

DEPARTMENT of MOTOR VEHICLES

John G. Rowland
Governor

Jose' O. Salinas
Commissioner

Training Services for Drivers with Physical Disabilities

*Helping Connecticut's
Motoring Public*

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Handicapped Driver Training Services

60 State St.
Wethersfield, CT 06161-0014

Equipment

You will be provided with a list of vendors who can supply and install the adaptive equipment required for driving safely. It is suggested that you call several vendors to compare prices and service options. The vendor names provided have been approved by the Connecticut Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Funding

Funding for the purchase of required adaptive equipment may be available through:

1. Bureau of Rehabilitation Services.
2. Veterans' Administration.
3. Workers' Compensation Commission.
4. Various civic organizations.

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60 State Street
Wethersfield, CT 06161-0014
<http://dmvct.org>



Published by
The Department of Motor Vehicles
Corporate and Public Relations Office
in cooperation with the DMV
Handicapped Driver Training Unit
May 20, 1998



The Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles began a training program in August 1945 for physically disabled Connecticut veterans of World War II who had the abilities to drive. All they needed was proper training in the use of special adaptive equipment. In 1948, after the veterans program demonstrated its success, it expanded to include qualified permanent residents.

Priorities

Applicants for whom a driver's license is highly essential in their occupational lives receive priority.

Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be at least 16 years old and have obtained a learner's permit from a DMV Branch Office.
- Be a permanent Connecticut resident.
- Require adaptive equipment to drive.
- Provide medical clearance from a physician.

Getting Started

People interested in the program should first contact the DMV Handicapped Driver Training Unit at (860) 263-5097, to discuss their eligibility situation or go the DMV Internet web site at <http://dmvct.org> .

We will send you a medical form for

your physician to complete prior to your visit to DMV. This form asks your doctor if there are any medical reasons or concerns regarding your ability to drive safely.

You are required to pre-pay fees for a driver's test if you are a new Connecticut driver or if your Connecticut license has expired more than two years ago. The check should be made payable to DMV and forwarded to the Handicapped Driver Training Unit with the completed application for a driver's test which you will be required to pass.

After we receive the required information, you will be contacted by telephone when the first available opening occurs. One of this unit's Handicapped Driver Training Inspectors, who also is a certified driving instructor, will evaluate your driving and determine the appropriate modifications needed for your vehicle. You will take driving lessons using one of our specially equipped driver-training passenger vehicles. The lessons can take place at your home, work, or rehabilitation facility.

Training Vehicles

The driver training program has modern, two-door passenger vehicles for training. These vehicles are equipped with:

1. Automatic transmission.
2. Power steering.
3. Power brakes.
4. Full hand controls (for the operations of gas and brake).

5. Hand-operated headlight dimmer.
6. Hand-operated horn.
7. Steering devices.
8. Right-side turn signal.
9. Left-foot accelerator.
10. Parking-brake extension.
11. Instructor's dual brake.

We also have a full-sized van, which is used for evaluations of persons who must operate from a wheelchair.

Training

All aspects of driving will be taught, including city, rural and limited-access highway use. We do not provide instruction on the theory portion of the test, which covers state laws.

Licensing

Once you have successfully demonstrated to the inspector that you possess the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle, your last lesson will be the actual test. If a law test is required, you will be provided with a written test if needed, you can have an oral test in which you are asked 16 questions from the DMV Driver's Manual on a one-to-one basis.

You will then receive the necessary forms to present to the photo license sections in DMV's full-service branch offices. You must bring the forms to the branch office within 15 days of being licensed.