



READY TO DRIVE?

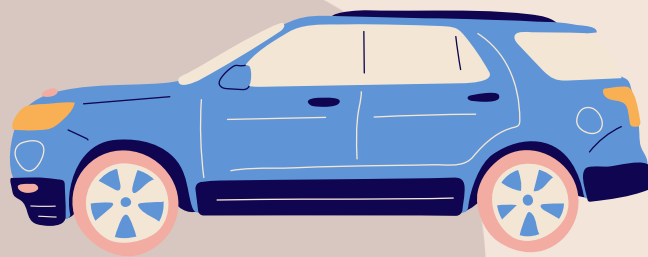
Here's what you need to know

Facts to Know

- Under the ADA, Departments of Motor Vehicles cannot deny someone a driver's license solely because of a disability.
- You can receive your permit at age 15 and receive your license at age 16, disability status does not affect this.
- Adaptive drivers must pass a theory test, which typically includes a multiple choice section and a perception skills section, and a practical road test with an instructor that specializes in adaptive driving training.
- Adaptive drivers take the same test as non-adaptive drivers and are still required to take the classroom education course either through a commercial driving school, or through an approved parent-taught course if you are between the ages of 15 and 18.
- Under the ADA individuals who rely on hand controls to operate their cars and trucks have an equal right to test drive their vehicles before purchasing them.
- State DMVs issue disabled individuals special parking permits after completing an application and obtaining a physician's signature. Disabled parking permits typically cost between \$20 and \$40 and allow drivers to park in the most convenient spots outside buildings and along streets.
- Each individual state has its own set of motor vehicle laws as well that apply to disabled drivers. Disabled drivers are required to inform the DMV about their disability and a restricted license may be issued based on limited vision, hearing, or mobility. Vehicular modification laws also vary from state to state, and mobility equipment should be installed by an approved vendor.
- If you have a disability you can receive accommodations for your licensing test, all you have to do is fill out the form titled "Assistance For People With Disabilities" on the Texas Department of Public Safety website. https://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/customer_service/ada.aspx
- You book your driving test by applying to your local Department of Motor Vehicles office. When you apply, you will need to inform them that you are disabled, that you will need a tester who specializes in adaptive driving and modified controls, that you will either be using your own vehicle or will need to use a vehicle with modified controls.



STOP



What is adaptive driving ?

- Adaptive driving training includes a comprehensive driving evaluation and rehabilitation services. The in-vehicle driver assessment is an opportunity to observe driving potential for the client. The vehicles driven are specially modified to accommodate disabled drivers.

Does insurance cover it?

- The ability to drive is not considered a medical necessity; therefore, Medicare and most commercial insurances do not cover the cost. Your options are Worker's Compensation, the Texas Workforce Commission and/or paying out of pocket. <https://www.twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-c-200#c204>

I passed the driving evaluation, does that clear me to drive?

- No. The Texas Department of Public Safety is the ONLY legal authority that can put on your permanent driving record that you are safe to return to driving.

Is this necessary?

- Before a disabled person takes their full driving test, they will need to take a Disabled Driving Assessment, which will ascertain exactly what adaptive controls they will need. This can be done through adaptive driving centers.

Are there any options other than adaptive driving?

- There are disability driving instructors, also sometimes called specialist driving instructors, they specialize in disabled driver's training. These instructors have expertise in disabled driving techniques and a thorough knowledge of all of the different types of adapted controls and vehicle modifications. Many are freelance.



Where can I find locations for adaptive driving?



Dallas
909 N Washington Ave.
Dallas, TX 75246
214-820-9225

Arlington
800 W. Randol Mill Road
Arlington, TX 76012
817-960-6100

Frisco
2990 Legacy Drive
Frisco, TX 75034
469-888-5172

Fort Worth
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76104
817-250-2760

Las Colinas
7701 Las Colinas Ridge, Suite
110
Irving, TX 75063
214-574-7848

Willow Park
101 Crown Pointe Blvd.
Willow Park, TX 76087

Modifying my vehicle

How much can a modified vehicle cost?

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that a new vehicle modified for a driver with disabilities can cost between \$20,000 to \$80,000 on average. Though if your car is compatible you can make modifications to a car you already own.

What type of vehicles are best?

- Adaptive equipment usually requires a professional to install. Typically, you are going to want a vehicle that has an automatic transmission with plenty of interior space, good safety, reliability and the ability to adjust seats, steering wheels and controls. Not every car will be compatible with the modifications that are necessary, examples of cars that are compatible with most modifications include the Dodge Caravan or Grand Caravan, the Chrysler Pacifica, the Hyundai Sonata, and the Subaru Forester. There are many more though these are just a few examples.

Who can modify my car?

- You can find certified and verified dealers and modifiers using either the NHTSA's database of qualified dealers or you can check with the NMEDA. <https://vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov/mid/home/ModifierSearch>
<https://nmeda.org/>

What if I want to buy a new car?

- You can find dealerships using the sites provided above, or you can look online with sites like Mobility Works that sell wheelchair vans. <https://www.mobilityworks.com/>

Financing my Vehicle

How can I pay for all of this?

- There are several non profits as well as government resources that will offer grants to help finance a wheelchair van or help pay for modifications to existing vehicles.

Does Medicaid cover this?

- Medicare Part B may cover the cost of adaptive equipment for your vehicle modification if it meets the requirements under the category of durable medical equipment. You may have coverage for this if it is deemed medically necessary by your physician. The equipment must only be used for a medical reason by the person who is covered by the Medicare benefits paying for it. Your healthcare provider, who accepts Medicare assignment, must prescribe it.

What organizations can help cover the expenses?

- Some of these programs offer direct assistance while others offer rebates on cars or will help you locate financial assistance.
 - First Hand Foundation
 - FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adults and Children)
 - DriveAbility Program
 - MPS Driving AIDS
 - MobilityWorks
 - SpecialKidsFund.org
 - The Mobility Resource

