

C1/21089/TC/2012

Transport Commissionerate, Keralam
Trans Towers, Thiruvananthapuram
Dated: 02-11-2012

From

The Transport Commissioner

To

All Deputy Transport Commissioners
All Regional Transport Officers
All Joint Regional Transport Officers

Sir,

Sub: Motor Vehicles Department-Issuing licence to hearing impaired persons-
Reg

Ref: 1. D.O.Letter No.12638/A3/2012/SWD dated 27-09-2012 from the
Principal Secretary to Government
2. This office letter No.C1/295/TC/2005 dated 01-02-2005

Attention is invited to the above references. Vide reference 1st cited, the Principal Secretary to Government has drawn attention to the hardships faced by hearing impaired persons in getting driving licence in the State. The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 do not specify any minimum hearing standard for issue of driving licence. He points out that inspite of producing 'certificate for fitness to drive' from a registered ENT doctor, the officials of this department insist on a fitness certificate from Medical Board. But the Medical Board refuses to issue such a fitness certificate pointing out that it is not their duty. He also points out that there does not exist any cogent scientific opinion or empirical evidence to show that hearing impaired drivers pose increased risk to public safety. The spirit of the Persons with Disability Act, 1996 is that no person shall be discriminated for reasons of disability. Hence he has requested to look into the matter and arrange to take favourable action in the matter.

It may be noted that vide reference 2nd cited, you all had been informed that if a Medical Fitness Certificate from a Medical Board is insisted from hearing impaired persons, it is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules. However it is again informed that the Certificate issued by a registered ENT doctor is sufficient for the purpose of issuing driving licence to hearing impaired persons. There is no need to insist upon a Fitness Certificate from the Medical Board as far as hearing impaired persons are concerned, except in cases where you are satisfied that the Certificate produced by the applicant is not genuine. All are directed to adhere this direction without any hesitation.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

Senior Deputy Transport Commissioner
(Taxation)

For Transport Commissioner

Approved for issue

Senior Superintendent

