



Talking to a Senior Who is No Longer Safe to Drive



If you need to have the conversation with a loved one about driving, approach the issue with sensitivity. A driver's license signifies more than the ability to drive a car; it is a symbol of freedom and self-sufficiency. Understandably, driving is not a privilege that anyone wants to surrender willingly.

Most older drivers realize that they are gradually losing their ability to operate a car safely, but they still may be reluctant to hand over their keys. Your loved one may feel relieved to have someone else assist with the decision to stop driving. They also may fight tooth and tell you to butt out.

When a Driver Refuses to Give Up the Keys

It might feel very difficult for you to force a loved one to give up driving all together, especially if the senior is used to having their independence. However, their safety and the safety of others on the road must come first. An unsafe driver can seriously injure or kill themselves or others.

Here are some tips:

Work with your doctor to have him confront your loved one about driving - you might even be able to have their doctor write a prescription to stop driving.

Make an anonymous report to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Take the car keys away

Disable the car

Sell the car

Staying Mobile

There are many options available. They aren't ideal, but they are options

Family, Friends, Neighbor

Public transit: buses, Handicap Van

Shared rides with others

Taxis, and private driver services

Companion Care Agencies

Motorized wheelchairs for non-ambulatory seniors

For assistance in finding transportation to services, contact a community resource such as senior centers, adult day centers, the Elder Helpline at the Area Agency on Aging, faith-based organizations, 2-1-1 phone referral information or call Polk Family Caregivers.