

# Who can help?

STATE AGENCIES

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## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS)

Solely responsible for all actions taken  
with regard to licensing.



## MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD (MAB)

Provides assistance with determining  
impact of medical conditions on driving  
safety.





# Texas DPS

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- DRIVER LICENSE OFFICE APPOINTMENTS
- APPLY FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE
- RENEW A DRIVER'S LICENSE
- ADDRESS THE STATUS OF A LICENSE
- REPLACE A DRIVER'S LICENSE
- ON ROAD TESTING
- DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY & TYPE OF LICENSE







# Medical Advisory Board

- GROUP OF 14 PHYSICIANS ACROSS VARIOUS AREAS OF PRACTICE
- ASSISTS THE DPS IN DETERMINING WHETHER APPLICANTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSES ARE CAPABLE OF SAFELY OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE
- REVIEWS THE MEDICAL FACTS & REACHES AN OPINION BASED OFF THE MAB GUIDE FOR DETERMINING DRIVING LIMITATIONS
- PROVIDES A WRITTEN RECOMMENDATION TO THE DRIVER'S LICENSE DIVISION OF THE DPS







# Who can help?

## DIFFERENT OPTIONS

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Traditional Driving School

Outpatient Therapist (OT/ST/PT)

Occupational Therapist Driver Rehab

Specialist (OT DRS)





# TRADITIONAL DRIVING SCHOOL

- **TEACHES DRIVING SKILLS**

In-classroom setting or online computer based program

- **ENHANCE DRIVING PERFORMANCE**

New driver skill development to acquire permit or license

- **ASSIST WITH PREPARING FOR TEST**

Develops knowledge for written & on-road Texas DPS test

- **REQUIRED PROVIDER'S KNOWLEDGE**

TDLR approved education. No formal medical training to address medical conditions /needs





# OUTPATIENT THERAPY PROGRAM

## ■ ASSESS PRE-DRIVING SKILLS

ID deficits in cognition, visual, perceptual, behavioral & physical w/ standardized tests

## ■ DEVELOP INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN

Considers diagnosis, goals, options, & interventions to increase skill in preparation for getting a license/permit

## ■ INTERPRET RISKS ASSOCIATED W/ DRIVING

Looks at acute & chronic needs & their impact of driving performance

## ■ REQUIRED PROVIDER'S KNOWLEDGE

Occupational Therapy Practitioner or other Medical Care Provider with a knowledge of IADLs





# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST DRIVER REHAB SPECIALIST (OT DRS)

## ■ SPECIAL TRAINING

ID skills needed for driving, readiness to learn to drive, appropriate training methods, & ways to compensate for challenges.

## ■ INTERVENTION

Identify areas that are a challenge for the teen & develop an individualized plan to address how they impact driving skills. Provides recommendations to other members of team.

## ■ MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge of how medical conditions impact & influence driving skills.  
Knowledge of medication & side effects.

## ■ ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT KNOWLEDGE

Assess teen's need for modified driving controls, driving position, mirrors, etc.





# Diagnosis Specific Considerations

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A VERY BRIEF OVERVIEW





# Diagnosis

## WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM WORKING WITH AN OT DRS?

*Specialized intervention and driving training may be benefit:*

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- ADHD/ADD
- Non-Verbal Learning Disorders
- Dyslexia
- Cerebral Palsy
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Many Others





# AUTISM

**2/3**

ADOLESCENTS WITH HIGHER FUNCTIONING AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD) ARE EITHER INTERESTED IN OR CURRENTLY DRIVING

**3X**

AUTISTIC YOUNG DRIVERS ARE MORE THAN THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO CRASH WHILE MAKING A LEFT-TURN OR U-TURN THAN NON-AUTISTIC NOVICE DRIVERS.

**1/3**

ADOLESCENTS WITH AUTISM WITHOUT AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY GET A LICENSE BY AGE 21

<https://www.teendriversource.org/learning-to-drive/driving-with-neurodevelopmental-differences/autism-and-driving>





# AUTISM: LOOKING AT UNIQUE LEARNING TRAITS

## PROS

- Less likely to have their license suspended or receive a traffic violation than other newly licensed drivers
- Responds well to individualization of instruction tailored to the particular needs
- Novice autistic drivers are 44% less likely to crash due to unsafe speed than non-autistic young drivers.

## CONS

- Slow to process information
- Difficulty regulating emotion
- Difficulty recognizing hazards
- Delayed motor skills
- Longer time needed for skill development





# ADD/ADHD

## Accidents

SIGNIFICANTLY MORE  
LIKELY TO CRASH THAN  
THEIR PEERS

## Risky Behaviors

- DRIVING WHILE  
INTOXICATED
- SPEEDING
- NOT WEARING A SEAT  
BELT

## Violations

ISSUED MORE TRAFFIC  
AND MOVING VIOLATIONS

<https://www.teendriversource.org/learning-to-drive/driving-with-neurodevelopmental-differences/adhd-and-driving>





# DYSLEXIA

## Testing

INCREASED DIFFICULTY WITH

- READING
- INTERPRETING
- APPLYING EDUCATION & TESTING MATERIALS

## Navigation

- RIGHT VS LEFT
- READING MAPS
- SPATIAL AWARENESS
- FOLLOWING MULTIPLE STEP INSTRUCTIONS

## Recognition

- SIGN RECOGNITION
- LANE POSITIONING
- SHAPE RECOGNITION
- SEARCHING
- & RESPONDING QUICKLY

<https://www.teendriversource.org/learning-to-drive/driving-with-neurodevelopmental-differences/adhd-and-driving>





# ANXIETY: IMPACTS ON DRIVING

## SIGNS

- Feeling easily fatigued
- Having trouble concentrating
- Irritable & short with others
- Feeling tension, especially
- Having troubling dreams involving driving

## RESEARCH

### **1 in 4**

Teens are too scared to drive. Teen girls were more likely than boys to admit that they thought driving was scary.

A new Australian study showed that teens with anxiety engage in riskier & more erratic driving behavior.





# CEREBRAL PALSY

## Areas of Concern

- LIMITED RANGE OF MOTION & STRENGTH
- EXAGGERATED STARTLE REFLEX TO LOUD NOISE
- INCREASED MUSCLE TONE
- DIFFICULTY IN COORDINATED MOVEMENTS
- VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS INCLUDING TROUBLE SCANNING OR TRACKING QUICKLY
- COGNITIVE CONCERNS

<https://www.teendriversource.org/learning-to-drive-driving-with-neurodevelopmental-differences-ahd-and-ada/>

## Common Equipment

- SPINNER KNOB
- LEFT FOOT ACCELERATOR
- HAND CONTROLS
- SPECIALIZED MODIFICATIONS CAN ALSO ALLOW A PERSON TO TRANSFER TO THE DRIVER SEAT
- ABILITY DRIVE FROM THE WHEELCHAIR IN A VAN OR MINIVAN





# Vision Deficits

## AREAS OF IMPAIRMENT

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Poor glare recovery

Inability to detect traffic light colors

Change in depth perception

Inability to read signs at a distance

Collisions/near misses

Difficulty driving at night

Problems with vision in inclement weather

