Driving Readiness Services

As part of our Driving Rehabilitation Program, KRS offers driving readiness evaluations for young adults and adults with disabilities who are interested in pursuing a driver’s license for the first time. Evaluations assess the pre-driving skills needed to be safe and successful drivers.

Access to community mobility options can have a profound impact on a client’s ability to access employment, housing, social, and educational opportunities. KRS driving readiness services are beneficial for individuals with learning and developmental disabilities, attention disorders, or acquired injuries.

If indicated in the evaluation process, KRS may recommend further education and training to help:

- Improve the cognitive, visual, and motor skills needed to be a safe driver
- Enhance pre-driving independent living skills and safety in the community
- Develop safe driving behaviors needed to regulate sensory input and manage emotions

Community Mobility Services

KRS can help clients build community mobility plans if driving is not yet a safe option or if there is a need to retire from driving. Such a plan matches the client’s strengths with alternative transportation options to promote involvement in valued activities.
The KRS Driving Rehabilitation Program aims to provide high quality evaluations and offer proper education and training to give our clients the best chance to become, or maintain the ability to be, independent drivers.

Our driving program serves:

- New young adult and adult drivers with disabilities
- Seniors with age-related driving concerns
- Individuals returning to driving after an injury or illness
- Individuals needing specialized driving equipment or adaptations

Driving Rehabilitation Program goals include:

- Maximizing our clients’ ability to drive safely
- Enhancing our clients’ quality of independent living
- Helping our clients maintain connections in the communities in which they live
- Promoting safe community mobility options if driving is no longer possible

The KRS Driving Rehabilitation Program

Learn more about KRS at www.kalamazooarearehab.com

About the KRS Driving Rehabilitation Program

The Driving Evaluation Process

When is a formal driving evaluation appropriate for current drivers?

Referrals are made from a variety of sources including physicians, family members, case managers, counselors, therapists, or self-referrals. Clients are often referred due to:

- Difficulties performing basic self-care and home maintenance activities
- Problems with mobility and balance
- Falls or other safety issues at home or in the community
- Illness or injury impacting independence in daily tasks
- Increased levels of confusion or episodes of getting lost
- Progressive illnesses causing decline in independent function over time

What does a driving evaluation entail?

The driving evaluation consists of a pre-driving clinical evaluation and an on-the-road assessment. During the pre-driving clinical evaluation, a Licensed Occupational Therapist/Driving Rehabilitation Specialist will gather a detailed description of the client’s driving and medical history. Physical, visual, visual perceptual, and cognitive abilities will also be evaluated using assessment tools that have been associated with driving performance to identify driving sub-skills that may put the client at risk behind the wheel.

A Certified Driving Instructor/Driving Rehabilitation Specialist will observe the client’s driving performance using a variety of roadway situations during the on-the-road assessment. This helps determine the client’s ability to remain safe over a sustained period of time when presented with an array of real-time traffic challenges.

Comprehensive evaluation results will be compiled in a detailed report outlining recommendations to improve the client’s community mobility. Recommendations may include:

- Installation of and training with adaptive equipment to compensate for age-related changes or injury/illness
- On-the-road training to enhance driver safety
- Occupational or physical therapy to remediate or learn to compensate for physical, visual, visual perceptual, or cognitive deficits
- Establishing a driving transition/community mobility plan
- Identifying alternative transportation methods

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