

Driver Evaluation & Training Services

a) Adaptive Motor Vehicle Services

→ Adaptive Experts (locations in St. Cloud, Duluth, Marshall, Granite Falls, Ortonville) – Provides state licensed occupational/physical therapy practitioners to work with individuals and find solutions to unsafe driving. Includes on-site service for evaluation and training for a variety of disability populations.

Telephone: 651-501-5680

Web: www.adaptiveexperts.com

→ Adapting Motor Vehicles for Older Drivers (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) The steps outlined in this brochure represent a proven process for maintaining freedom on the road - evaluating your needs, making sure the vehicle "fits" you properly, choosing appropriate features, installing and knowing how to use adaptive devices, practicing good vehicle maintenance, and general information on cost savings, licensing requirements, and organizations to contact for additional assistance.

Telephone: 888-327-4236 (TDD: 800-424-9153)

Web: www.safercar.gov

b) Douglas County Hospital driveABILITY program (Alexandria) - Provides licensed occupational therapists who have specialized in the field of driver rehabilitation. They have vast knowledge of all type of disabilities and illnesses and how they relate to operating a motor vehicle. Program includes comprehensive driver evaluations and on-road training

Telephone: 320-762-6079

Cost: \$245 per evaluation

c) Driving Schools & Senior Driving Classes

Battle Lake ISD #542 Community Education – 218-864-5215

Fergus Falls ISD #544 Community Education – 218-998-0544 ext. 1600

Fergus Falls Driving School – 218-998-6444

Fergus Falls Senior Citizen's Program – 218-736-6842

Henning ISD#545 Community Education – 218-583-2927

New York Mills ISD #553 Community Education – 218-385-4201

Parkers Prairie ISD #547 Community Education – 218-338-4079 ext. 402

Pelican Rapids ISD #548 Community Education – 218-863-2841

Perham-Dent ISD#549 Community Education – 218-346-1607

Underwood ISD #550 Community Education – 218-826-6101

Cost: varies by site

General Resources

Minnesota Identification Cards: Individuals who want to stop driving, but wish to retain a valid Minnesota Identification Card may do so by bringing their driver's license in to the Otter Tail County Motor Vehicle Licensing Center. They should indicate that they wish to surrender their driver's license and are requesting a Minnesota Identification Card.

Phone: 218-998-8080

Cost: varies depending on age

Fergus Falls Senior Citizens Program, Inc.; - Accredited by National Institute of Senior Centers, 2005 MN Nonprofit Excellence Award winner, Meets all MN Charities Review Council Standards. Their mission: To enrich the lives and promote the independent lifestyles of the senior citizens in the Fergus Falls area. Contact: Kathy Sporre, CSA[®], 115 Lincoln Avenue West, Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Phone: 218-736-6842

Email: webmaster@ffsenior.org

Web Site: www.ffsenior.org

Otter Tail County Public Health Coordinator on Aging – provides advocacy, information and referral for Senior Citizens and/or their family members. And also provide services to persons of any age related to prescription assistance, Medicare and Medicaid problems or forms assistance, housing, transportation, health care directives, power of attorney needs, nutritional services, fraud and abuse, assessment of needs and capacity for self care or needed services, assistance to coordinate services and referrals. Contact: Lyle Hoxstelle, Coordinator on Aging, 560 W. Fir Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Phone: 218-998-8340

Email: lhoxstelle@co.ottertail.mn.us

Web Site: www.co.otter-tail.mn.us

Home Instead Senior Care - Senior home care services may include assistance with trips to the doctor, errands, and shopping for senior citizens who wish to stop driving but that want to remain living in their own homes. This program also provides other services and companionship allowing seniors to feel safe and independent while they age in the home they've lived in for years. Contact: Tammy Brown, Community Service Representative 1220 North Tower Road, Fergus Falls MN 56537 (also in Alexandria and Detroit Lakes)

Phone: 218-998-2248 (Fergus Falls) or 218-844-4010 (Detroit Lakes)

Email: tammy.brown@homeinstead.com

Web Site: www.homeinstead.com

Otter Tail County Safe Communities Coalition - is a group of individuals and agencies who work together in Otter Tail County under funding through the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The goal is to raise awareness of traffic safety issues and to develop tools that can be used to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from traffic accidents in Minnesota. Contact: Jane Patrick, Coordinator, PO Box 394, Fergus Falls, MN 56538

Phone: 218-736-3458

Email: patrick@prtcl.com

Alternative Transportation

Becker County Transit (Detroit Lakes area) – 218-847-1674
Care-A-Van West Otter Tail County Transport (non-emergency medical transport) – 218-998-3520
City Cab (Fergus Falls) – 218-736-3520
Drivers on Call (Fergus Falls area) – 218-998-2100 or 218-736-2100
Friendly Rider (Wadena area) – 218-631-5730 or 888-773-5500
Ghost Runner (Perham area) – 218-346-2650
Greyhound Bus Service (Fergus Falls) – 218-736-3292
Transit Alternatives, Otter Express (Fergus Falls, Perham, Parkers Prairie, Pelican Rapids) –
218-998-3002
Otter Tail County Human Services (non-emergency medical transport for Otter Tail County
residents over age 60) – 218-998-8150
Pelican Shuttle Van Service (Pelican Rapids area) – 218-863-2514
People’s Express (non-emergency medical transport) – 218-631-2909 or 800-450-0123
Stoneman Taxi (Wadena) – 218-631-3709
Veteran’s Services - Otter Tail County (medical transport to veterans service hospitals) – 218-998-8605

Other Resources

WEB SITES

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety: www.aaafoundation.org (telephone: 202-638-5944)

American Occupational Therapy Assn: www.aota.org/olderdriver (telephone: 301-652-2682)

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Drivers:

<http://www.bio.net/bionet/mm/audiolog/1996-October/002083.html>

<http://beethovensears.com/category/hard-of-hearing-drivers/>

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/documents/hearing2.pdf>)

Drive Well Program: www.asaging.org/asav2/drivewell/index.cfm?CFID=29851792&CFTOKEN=99774521

Minnesota Department of Public Safety: www.mndriveinfo.org (telephone 651-284-1234)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA): www.nhtsa.dot.gov (telephone: 888-327-4236)

Reporting At Risk Drivers: www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs/AtRisk/reporting.htm (651-296-2025)

BOOKS, VIDEOS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Aging Independently: Living Arrangements and Mobility (book) K. Warner Schaie-Hans-Werner Wahl Heidrum Mollenkopf-Frank Oswald Editors Springer Publishing Company

Health Care Directives Form:

<http://www.co.otter-ail.mn.us/publichealth/forms/2007/HealthCareDirectives.pdf>

Health Care Directives Instruction Form:

<http://www.co.otter-ail.mn.us/publichealth/forms/2005/HealthCareInstructions.pdf>

“Roadwise Review.” A tool to help seniors drive safely longer. Check your driving abilities conveniently, confidentially and from the comfort of home. (Easy to use CD-ROM)

“Watch Out! Maybe It's Time to Stop Driving.” (35 minute video), Whole Family Productions, LLC, Third Degree Press, 5200 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis MO 63108

“We’ve Tried Everything – what more can we do?”

Reporting at-risk drivers who are not able or willing to recognize their disabilities is everyone’s responsibility. It will help keep the at-risk driver, as well as others on the roadways, safe. If you are concerned that a family member, friend or acquaintance can no longer safely operate a motor vehicle you may request an evaluation of the at-risk driver. If you are related to the driver, your statement is confidential and the evaluator will not reveal your identity, unless ordered to do so by a court of law.

Your request must be in writing and include the following information:

- Full name and date of birth of the at-risk driver. Please include the individual’s driver's license number if it is available.
- Description of the condition. Explain why you believe the person to be an at-risk driver.
- Your name, address and phone number.

Send your request to: Driver and Vehicle Services, Attn: Medical Unit, 445 Minnesota Street Suite 170, St. Paul, MN 55101

What happens next:

- DVS will schedule an appointment for the at-risk driver with a driver evaluator. We will send the at-risk driver a letter with the date and time of the appointment.
- If the at-risk driver fails to respond to the letter or keep the appointment, his or her driving privileges may be cancelled.

Evaluation

- After the interview is concluded the evaluator may require the at-risk driver to take a driver's license test (written and road), or require a written physician's or vision statement.
- If it is determined that the at-risk driver must surrender his or her driver's license, the at-risk driver is still eligible for a Minnesota photo identification card.

Website: <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs/AtRisk/reporting.htm>

Local Process

Insurance: Every insurance company has its own policies and procedures regarding personal automobile insurance coverage. The policy coverage and rates are generally based on the driving records and claims made by individual insured persons and their families. Insurance companies may choose to discontinue coverage on an insured if they believe they are assuming too much risk of financial loss by continuing that coverage. Individual insurance premiums and costs will also vary, but largely depend on an individual's driving history, accident claims, and premium payment history over a period of time.

Law enforcement – law enforcement officers that have first hand knowledge of an at-risk driver operating a motor vehicle may complete and submit to the Driver and Vehicle Services Drivers Evaluation Unit a Request for Examination of a Driver. The law enforcement officer must witness an individual operating a motor vehicle in an unsafe manner, or have knowledge that an individual caused an accident, etc., in order to submit such a request on behalf of the local law enforcement agency.

Legal Process – Family members should consider seeking legal advice if they want to learn more about taking legal steps to ensure that someone they love is not taking risks on the roads. Attorneys are able to assist with such things as guardianships, conservatorships, Powers of Attorney and Healthcare Directives. Free or reduced legal services may be available for those that met income guidelines by contacting Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota at 1-800-450-8585 or by E-mail at: legalaid@lnmlaw.org

Medical and personal physicians - there is no standard process for medical professionals to follow in determining whether or not a person is able to drive safely. Individuals are encouraged to receive routine health exams and talk with their physicians about their limitations. Patients should follow the advice of their personal physicians for limitations or restrictions on driving as recommended.

Minnesota Driver's License Division and the Driver's License Examiner – Holding a Minnesota Driver's License is a privilege authorized by the State of Minnesota. Minnesota Statute 171.13 does give the Commissioner of Public Safety the authority to examine ANY driver if the commissioner believes the driver may not be physically and/or mentally qualified to operate a motor vehicle safely. The examination could include requiring the driver to submit a letter from their medical doctor or their eye doctor. It could also include passing the Minnesota knowledge exam and/or the state road test. This statute can be found at www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=171.13.
