

# 10 Warning Signs

a Driver May Have Alzheimer's Disease

- 1 Erratic driving with slow or poor traffic decisions.
- 2 Intoxicated-like behavior such as incorrect words, delusional thoughts, and poor eye contact.
- 3 Inability to pull over safely.
- 4 Lost or disoriented behavior.  
\* Never give directions or let the person go if he or she seems disoriented. The person may not realize that he/she is lost.
- 5 Defensive or agitated behavior.
- 6 Vague answers that don't match the question.
- 7 Destination location or route doesn't make sense or doesn't exist anymore.
- 8 Shuffle or reduced gait in movement.  
\* Not all persons with Alzheimer's disease exhibit a shuffle.
- 9 Problem producing a valid driver's license or vehicle registration and insurance documents.
- 10 Difficulty determining date, time, or year.  
\* Avoid giving "reality checks."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[www.theiacp.org/alzheimers](http://www.theiacp.org/alzheimers)

# 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.
- 2 Approach from the front and, if possible, remove 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 his or her own car, if possible.
- 7 Check for a tracking device or MedicAlert + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return ID.
- 8 Run the vehicle registration to check for missing person alert.
- 9 Ensure safe transit home with a relative or friend.
- 10 ALWAYS WRITE A CITATION. This establishes a record and a possible need for driver re-evaluation.

IACP's  
Alzheimer's  
INITIATIVES



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