

Appendix 12 - Oregon's Medically At-Risk Driver Program and Resources for the Mature Driver

The Oregon DMV's **Medically At-Risk Driver Program** is the outgrowth of an Older Driver Advisory Committee convened in 1999 to study the effects of aging on driving ability. Based on the committee's recommendations, legislation was passed in 1999 requiring that decisions regarding licensing be based on the actual effect of a cognitive or functional impairment on the person's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle, and not on disease diagnosis. Following passage of the legislation, a Medical Working Group comprised of physicians and health care providers was convened to assist the DMV in identifying cognitive and functional impairments likely to affect driving ability, along with the physicians or other health care providers who would be required to report such impairments. Subsequently, procedures were formulated for evaluating referred drivers, and a program was developed for training physicians in implementing the new requirements. The program is being implemented statewide over a one-year period, beginning with six counties in June of 2003.

Information on Oregon's At-Risk Driver Program is available online at <http://www.oregondemv.com/DriverLicensing/atriskquestions.htm>. Additional information can be obtained from Bill Merrill, Manager, Driver Control Unit, Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (telephone 503-945-5223).

A link to the statute (ORS 807.710) requiring physicians and other designated health care providers to report medically impaired drivers can be found at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/807.html>.

A link to the rules (735-074 and 735-0761) that apply to the above statute is at http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_700/OAR_735/735_tofc.html.

In addition to required reporting by physicians and other health professionals, Oregon also has a Voluntary Medical Program that extends to conditions not mandated to be reported, and to reporting by law enforcement officials and family members or friends concerned about the driving competence of any age driver.

Finally, the Oregon DMV has launched an extensive public information and education campaign under the title "Shifting Gears in Later Years." The campaign is featured on the worldwide web at <http://www.oregonsafemobility.org>. Included are sections on the DMV's medically at-risk driving program, referring an unsafe driver to the DMV, Oregon's safe mobility initiative, staying safe behind the wheel, a self-test for drivers, a discussion of retiring from driving, resources about transportation options, and links to other resources.

As part of its Safe Mobility Initiative, the Oregon DMV is developing a toolkit for use by professionals, agencies, and organizations working with drivers and their families at the community level. The toolkit will include a variety of brochures and posters aimed at

drivers, family members, and medical personnel (see www.oregonsafemobility.org/order_brochures.html for ordering information).