

10 Warning Signs a Driver May Have Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia

1. Erratic driving with slow or poor traffic decisions
2. Behavior including incorrect words, delusional thoughts, or poor eye contact
3. Inability to pull over safely
4. Lost or disoriented behavior
****Never give directions or let the person go if they seem disoriented. The person may not realize they are lost.***
5. Defensive or agitated behavior
6. Vague answers that don't match the question
7. Destination or route doesn't make sense or doesn't exist anymore
8. Shuffle or slow gait speed and short stride length when walking
****Not all persons with Alzheimer's or dementia exhibit a shuffle.***
9. Problem producing a valid driver's license, vehicle registration, or insurance documents
10. Difficulty determining the date, time, or year
****Avoid arguing or attempting to convince them of the correct date, time, or year.***

For more information, visit:
[www.theiacp.org/projects/home safe](http://www.theiacp.org/projects/home_safe)

10 Steps for Interacting with Drivers Who May Have Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia

1. Speak in a calm, friendly tone. Do not raise your voice or argue. Lower the volume on the police radio to avoid startling or frightening the person.
2. When safe to do so, approach from the front so they can see you coming and, if possible, remove your cover/hat and sunglasses to maintain eye contact.
3. Avoid touching the person without asking or explaining.
4. Be prepared for sudden mood or demeanor changes.
5. Ask one simple question at a time and allow extra response time.
6. Move the person to a safe, comfortable location, in their car if possible.
7. Check for a locative technology or MedicAlert ID.
8. Run the vehicle registration to check for a missing person or Silver Alert.
9. Ensure safe transit home with a relative or friend.
10. Always write a citation if a driving violation has occurred. This establishes a record and a possible need for driver re-evaluation.



This project is supported by Cooperative Agreement Nos. 2019-NT-BX-K002 and 15PBJA-22-GK-03582-MAPX, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions contained herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. References to specific agencies, companies, products, or services should not be considered an endorsement by the author(s) or the U.S. Department of Justice. Rather, the references are illustrations to supplement discussion of the issues.