


August 1, 2006



Re: 

Dear Dr. 

I am writing, confidentially, in reference to my father, . He is in the process of being scheduled for both a written and a road driving evaluation. My dad has been stopped by the police four times (that we know of) since November for "swerving and weaving," and has been involved in at least two "fender-benders" that were attributed to him, as well as acquiring numerous dents and scrapes on his vehicle.

For some time now, whenever a family member is following him in traffic we have observed that he is unable to consistently remain within marked lanes. Further, he often varies from the intended route, presumably because he misses the signs as he approaches them. Although I live out of state, I have spent a great deal of time in Minnesota in recent months because of medical crises with my mother, and to help my sisters with our parents' move into senior housing. In the course of those visits, I have driven with my dad while he provides directions as we negotiate the Twin Cities. He has had notable difficulty deciphering signs until he is virtually upon them, including the large overhead freeway signs. He has also reported falling asleep while driving, and one sister observed him getting out of his van one day, indeed looking like he was just awakening from a nap! Since he has not been in a major collision, I realize he mustn't be literally dozing for any length of time, but we are quite concerned about this.

It is our understanding that he is to obtain letters from both you and his eye doctor for the evaluation agency. Needless to say, the removal of driving privileges will be a devastating life change for our dad. Nevertheless, we felt it critical that you have a sense of some of the difficulties he is having on the road due to his functional visual status as well as his decreasing processing speed and general cognitive decline. Thank you for your care for our father and the comfort you have provided him.

Very truly yours,

