

The Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) began a training program in August 1945 for physically disabled Connecticut veterans of World War II who had the ability to drive. All they needed was proper training in the use of special adaptive equipment. In 1948, after the veterans' program demonstrated its success, it expanded to include qualified permanent residents.

### **Priorities**

Applicants for whom a driver's license is highly essential in their occupational lives receive priority.

### **Requirements**

Applicants must:

- Be at least 16 years of age and have obtained a learner's permit from a DMV branch office
- Be a permanent Connecticut (CT) resident
- Require adaptive equipment to drive
- Provide medical clearance from a physician

### **Getting Started**

People interested in the program should first contact the DMV Handicapped Driver Training Unit at (860) 263-5097, to discuss their eligibility.

We will send you a medical form for your physician to complete prior to your visit to the DMV. This form asks your doctor if there are any medical reasons or concerns regarding your ability to drive safely.

After we receive the required information, you will be contacted by telephone when the first available opening occurs. A Handicapped Driver Training Inspector, who is also a certified driving instructor, will evaluate your driving and determine the appropriate modifications needed for your vehicle. You will take driving lessons using one of our specially equipped driver-training passenger vehicles. The lessons can take place at your home or work or a rehabilitation facility.

### **Training Vehicles**

The driver training program has modern, two-door passenger vehicles for training. These vehicles are equipped with:

- Automatic transmission
- Power steering
- Power brakes
- Full hand controls (for the operations of gas and brake)
- Hand-operated headlight dimmer
- Hand-operated horn
- Steering devices
- Right-side turn signal
- Left-foot accelerator
- Parking-brake extension
- Instructor's dual brake

In some cases where complex modifications are required, we will provide the training in your own specially equipped vehicle. All vehicles used for training shall be equipped with an instructor's brake.

### **Training**

All aspects of driving will be taught, including city, rural and limited access highway use. We do not provide instruction on the theory portion of the test, which covers state laws.

### **Licensing**

Once you have successfully demonstrated to the inspector that you possess the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle, your last lesson will be the actual test. If a law test is required, you will be provided with a sixteen (16) question written test, or you can have an oral test in which you are asked the sixteen (16) questions on a one-to-one basis. The Connecticut Driver's Manual for New Drivers should be studied.

You are required to pre-pay the \$40 testing fee for a driver's test if you are a new Connecticut driver or if your Connecticut license has expired for more than two years.

The check should be made payable to “DMV” and forwarded to the Handicapped Driver Training Unit with the completed Application for Non-Commercial Driver’s License (form R-229).

You will then receive the necessary forms to present to the photo license section at your local full service branch office. You must bring the forms to the branch office within fifteen (15) days of being licensed.

### **Equipment**

You will be provided with a list of vendors who can supply and install the adaptive equipment required for driving safely. It is suggested that you call several vendors to compare prices and service options.

### **Funding**

Funding for the purchase of required adaptive equipment may be available through:

- Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
- Veterans’ Administration
- Workers’ Compensation Commission
- Various civic organizations
- CT Tech Act Project

### **The Department of Motor Vehicles Handicapped Driver Training**

60 State Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06161-0014  
[ct.gov/dmv](http://ct.gov/dmv)

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DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
Handicapped Driver Training Services  
60 State Street  
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## **Training Services for Drivers with Physical Disabilities**



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