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**Low Vision and Bioptic Program**

The role of vision in the operation of a motor vehicle is essential. It is estimated that about 95% of the information a driver receives is through their eyes (ADED).

The standards set by the state for visual acuity and peripheral vision must be met for a person to be licensed to drive. If a person does not meet these standards with typical glasses, Bioptics (BTS) may be an option. Low vision is a specialty area; not all eye doctors prescribe BTS.

* **What are bioptics?** They are miniature telescopes mounted to the top of eyeglasses.
* **How do bioptics improve vision?** Bioptics make the image larger and let many individuals with low vision see more clearly and further away (Cleveland Sight Center).The telescope increases the ability to see further into your driving path (e.g. a 3X telescope will potentially allow the driver to see a traffic sign 3 times further away than through their regular vision).

Our therapists work with the client’s vision specialist to evaluate and train qualified persons to drive using a bioptic telescopic system. The bioptic driving evaluation will also include assessment of functional vision for driving and current understanding and use of BTS. You may or may not drive during the initial evaluation depending on prior driving history and current use of your BTS.

Education and training may include:

* Driver education for new drivers
* Defensive driving skills
* Compensatory strategies for low vision (such as how to reduce glare)
* Education on optimal use of BTS
* Written recommendations for home practice as a non-driver and driver
* Preparation for IL state tests including environmental screening and road test for licensure

**Let the OT driver rehabilitation specialists of STRIVE for Independence help you navigate the road ahead.  Make an appointment through our website or give us a call!**

**Per the IL Secretary of State website (cyberdriveillinois.com), these are the telescopic lens driver vision requirements:**

**If you wear telescopic lenses, you must meet special requirements and undergo additional testing to receive your license.**

* **Illinois state requirements for telescopic lens driver**
  + **Acuity readings through the carrier lenses must be 20/100 or better in both eyes.**
  + **Acuity readings through the lenses must be 20/40 or better in both eyes.**
  + **Peripheral readings must be 140 degrees binocular or 70 degrees temporal and 35 degrees nasal monocular.**
  + **You must be fitted for a prescription spectacle mounted telescopic lens arrangement and have had the arrangement in your possession for at least 60 days prior to drivers license application date.**
  + **The power of the lenses must not exceed 3.0X wide angle or 2.2X standard.**

**Driver's licenses may be awarded to some telescopic lens wearers for daylight driving meeting the following requirements and will depend on your age and previous driving experience.**

**All telescopic lens wearers must submit a**[**Vision Specialist Report**](https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x20.pdf)**annually. If you have submitted a form in the past, the Secretary of State's office will mail you a Vision Specialist Report in advance.**

**Telescopic lens wearers applying for nighttime driving privileges must submit a**[**Vision Specialist Report**](https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x20.pdf)**in addition to a written request with your name, address, date of birth and driver's license number. You also must meet the following requirements:**

* **Possess a valid driver's license and have operated a motor vehicle during daylight hours for a period of 12 months using the telescopic lenses.**
* **Have a driving record that does not include any traffic accidents that occurred during nighttime hours for which you were at fault during the 12 months before you apply for the nighttime license.**
* **Successfully complete a road exam administered during nighttime hours.**

**Please send your request for nighttime driving privileges to:  
Secretary of State  
Medical Review Unit  
2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy.  
Springfield, IL 62723**

**If approved, you will be contacted by the Secretary of State's office to schedule the nighttime drive exam. For more information, please call 217-782-7246.**

**You may be eligible to receive funding assistance through:**

* IL Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services. To inquire visit www.dhs.state.il.us or call 877.581.3690.
* Your school district. To inquire, contact the special education department in your district.

**Questions?  Check out our resources and FAQ’s (on our website).**

**Make an appointment through our website or give us a call!**

**striveforindependence.org**

**630-984-1919**