

Transition Tips- Driving

Ohio's Communication Disability Law

On August 10, 2018, a new law took effect to help protect Ohioans with communication disabilities during interactions with police officers. A communication disability impairs someone's ability to receive, send, process, or comprehend concepts or verbal, nonverbal, or graphic symbol systems. A communication disability could cause misunderstandings with law enforcement officers.

Any individual with a medically diagnosed communication disability, who drives or regularly has someone with a communication disability in their vehicle, can voluntarily enroll in a database that connects to the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS). The law enforcement officer can then be made aware that the driver or a person in the vehicle may have difficulty communicating and can approach the vehicle with awareness to reduce any potential misunderstandings or problems.

The verification form can be found at:

<https://ood.ohio.gov/Information/Communication-Disability-Law>

The form can be completed by either the person with the disability or their legal guardian. A license medical practitioner such as a physician, psychiatrist or psychologist must also sign the form to verify that the person has been diagnosed with a communication disability or a disability that can impair communication.

A person with a disability can list up to 9 vehicles that they may drive or be transported in on a single form.

This service is offered at no cost. Forms can be submitted by mail or email.

Gruber said. "It helps put us at ease rather than put us on high alert."



In an interview with the Mansfield News Journal Lt. BJ Gruber of the Marion Police Department said, "It's not every day officers encounter someone with communication disabilities, which makes knowledge of the condition valuable. Being in a position to receive as much information as possible always puts us at greater ease because we have a better idea of what we're dealing with,"

<https://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story/news/2018/09/10/ohio-law-protect-drivers-communication-disabilities-law-enforcement-agencies-data-system/1216432002/>

Ohio Driver License and Identification Cards

Beginning October 1, 2020, the federal government will no longer consider standard driver licenses and identification cards as sufficient forms of identification for air travel. TSA will require a federally compliant driver license, identification card or another acceptable form of identification (such as a US passport or military ID) to fly within the U.S. This complete information

about this change in requirements can be found at:

<https://www.bmv.ohio.gov/newdl-id/new-card-compare.aspx>

A birth certificate, social security card, or current passport are good starting points for the documents required for the new license or state ID card. An interactive tool is available to help you determine what documents to bring

along. You can access this tool at:

<https://services.dps.ohio.gov/BMVOnlineServices/DL/AcceptableDocuments>

