**2017 Massachusetts Community Transportation Coordination Conference**

**Older Drivers and the Registry of Motor Vehicles**

## Presenter

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## Retiring from Driving/Safe Driving

* Licensing/registration
* Disability placards
* License plates
* Voluntary surrender of license (can even be mailed in to medical affairs, with a “Voluntary Surrender affidavit”)
* MassRMV.com; allows advertising to paid advertisements (pay for mailings, notices, etc.)
* When to decide when it’s time to stop driving?
* Most of us will “outlive” safe driving time by 7-10 years.
* Remain safe on the road
* “Think about where you’ve driven recently? How would you get there if you were not driving?”
	+ It is important to know and determine the alternatives (one of the reasons the MassMobility conference and other opportunities for education about transportation options are crucial)
	+ Case by case; each situation is different
* Is there a re-licensing policy in MA?
	+ Yes, it begins at age 75
	+ Requires you to renew your license in person every 5 years.
	+ That does not mean the member will be safe to drive the entire 5 years, regardless of valid license.
	+ Medical condition may impact license/driving eligibility
	+ Requires in person passing of the vision exam
	+ Clerks at RMV are not medical experts. They cannot determine who is or is not eligible, can only administer a vision test
		- If the customer cannot follow protocol for renewal
		- Can flag a Manager for additional review
			* Take the medical evaluation home to the medical provider for submission, medical affairs department is notified.
		- If eye exam failure; given a form to take home to their eye doctor
		- Experience has been “varied” based on RMV staff; encouraged to fill out a comment card to report it
	+ RMV receives a “fair amount” of voluntary surrender forms
	+ Receives fair amount of “complaints” regarding drivers. Letter must be signed, and RMV must be able to follow up with the person filing complaint.
		- RMV may initiate medical review
			* Form is sent, member is giving 20 days to have it filled out by a physician.
			* If form is received outside of 20 day time period; noncompliant. And receives determination that can no longer operate. They would have to go into an RMV branch and speak to a hearings officer
				+ If they cannot get to a physician within the 20 day period, they can contact medical affairs @ RMV for an extension
			* State allows a physician to make that determination
	+ Some senior center directors may file a report regarding an elderly driver
		- That may initiate a form to be sent > 20 days
		- The driver in question has the right to know who had filed that complaint or report
		- No anonymity
	+ If it is a matter of safety; the local police may be involved to monitor if necessary. However, they need just cause
* There are resources to support that transition

## Q&A

* RE: Physician sending in the letter or report?
	+ The providers can sign forms/documentation required to report unsafe situations of members driving
	+ Physician follows reporting requirements (link found at <http://www.massrmv.com/MedicalAffairs.aspx> )
		- Form of report
		- Where to send the report
		- What happens once it’s received
	+ Requesting a formal evaluation or a competency test
	+ License holder always has the rights to appeal RMV decision
	+ If license is revoked, RMV will issue free photo ID as replacement
	+ If police officer submits report “Immediate threat” report to RMV
		- Form is filled out, sent to medical affairs
		- Letter is sent that day for evaluation (20 days)
		- RMV places a “medical hold” on license while the member is evaluated
		- If safe to operate, medical hold is removed and no impact to driving record
* Define what constitutes “healthcare professional” per RMV:
	+ As of 2010; the following is considered “medical professional” per the RMV
		- PCP, physician assistant, physical therapist, occupational therapist, osteopath, ophthalmologist, registered nurse LPN/RN, psychologist, optometrist, podiatrist (approx. 10 different types of provider)
		- Medical affairs brochure is available at the Mass RMV table
		- One medical condition that must be reported to RMV; legal blindness. MCB also sends that information to the RMV (Only scenario where HIPAA is waived)
		- Upon forfeiture of license; encouraged to also utilize a disability placard to use in non-operating vehicles (friends, family members, etc.).
		- This week is disability placard misuse awareness week.
		- MA Placard is applicable **anywhere** except New York City.
		- Placard users still need to follow legal parking requirements.
		- Placard users still have to pay for MBTA commuter rail lots.
* Who has the authority to ask that the privacy sleeve be removed from a placard?
	+ Police officers
	+ Parking clerks (meter readers, etc.)
	+ Extensive advisory board to review misuse
	+ Fines from placard misuse go directly to that local town’s disability committee.
* RE: A lot of people will put their placards on backwards to hide the number?
	+ That is improper use of the placard and subject to fine.
		- Misuse of placard or improper display of a placard
* Are there temporary placards?
	+ RMV issues a placard based on what the healthcare provider recommends.
	+ If it is temporary, it would be issued as few as two months up to two years.
	+ Permanent placards are 5 years. Renewals are automatically mailed out.
	+ Temporary placards ink is red.
* RE: Permanent renewals sent to deceased placard holders?
	+ Elder Affairs; asks for placards to be turned in when a person passes away.
	+ SSA is working on a notification system to inform RMV.
	+ Encourage sending the placard back; you may keep the picture if you’d like.
	+ Always keep the address up to date via MyRMV portal.
		- Address changes
		- Voter registration
		- Organ donor
* Can someone with a disability go from a temporary to permanent placard?
	+ Requires the person reapply
	+ Provider submits second application for permanent placard
	+ It takes 6-8 weeks for disability placard processing
		- 6 employees for the entire state