

# Driving

*From an excerpt in Hub Internet Magazine*



For most of us, driving symbolizes freedom and independence. Driver safety is often a very sensitive issue for older people as they see the changes of normal aging affect their ability behind the wheel. If you or a loved one needs to limit or give up driving completely, it won't be the end to independence. With the help from family, friends and resources, your loved one can remain mobile without driving.

## **Watch for Warning Signs:**

- Difficulty following instructions and directions.
- Drives against traffic, on the wrong side of the road.
- Coasts to a near stop in the midst of moving traffic.
- Drifts into other lanes of traffic.
- Stops abruptly without cause.
- Presses simultaneously on the brake and accelerator while driving.
- Does not signal when turning or changing lanes.
- Has accidents, near misses, or "fender benders."
- Gets lost in familiar places.
- Fails to obey traffic laws, road signs, or signals.
- Makes errors in signal use, steering, braking, speed and accelerator use.
- Has difficulty seeing pedestrians, objects, and other vehicles.
- Is increasingly nervous when driving.
- Becomes increasingly flustered in traffic or by more aggressive drivers.
- Drives significantly slower than the posted speed or general speed of other vehicles.
- Turns from improper lane or at an improper time or pace at intersections.
- Straddles lanes.
- Ignores or coasts through stop signs.
- Backs up after missing an exit.
- Falls asleep while driving or gets drowsy.
- Does not pay attention to other drivers or road hazards.
- Does not react to emergency situations.