLINOIS SENIOR DRIVERS?



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ILLINOIS RULES OF THE ROAD REVIEW COURSE




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ILLINOIS SENIOR RULES OF THE ROAD REVIEW COURSE

Three Areas Covered

- o Vision Testing – peripheral and acuity
- o Written Test – multiple choice and roadway signs
- o Driving Exam – with instructor through predetermined route



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ILLINOIS SENIOR RULES OF THE ROAD REVIEW COURSE

- IL Traffic Laws
 - o Seat Belt Laws – passengers, drivers and safe seats for children.
 - o Distracted Driving Laws – mobile phone usage
 - o Impaired Driving Laws – new medical marijuana laws, DUI (Driving Under the Influence) and more.
 - o Speeding/School Zones: ticket prices vary in accordance with the infraction

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ILLINOIS SENIOR RULES OF THE ROAD REVIEW COURSE


- Practical Driving Skills
 - Safety Check of Mirrors
 - Seasonal Fog/Winter Driving Conditions
 - Night Driving
 - Merging
 - Parking

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SUPER SENIORS PROGRAM

- Mobile DMV and Senior Rules of the Road Class Combined
 - o Attend Rules of the Road Class (Mornings)
 - o Renew Drivers License - Same Day/Same Location
 - o Free Identification Card after age 65 and never need to renew



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OVERVIEW/HISTORY OF ILLINOIS SENIOR RULES OF THE ROAD REVIEW COURSE

- Formation
 - Started 1994 in Senior Centers & Public Libraries
- Growth
 - Trained “Employee” Instructors
 - Expanded Program to Additional Venues
- Sustainability
 - Addition of trained “Volunteer” Instructors
 - Advertised Program in Local Free Markets

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OVERVIEW/HISTORY OF ILLINOIS SENIOR RULES OF THE ROAD REVIEW COURSE

- Outcome in 2014
 - 850 Senior Rules of the Road Classes
 - 10,000 Seniors Attended Class
 - Improved Confidence and Awareness Behind the Wheel
 - Less Accidents, Lower Insurance Rates for Community


ILLINOIS ROADWAYS SAFER FOR ALL MOTORISTS

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FACTORS WHICH IMPACT SAFETY OF OLDER DRIVERS

Addressing Visual Deterioration

- Vision - Primary Sense Used While Driving
 - 95% of driving-related input is visual
- Visual Acuity
 - Sharpness of vision
- Visual Field
 - Depth of vision



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HUMAN FACTORS THAT IMPACT SAFETY OF OLDER DRIVERS

- Dealing With Declining Cognitive & Motor Functions
 - Slowed Crash Avoidance Reaction Time
 - Braking/steering
 - Slower decision making
- Muscle Strength, Endurance and Flexibility
 - Driving is a Physical Activity
 - Sufficient range of motion necessary
 - Some strength required for steering/braking
 - Long trips can be physically (arthritis) or emotionally demanding

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HUMAN FACTORS THAT IMPACT SAFETY OF OLDER DRIVERS

- Distracted Driving
 - Texting
 - Talking
 - Eating/Drinking
 - Reading
 - Grooming
 - Pets
 - Day Dreaming




A person is 23 times more likely to be involved in a traffic crash while talking/texting and driving. Also, approximately 20% of traffic crashes are the direct result of some type of distracted driving.

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HUMAN FACTORS THAT IMPACT SAFETY OF OLDER DRIVERS

- Drowsy Driving
 - Know the Signs
 - Heavy eyelids, difficulty focusing, frequent blinking
 - Daydreaming; wandering/disconnected thoughts
 - Trouble remembering last few miles driven
 - Yawning repeatedly
 - Drifting from your lane



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EXTERNAL FACTORS TO IMPROVE SAFETY


- Roadway Safety
 - Departure Prevention
 - Rumble strips and stripes
 - Reflectors
 - Signage and markings
 - Crash Safety
 - Guardrails
 - Median cable barriers
 - Culvert safety end treatments



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AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY SAFETY STANDARDS


- Vehicle Safety Features
 - Crash Avoidance Systems
 - Forward collision warning
 - Auto-brake
 - Lane departure warning/prevention
 - Adaptive headlights
 - Blind spot detection




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EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT IMPROVE SAFETY

- Vehicle Safety Features
 - Automobile Safety Systems
 - Seat belts
 - Airbags
 - Crush Panels
 - Head restraints
 - Antilock Brake System
 - Traction control
 - Electronic stability control







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SENIORS ON THE MOVE

- 86% of citizens age 65 and older continue to drive
- Seniors will comprise 25% of all licensed drivers by 2025
- 95% of seniors use medications that may impair driving






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DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY COALITION TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF ADULT DRIVERS

Individuals and/or organizations with a common interest who agree to work together toward a common goal; Keeping Adult Roadway Users Safe



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BUILDING A COALITION

- Identify a Leader
 - A strong coordinator is essential
 - Inspires the group
 - Distributes tasks
 - Grows the program by planning for the future
- Recruit Appropriate Team Members
 - Diverse Participants
 - Provide diverse skills
 - Contribute with expertise/resources
 - Bring a well-rounded perspective

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BUILDING A COALITION

- Set Goals
 - Clarify expectations
 - Define the mission of the coalition
 - Develop a list of roles/responsibilities
 - Frequency of meetings
- Maintain the Coalition
 - Demonstrate the advantages
 - Reaffirm involvement
 - Maintain focus
 - Celebrate victories
 - Recognize key people
 - Acknowledge successes

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BUILDING A COALITION

- Market the Program
 - Sell it to the public
 - Define the problem
 - Increase membership
 - Increase funding
 - Media
 - Exposure
 - Explain the message
 - List the benefits



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MAKING A COALITION WORK

- Bringing Community Together
- Prioritizing Needs
- Attacking Those Needs

