



# HONORING OUR ELDERERS

Our goal is to enrich the lives of our clients and employees.  
Sometimes that goal is achieved in unforeseen ways.

submitted by Margeaux Corrao • photography provided

As we age, driving can become a challenge. At Dorian Maples & Associates we often hear about how tough it can be to tell a loved one that they should stop driving. Many times it is in a situation where the elder has been diagnosed with some form of dementia and exhibits symptoms of short-term memory loss or difficulty performing daily tasks. It is imperative that the elder and their family address the many safety issues related to such a diagnosis.

If you know that it is time to have the driving conversation with an elder in your life, here are some suggestions to consider so that you can still honor the elder in the process:


- Have open discussions with everyone involved to foster strong relationships.
- Consider contacting someone that they respect and trust (their physician, attorney, religious leader, care manager, a close peer, etc.) to be part of the conversation.
- Complete a verbal or written agreement, such as the *Agreement with My Family about Driving* by Hartford

Insurance, which can be found at the Hartford Insurance website.

- Have the elder take a thorough driving test administered by an occupational therapist certified as a driver rehabilitation specialist to remove any confusion. Support is available through the Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists ([aded.net](http://aded.net)).
- Point out the ways they will save money (no more car maintenance, car insurance, gasoline expenses, etc.) to make it more financially appealing.

Usually the elder's biggest fear is how they will get around. The next step, therefore, is to organize transportation options and to look for ways to reduce their need to drive. Keep in mind that the need for socialization is very important to all of us, including those with a diagnosis of dementia. You need to reassure your loved one that they can continue to participate in their favorite pastimes.

If the elder in your life is having issues letting go of their driving privileges,

you may have to take away the keys, disable their car or take their car away from them. You and their physician may write a letter to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles stating your loved one has a medical condition that keeps them from being a safe driver. 

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## DORIAN MAPLES & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL GERIATRIC CARE MANAGEMENT

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Number of employees: 4

Years in business: 11

**Products and Services:** Working with you and your families to make decisions about living arrangements and to coordinate services, Dorian Maples provides ongoing support around the various challenges associated with aging, bringing peace of mind to you and your family.