

- ◆ CarFit is a program developed by the American Society on Aging in collaboration with AARP, AAA and the American Occupational Therapy Association.

CarFit

- is a quick comprehensive check on how you and your vehicle “fit” together;
- is not available in all areas;
- is conducted by a trained professional; and
- provides recommended car adjustments/adaptations and local resources.

For more information, visit www.car-fit.org.

- ◆ For additional driver instruction schools or vehicle adaptation services, refer to your local yellow pages.

What resources are available for someone who is unable to drive?

Your local Area Agency on Aging may be able to provide services, such as “Shared-Ride,” to assist with transportation needs.

Shared-Ride is not one-on-one transportation; it is “shared” with other passengers needing services.

Services may include travel within your county and/or surrounding counties for medical and other professional services as well as personal and social needs. Visit www.pacommutes.com.

Services can vary, but generally transportation services:

- are available to persons with disabilities, mental or physical;
- may or may not be age restricted;
- charge a fee for each one-way service (exceptions apply); and
- must be scheduled in advance.

For more information, contact your local Area Agency on Aging or contact Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging, www.p4a.org/agencies.htm.

Developed by

Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition’s Safe Communities Task Force

“To enhance safety on our streets, in our neighborhoods and in our homes, by promoting positive behavior.”

Safe Communities Members

AAA North Penn

AARP PA

Community Traffic Safety Project

Lycoming County District Attorney’s Office

PA Department of Health

PennDOT District 3-0

Safe Kids Lycoming County

STEP Office of Aging

YWCA/Wise Options

Funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering, the United States Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 0810

www.DriveSafePA.org

Identifying Unsafe Drivers

Concerned about Someone’s Driving?

What is an unsafe driver?

An unsafe driver is someone who:

- ◆ has a series of minor crashes or near misses;
- ◆ has wandering thoughts or is unable to concentrate;
- ◆ is unable to read ordinary road signs;
- ◆ gets lost on unfamiliar roads;
- ◆ is frequently honked at/headlights flashed by other drivers;
- ◆ has difficulty judging distance;
- ◆ drives too slowly or too fast;
- ◆ accidentally hits the gas pedal instead of the brake;
- ◆ violates traffic rules; or
- ◆ has been spoken to about their driving by police, family or friends.

Is unsafe driving age related?

Age alone is not a factor for identifying unsafe driving; however, safe driving skills may be more difficult for an older driver.

How can an unsafe driver be reported?

Unsafe drivers can be reported by sending a letter to:

**PennDOT
Bureau of Driver Licensing
P.O. Box 68682
Harrisburg, PA 17106**

The letter must contain the *author's*:

- name (*anonymous letters will NOT be accepted*)
- address
- phone number
- best time for contact, and
- information about the person you are reporting:
 - name
 - address
 - date of birth
 - driver's license number (if available)
 - relationship to the person reporting
 - a description of the specific medical condition

Who can report unsafe drivers to PennDOT?

◆ **Medical Professionals.** Pennsylvania law requires all medical professionals and other persons authorized to diagnose and treat disorders and disabilities, defined by the Medical Advisory Board, to report to PennDOT anyone diagnosed as having a condition that would impair their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

◆ **Law Enforcement.** Following a crash or a traffic stop, if police feel the driver has some impairment.

◆ **Rehabilitation Centers.**

◆ **Concerned relatives or friends.**

Will the driver know I reported him/her?

No. Reports submitted are confidential and are not released to the driver you are reporting.

Who usually reports unsafe drivers to PennDOT?

Each year PennDOT receives:

- 27,000 reports from the medical community
- 2,500 reports from law enforcement
- 500 letters from concerned family and friends

What does PennDOT do with the report/letter?

PennDOT will review each report on a case-by-case basis. There are several actions that can be taken:

- the driver's license can be recalled based on a medical professional's report;
- based on the medical professional's report, restrictions to the driving privilege can be added or deleted;
- if PennDOT determines the report does not warrant further activity, no action is taken; or
- PennDOT can also request additional information in the form of a physical examination or driver's test.

What does PennDOT do with the completed medical form?

PennDOT's Medical Unit reviews the form, then determines:

- the driver can keep his or her driver's license, as no impairment to safe driving exists; or
- the driver can still drive, but with restrictions, i.e. must wear glasses, limit driving to daylight hours, or equip vehicle with special modifications; or
- the driver can no longer drive safely, and the driver's license is recalled; or
- the driver may be required to submit to further medical evaluations and/or complete a driver's knowledge and/or skills test.

If the driver disagrees with PennDOT's decision regarding suspension or recall of driving privilege, he/she may file an appeal.

Does PennDOT automatically test drivers after a certain age?

Each month, 1,900 drivers over the age of 45 are chosen at random to undergo a vision test and physical examination at the time of their driver's license renewal. If the results of those exams suggest a need, the driver may be required to submit to further testing, including a driver's knowledge and/or skills test.

What resources are available for educating, screening or testing drivers?

- ◆ Pennsylvania has four resources for Driver Refresher Courses:
 - AAA (check local offices for availability) www.aaa.com
 - AARP (1-888-227-7669) www.aarp.org
 - National Safety Council (1-800-459-2556) www.nsc.org
 - Seniors for Safe Driving (1-800-559-4880) (*available only in western PA*) www.sfsd-pa.com

Driver Refresher Courses are state-approved classroom training for older drivers and

- no written or practical driver tests are required to successfully complete the course;
- course fees are moderate;
- successful participants can receive a discount on their car insurance;* and
- allow drivers to learn, be taught by their peers.

* *Individuals should check with their insurance carrier for specifics of their program.*

- ◆ AAA offers a CD-ROM/computer program "Roadwise Review," developed to identify health and fitness issues that affect driving.

The program tests eight points including visual skills and acuity; memory; alertness; leg strength and mobility; and head and neck flexibility.

The "Roadwise Review" program:

- is a screening tool;
- does not evaluate;
- requires a "truthful, neutral partner" to help the individual being tested;
- should be done twice a year; and
- can be purchased at your local AAA office, or visit www.aaaseniors.com for "Roadwise Review" and other driving assessment tools.

- ◆ Rehabilitation Driving programs, available through rehabilitation centers, consist of training and driver skills evaluation.

Rehabilitation Driving programs generally consist of:

- a pre-driver screening with a specially trained therapist focusing on different aspects of vision, reaction time, cognitive skills and physical aspects; and
- an on-the-road skills test (if screening is passed).

Rehabilitation Driving programs typically:

- are available by doctor's referral only;
- are not covered by Medicare; and
- are by appointment only (contact your area Rehabilitation Center for information).