Do you have to give up your driver's license at a certain age?

No, but a person's license can be taken away – at any age – if there is reason to believe that he or she is an unsafe driver.

Does renewing your license mean it's safe for you to drive?

Not necessasrily. In most states you only need to pass a basic vision test to renew a license. It's important to get a regular physical check-up and thorough eye exam. Talk honestly with your health care provider about any changes that may affect your driving.

It's time to stop driving if you have been told not to drive by a healthcare provider or a law enforcement agency, or if you know your ability to drive safely has been impaired.

Important Numbers

District Community Service Officers

1st District 240-773-6070

2nd District 240-773-6700

3rd District 240-773-6800

4th District 240-773-5500

5th District 240-773-6200

6th District 240-773-5700

Central Auto Theft 240-773-6370

Police Emergency 911

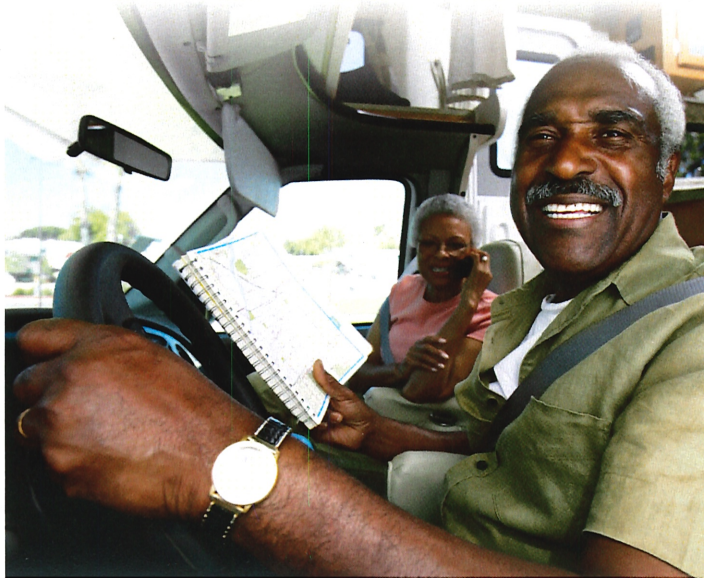
Non-Emergency 301-279-8000

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
100 Edison Park Drive
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police

Montgomery County, Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Senior Drivers

Making Changes For Safety



Senior Drivers

For many people, driving means freedom. Driving also means being responsible for the safety of:

- ✓ yourself
- ✓ your passengers
- ✓ other drivers
- ✓ pedestrians

Why should I think about my driving skills now?

Years of experience may make you a better driver. Older drivers are less likely to:

- ✓ drive recklessly
- ✓ speed
- ✓ drink and drive

But changes due to aging may create new driving challenges. Older drivers often have trouble:

- ✓ making left turns
- ✓ yielding right of way
- ✓ stopping at stop signs
- ✓ getting through busy intersections
- ✓ getting on and off highways
- ✓ driving at night

Think about the skills it takes to be a safe driver.

Good Vision...*you need to watch for:*

- ✓ other cars
- ✓ traffic signals
- ✓ road signs
- ✓ pedestrians
- ✓ hazards

Flexibility and strength...*your hands, feet, neck and arms must be strong and flexible enough to:*

- ✓ move quickly
- ✓ check for hazards on all sides
- ✓ react fast

Clear thinking and judgement... *safe driving requires making constant decisions about:*

- ✓ speed
- ✓ distance
- ✓ road conditions

As people age, they may experience vision changes, limited mobility and a slowing of the reflexes which can lead to unsafe driving conditions.

Growing older does not always mean giving up driving. But it may mean making some changes in how and when you drive.

Are you a safe driver?

To find out, ask yourself these questions:

- ✓ Do I sometimes come too close to other vehicles or pedestrians?
- ✓ Do other drivers honk at me a lot?
- ✓ Have I ever been lost in a familiar neighborhood?
- ✓ Do I have to brake harder than normal to stop at red lights and stop signs?
- ✓ Have my friends, relatives, or passengers ever told me that my driving makes them nervous?
- ✓ Do I sometime change lanes in a way that interferes with other drivers?
- ✓ Do I often become angry when driving?

Here are some steps you can take to make driving safer:

- ✓ Drive only in daylight and in good weather conditions. Avoid rush hour.
- ✓ Drive on roads where the traffic and speed are most comfortable for you.
- ✓ Don't drive when you are ill, tired, upset or stressed.
- ✓ Keep your eyes on the road – but not on one spot. Scan the distance often.
- ✓ On long trips, take frequent rest stops to stretch and walk around.
- ✓ Consider bringing along a friend or relative to read maps and give directions.
- ✓ Avoid distractions – such as radios, cell phones, smoking or loud conversation.