

USA EAST PROVINCE DRIVING POLICY

Introduction:

This driving policy is to assist local superiors in making informed decisions regarding the use of automobiles by men of all ages in their communities. The policy is aimed at helping men to acquire additional skills to keep them driving safely, and to set responsible limits on who may safely drive a car based on an objective evaluation. The criteria for the driving policy is based on research showing that among all drivers 65 and older, it is the oldest drivers who pose more risk to themselves and to public safety. **The rate of crashes begins to rise at age 70 and increases rapidly at age 80.**

Criteria:

Age

- **Beginning at age of 70, a one-time participation in an “AARP 55 Alive Training Program” is required. If for some reason a man is over 70 and has never taken the AARP safety course, he is still required to take it and receive a certificate of completion.** This is a driver safety course that is available in a classroom setting or online at <http://www.aarpdriversafety.org/>. The course helps drivers refine existing skills and develop safe, defensive driving techniques. Each man will be required to obtain a certificate of participation, and this will be given to the local superior to keep on file and a copy sent to the Health Care department at the USA East Province. This is to raise awareness about safety issues and/or make adjustments for age limitations.
- **When a man reaches the age of 75, a road test with evaluation is required.** Occupational therapist certified in driving evaluations, occupational therapy department of a local hospital or rehab center do this. The latter requires a physician’s order. This is required for all as it includes a comprehensive assessment of physical, visual and cognitive skills. Each man will be required to obtain a written copy of the evaluation for his superior, or to sign a release of information form that allows the superior to obtain a copy of the report. A copy should also be sent to Healthcare sector. If the evaluation suggests that certain changes be made to the automobile (i.e. additional mirrors), or a test re-taken, each man will be encouraged to follow these recommendations. The cost of this evaluation is the responsibility of the Jesuit community. It is not covered by insurance.
- **This same test should be repeated at age 80, and every two years after that while the Jesuit is still driving. If the local superior has concerns about a person’s health or driving record, he may request an evaluation sooner.**
- Refresher courses are offered by driving schools, and men should be encouraged to participate if desired. Each superior will have a list of places in the area that offer the above driving evaluations, supplied by the Provincial Assistant for Health Care. The list will be kept current and local communities will be advised of any changes.

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- **NOTE:** Even if an individual has received permission to drive from the evaluator, the superior has the ultimate decision and responsibility about whether a man may drive, and with what restrictions. Refusing a superior access to the written evaluation may be cause for a loss of driving privileges.

Driving Record

- **Moving Violation** - Regardless of age, if a man has two moving violations or a serious at fault accident or more than two insurance claims within twelve months, he will be required to take a “Hands-On Driving Test/Evaluation”, with the results given to his superior.
- **Change in Health Status** - If a member of the community suffers any change in health condition that reduces his perception and/or motor skills, even temporarily, **he is to cease driving until it is clear that his changed physical condition does not impair his driving safety.** Examples would include a stroke, vertigo, falls, fainting, or broken hip but are not limited to these. Once the temporary condition has improved, if the superior feels it is necessary, he may ask the man to take a road test before resuming driving.
- **Vision** - If there is concern about a man’s vision, **the superior may request that he obtain a letter from an eye doctor certifying that his vision is adequate for driving.** Good vision however, is not the only criteria for safe driving.
- *The superior of each community must ensure that the provision is made for access to transportation for members no longer able to drive. This includes taxicab vouchers, Lyft, Uber services or a pool of volunteer drivers. If a man voluntarily surrenders his license, the Department of Motor Vehicles will still issue him a state picture ID card as an official form of identification, signature and age.*