

Introducing ADED

The Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists

ADED – the Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists – was established in 1977 to support professionals working in the field of driver education/driver training and transportation equipment modifications for persons with disabilities through education and information dissemination. ADED, a nonprofit association, is the primary professional organization in this specialized area, meeting the professional needs of its members through educational conferences, professional development activities, a professional certification program, and other supporting activities for its members to maximize the personal transportation options for persons with disabilities.

Driver rehabilitation specialists work with drivers of all ages and abilities for independent transportation, and they explore alternative transportation solutions for passengers with special needs. Your driver rehabilitation specialist will conduct a thorough evaluation of your abilities and limitations, offer driver remediation or training, and work closely with your mobility equipment specialist when the time comes to modify your vehicle.

Driver rehabilitation specialists can help with such conditions as:

- Aging
- Alzheimer's/Dementia
- Amputation
- Arthritis
- Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism (AS/HFA)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Cerebral Palsy
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Non-Verbal Learning Disability (NVLD)
- Spina Bifida
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Stroke
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Vision

Fact sheets discussing driving and the above conditions are available for download at the Publications page of ADED's website, www.aded.net.



continued

To locate a driver rehabilitation specialist in your area or if you are interested in becoming a driver rehabilitation specialist, please contact:

ADED – The Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists
 200 First Avenue NW, Suite 505 ■ Hickory, NC 28601
 (866) 672-9466 Toll Free in the US & Canada ■ E-mail: info@aded.net ■ Web: www.aded.net

A driver evaluation is performed by a professional with a background in health care and/or driver education. These specialists have completed additional training and education in the field of driver rehabilitation and many have earned a certification in this specialized field. The Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS) must maintain their education and work experience over time in order to retain their certification. Each CDRS is obligated to follow ADED's Best Practices so that each evaluation is standardized, formalized, and objective.

A driver evaluation includes:

- Visual perception
- Functional ability
- Reaction time
- Behind-the-wheel evaluation

If indicated, the CDRS will also introduce any adapted driving equipment, such as hand controls, during the behind-the-wheel portion of the evaluation. More than one evaluation may be required depending on the severity of the driver's condition. The driver may also have to complete a series of driver training sessions in order to refresh one's driving ability and/



or gain competency with the new equipment. Final recommendations from the CDRS will be shared with the driver and referring physician. Prescription for adapted driving equipment and/or vehicle modifications are shared with the mobility equipment dealer (MED) and, together, the CDRS and MED work to achieve the best possible outcome for the client. The division of motor vehicles is also alerted on a case-by-case basis or per the individual facilities' policy and procedures.

The cost for the evaluation varies from facility to facility and is often dependent on the amount of time required for providing the service. Some driver rehabilitation specialists will travel to the driver for a local assessment and some will bill insurance.

For financial support, clients may qualify for services through their state's Vocational Rehabilitation or Independent Living Program programs. Both of these programs are generally conducted through the state's Education or Health and Human Services Divisions. Contact information for these agencies can be found through a simple Internet search.

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