

Identifying Cognitive Impairment or Medically At-Risk Drivers

Reference Guide for Law Enforcement

Traffic Stop

Unsafe Driving Behaviors:

- Driving the wrong way on a one-way street
- Failing to stop or yield to other traffic
- Making unsafe turns, especially left turns
- Driving off the road

Rule out intoxication from alcohol, prescription medication, illicit drugs, or other impairing substances.
Look for behavior that raises red flags.

Questions to Ask

- What is your date of birth?
- What is your home address?
- What state are we in now?
- What town/city are we in now?
- Where are you going?
- Where are you coming from?
- What is the day of the week, month, year, time of day?
- Are you taking any medications?

Indicators

(Make note of all that were observed or the driver indicated)

- Seizure, blackout, loss of consciousness.
- Impairment of consciousness.
- Diabetic episode.
- Fell asleep while driving.
- Cognitive impairment.
- Confusion/disorientation.
- Lost while driving.
- Unexplained loss of vision.
- Vision concern.
- Multiple scrapes/dings on vehicle.
- Mental health instability.
- Attempted suicide/harm to others.
- Hallucinations/delusions.
- Lack of rational thought.
- Physical impairment.
- Weakness/poor coordination.
- Walking/balancing problems.
- Prescription medication/substance impairment.

Signs of Potential Medical or Cognitive Impairment

- Difficulty communicating/answering questions or not making sense.
- Confused when following instructions or has difficulty producing identification.
- Difficulty recalling the time, day of week, month or year.
- Unaware of surroundings and other vehicles or pedestrians.
- Does not know/understand the laws that were violated.

If there is reason to believe that the driver may not be able to operate a motor vehicle safely, make a referral to the Secretary of State by completing a Request for Driver Evaluation (DA-88) form.

Issue a citation if appropriate. Doing so provides a driving history that is critical with the identification of unsafe driving patterns.

Identifying Cognitive Impairment or Medically At-Risk Drivers

Reference Guide for Law Enforcement

To Refer a Driver to the Secretary of State for Evaluation

By completing a Request for Driver Evaluation (DA-88) form, you could prevent a traffic crash, fatality, and/or serious injury.

- Give very specific information and observations on unsafe driving behaviors and conditions.
- Provide a description of a medical episode, incident, or pattern of behavior.
- Explain anything that would justify an evaluation of the driver's ability to operate a vehicle safely.

The Request for Driver Evaluation (DA-88) form may be submitted via:

Online: Michigan.gov/drivereval (Law Enforcement Only)

Email: medicalforms@Michigan.gov

Fax: 517-335-2189

Mail: Michigan Department of State

P.O. Box 30810

Lansing, MI 48909-9832

Resources for Additional Information

Safe Drivers Smart Options: Keys to Lifelong Mobility

The website at Michigan.gov/agingdriver provides information and resources for aging drivers, their families, law enforcement officers, and medical practitioners.

Michigan's Guide for Aging Drivers and Their Families

This free booklet is for aging drivers, their families, law enforcement officers and medical practitioners. To order, visit Michigan.gov/agingdriver.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - Adult Protective Services

If you suspect harm to an adult's health or welfare, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at 855-444-3911. Staff will investigate allegations within 24 hours after the report is received.

