

Red Flags of Medically At-Risk Drivers

Before the traffic stop:

Has the driver committed any of the following traffic violations?

- ▶ Driving the wrong way on a one-way street or on the wrong side of a two-way street
- ▶ Failing to stop or yield to other traffic
- ▶ Making unsafe turns, especially a left turn
- ▶ Turning from the wrong lane
- ▶ Straddling dividing lines
- ▶ Driving off the road
- ▶ Unusual driving violations that are difficult to explain

Look for the following red flags after the driver has been pulled over:

Physical clues

- ▶ Is the driver taking too long to pull over
- ▶ Examine the car: Are there numerous dents on the vehicle the driver cannot explain
- ▶ Does the driver have difficulty communicating
- ▶ Is the driver experiencing difficulty producing identification
- ▶ Slow reflexes, poor coordination, difficulty walking

Psychological clues

- ▶ Admission of being unaware of other vehicles, traffic, or his or her action leading to the violation
- ▶ Lack of recall (not knowing the current time, week, month, or year)
- ▶ Inability to comprehend
- ▶ Unaware of traffic rules
- ▶ Driver is confused, lost, fatigued, disoriented, or drowsy

Less obvious red flags may include medical conditions and medications that may impair driving:

Partial list of medical conditions

- ▶ Memory loss
- ▶ Alzheimer's or dementia
- ▶ Neurological conditions, such as seizure or blackout disorders
- ▶ Sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea
- ▶ Visual impairment

Partial list of medications

- ▶ Sedatives
- ▶ Pain relievers
- ▶ Antihistamines
- ▶ Antitussive (cough suppressants)
- ▶ Blood pressure drugs
- ▶ Sleeping pills
- ▶ Antiarrhythmics
- ▶ Stimulants

If you are concerned with the driver's ability to drive safely, ask yourself the following questions: (The following are red flags if you answer "No")

- ▶ Does the driver know where he/she is coming from?
- ▶ Does the driver know his/her destination?
- ▶ Can you comprehend what the driver is saying?
- ▶ Does the driver recall the time of day, day of the week, month, and year?

Look for the following:

- ▶ Is the driver wearing an identification bracelet or necklace indicating dementia?
- ▶ Is the driver's clothing non-matching, inappropriate, or incomplete?
- ▶ Is the driver far from their residence and unaware of it?

If you are concerned about the driver's ability to drive, submit a Medical Review Request form to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to conduct a medical review of the licensed driver. Reports must be submitted in writing or using the Medical Review Request (MED 3), which can be found at:

- ▶ Go to www.dmvNOW.com
- ▶ Select "Medical Information"
- ▶ Select "Medical Forms"
- ▶ Select "MED 3 Form"

The following must be included with the report:

- ▶ Information that will help DMV identify the impaired driver (name, address, date of birth, etc.).
- ▶ Name, address, and phone number of the person reporting the driver.
- ▶ Specific information about your concerns and why the driver should be reviewed.

DMV contact information:

DMV Medical Review Services
Post Office Box 27412
Richmond, Virginia 23269-0001
Phone: (804) 367-6203
Fax: (804) 367-1604
www.dmvNOW.com/drivers/#medical/spec_restrict.asp



GrandDriver is an educational resource designed to provide Virginians as they age with information and resources about staying safe and mobile on the road. Visit www.GrandDriver.net.