

ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND OF WA (INC.)
FITNESS TO DRIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

A person who drives when unfit to do so because of a vision impairment, places him/her self, any passengers, and other road users at a serious safety risk. During the course of conducting the Association's normal activities, staff have personal contact with people who have a vision impairment and have an opportunity to address this issue with them. This policy primarily applies to staff in the Independent Living Services Department and particularly to those in the Low Vision Centre.

2.0 STATEMENT

The Association will ensure that it informs every new consumer of the risk of criminal and common law liability for anyone who drives but whose vision loss makes them unfit to do so.

Furthermore, if the Association knows of a consumer who, after receiving this information, is driving when unfit to do so, the Association will take steps to address this issue with the person concerned and may refer the consumer to the Road Traffic Authority for a reassessment.

Margaret Crowley
Chief Executive Officer

10 Oct 2003
Effective Date

PROCEDURE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The following procedures support the provision of the Fitness to Drive Policy. They are to be implemented to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to help protect the safety of any Association consumer who is improperly driving as well as the safety of other road users and pedestrians.

2.0 SERVICES BOOKLET

The Association will give every new consumer a services booklet, in his/her preferred format, which will always include notification (as attached) regarding fitness to drive. Such a notice will refer to the risk of criminal and common law liability. This includes long-term financial and legal consequences where the driver has failed to report an impairment to the Road Traffic Authority and continues to drive knowing that he or she has a condition that may adversely affect driving. The information in the booklet will also explain the process described at point 4.0 below.

The services booklet will also contain information about the Association's Privacy Safeguards Policy. The following extract from this policy outlines the possibility of the Association's disclosure of information for matters of health or safety.

“If legal or health and safety issues arise, the Association may also have to make disclosures to relevant organisations to deal with these matters.”

3.0 INITIAL ASSESSMENT

The Association will conduct an initial assessment interview for every new consumer during which the interviewing staff member will raise and discuss with the consumer, issues associated with a person driving who is unfit to do so.

4.0 ASSURANCE FROM CONSUMER

When the Association is aware that one of its consumers is driving, the Manager: ILS will write (in appropriate format) directly to the consumer. The letter will express the Association's concern and require the consumer, within a week, to sufficiently assure the Association that he/she will no longer drive. The letter will further advise that if this assurance isn't forthcoming or sufficient enough to allay the Association's concern, the Association will refer the consumer to the Road Traffic Authority for a reassessment. Before any referral is made, the consumer in question will receive a follow up phone call from Manager: ILS.

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