

Contact Numbers at Ministry of Transportation:

Toll Free: 1-800-387-3445
www.mto.gov.on.ca

Medical Review Program: General Inquiry:

Toll Free: 1-800-268-1481
Fax: 1-800-304-7889
www.ontario.ca/driverimprovement
Email address:
driverimprovementoffice@ontario.ca

Driving with a suspended licence is against the law. Are there any legal issues I should know about?

Yes. Under the law, your family,
Power of Attorney, and healthcare
professional must act to protect your
safety and the safety of others.

For a list of lawyers with an interest in elder issues call:

The Waterloo Law Association Librarian
519-742-0872 or the
Wellington Law Association Librarian
519-763-6365

Additional Resources: Alzheimer Society

Kitchener-Waterloo: 519-742-1422
Guelph-Wellington: 519-836-7672
Cambridge: 519-650-1628
www.alzheimer.ca

Waterloo Wellington Community Care Access Centres (CCAC):

519-310-CCAC (2222)
www.wv.ccac-ont.ca

Local Police Services For emergencies please call 9-1-1

Non-emergency calls:

Waterloo Regional Police Service:
519-570-3000

Guelph City Police: 519-824-1212

Wellington OPP: 1-888-310-1122
or 1-800-310-1122

We gratefully acknowledge
assistance from the KFL&A
Dementia Network and the MTO.

For more information and a link
to print this brochure, go to:

www.alzheimerkw.com

Driving and Dementia



A Guide for Individuals and their Families

Driving and dementia is a very important issue for you and your family.

In Ontario, driving is a privilege not
a right. Should you continue to drive?
You, your family, your doctor and the
Ministry of Transportation can help
you answer this question.

Why is everyone worried?

Dementia will eventually change your
ability to be a safe driver. Driving takes
split-second timing. Research shows
that people with dementia are 8 times
more likely to be in an accident.

Won't I know if I am unsafe behind the wheel?

When you have dementia, it's not easy to see the changes that are happening. It may be hard for you to know when to stop driving. You may need to talk to others and listen to what they are telling you. Think responsibly about when it is time to stop driving.

Who do I talk to?

Talk to your family and friends. They are often in the car with you and can tell you if you are a safe driver or if your driving has changed for the worse. Talk to your doctor early and often about driving. Under the law, your doctor must report any medical condition that may affect safe driving.

Will I have to stop driving right away?

Some people are able to drive for a while after diagnosis. However, the time will come when it may not be safe for you to drive, and you will have to plan your driving retirement.

It's important to openly and honestly share your concerns about giving up your licence and to think ahead about alternatives. There is a lot of support to help you and your family.

Some signs to look for:

- Damage to the car
- Losing your way
- Problems with other cars or pedestrians
- Mixing up the gas and brake pedal
- Traffic tickets
- Missing stop signs or lights
- Problems with lane changes or merging
- Other drivers honking at you
- Your passenger needs to help you
- Changes in driving habits
- Family and friends refuse to get in the car with you

My doctor has asked me to stop driving and has sent a letter to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO).

What happens now?

You should stop driving until you hear otherwise. The MTO Medical Review Section looks at the letter from your doctor. They will send you a letter stating one of the following:

- You can continue to drive
- You need to have a driving assessment

- More medical information is needed
- Your licence is revoked

The MTO makes the final decision about your licence, not your doctor. If your licence has been suspended, **you must no longer drive.**

Mobility options are available:

- Think about using buses, taxis and community/private transportation services in your area
- Call your local senior centre or Alzheimer Society for information on volunteer drivers and other services
- Ask your local taxi service about "frequent rider" deals for reduced rates
- Look for services that deliver groceries and prescriptions

Can I appeal my licence suspension?

Yes. You can make a formal appeal to the Licence Appeal Tribunal.

1-800-720-5292

<http://www.lat.gov.on.ca>