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## FLORIDA HIGHLIGHTS OLDER DRIVER SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

*~ What older drivers and their families should know ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Transportation and the ability to successfully get around is key to independence and quality of life for senior drivers. Recognizing that importance, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is pleased to observe *Older Driver Safety Awareness Week* this week, which provides a springboard to educate older drivers and their loved ones.

“More than 1.9 million (12 percent) of the state’s licensed drivers are age 70 and older. That is a significant portion of the driving population, and when you add in the number of family members who may face tough decisions in dealing with their loved ones’ driving privilege, far more people are affected,” said DHSMV Executive Director Julie L. Jones. “Many people are not quite sure where to seek guidance, and this week is a great time to help educate Floridians on these important issues.”

In 2008, drivers in their upper 60s had the lowest rate of fatal crashes, but that number rose steadily for each age group beginning with the 70 -74 age group. To help address this trend, the DHSMV is committed to safety education on older driver issues, including the following tips:

### **Vision Test Requirement**

Once drivers reach age 80, they should prepare to take a vision exam to renew their driver license. They can take the exam in the driver license office or have a qualified medical professional give the test and send the results to the Department. Licenses for drivers who are age 80 and older are valid for six years upon renewal.

### **Concerned about a driver?**

Any physician, person or agency who knows of a licensed driver or applicant's mental or physical disability to drive or need to obtain or to wear a medical identification bracelet is authorized to report this to DHSMV. The report should be made in writing. These reports are confidential and shall be used only to determine the qualifications of the individual to operate a motor vehicle on Florida's highways.

### **Resources**

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides resources for older drivers and their families at [www.floridagranddriver.com](http://www.floridagranddriver.com). This site is a portal for information related to older drivers, such as how to report concerns about a driver, transportation choices, driver refresher courses and much more.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov).

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