

Driving and Vision

ADED – The Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists

The role of vision in the operation of a motor vehicle is critical. It is estimated that 95% of the information the driver receives is visual. Visual function important to driver performance includes acuity, field of view or peripheral vision, contrast sensitivity, glare recovery, scanning, tracking, and visual perceptual skills. Many disabilities may have an impact on visual function. These areas of function may be affected by neurological or physical disabilities/changes. A driver rehabilitation specialist working within the guidelines of individual state vision requirements, set forth by the department of motor vehicle licensure requirements, may be able to help a driver compensate for these changes. A Vision Specialist may be consulted to verify visual function, recommend medical intervention or vision therapy, or prescribe bioptic or prism lenses to assist with compensation.

Warning signs to look for:

- 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

A driver rehabilitation specialist, with knowledge of the medical and visual conditions, can provide a comprehensive evaluation and assist you with determination of safe driving potential.

An assessment should include:

- Vision
- Perception
- Functional ability
- Reaction time
- Behind-the-wheel evaluation

