

## What does the law say about driving and dementia?



Just about every state in the Nation has driving restrictions for those who exhibit questionable driving aptitude.

In Washington State, Revised Code of Washington **RCW 46.20.207** states that the Department of Licensing can cancel any license wherein the driver

*is not competent to operate a motor vehicle under RCW 46.20.031 which addresses a person's inability to safely operate a vehicle due to physical or mental disability or disease.*

**RCW 46.20.305** further details the reexamination process for those who fall within this category. This is a serious matter.

Not only is your loved one at risk, but everyone within sigh of their vehicle is unknowingly being subjected to their potentially dangerous driving. Imagine how you would feel if an innocent person was harmed by your family member. Liability must be considered also.

*"Families who allow Alzheimer patients to continue driving expose the patient and spouse to potential legal liability and the patient to potential harm. Dementia patients involved in motor vehicles accidents might be assumed at fault even if they did not cause the accident. Liability judgements involving injury to another party could exceed the limit of the patient's insurance and bankrupt both the patient and the family. Dementia patients who injure other parties as a result of a motor vehicle accident can be judged criminally liable and placed in jail."*

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