

SAFETY INFORMATION FACT SHEET #6

Fact Sheet guidelines have been provided as general information; not as a substitution for specific and individual interventions.
DDD-1836A

RESPONSIBLE DRIVING

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Quality Assurance Unit • 602-771-8122

“Responsible Driving... it’s more than what’s outside the vehicle.”

This Safety Information Fact Sheet is designed to provide general information to providers, parents, and other caregivers who provide transportation support to individuals having developmental disabilities.

BEFORE YOU TURN THE KEY

- Know your route; plan it out
- Ensure vehicle maintenance
 - air conditioner/heater
 - condition of tires
 - oil/water
- Locate current registration and insurance documents
- Check fuel level
- Walk around the entire vehicle to identify obstacles/hazards
- Check cell phone and/or radio charge
- Keep first aid kit and extra water handy
- Schedule drink/food and bathroom breaks for long trips
- Allow enough time to cover the route
- Have attendance sheets ready for pick-up and drop-off



LOADING PEOPLE

- Designate a pick-up area
- Know your passengers
PLAN ACCORDINGLY:
 - behavioral issues
 - difficulty with change
 - car sickness
 - anxiety while traveling, etc.
- Ensure adequate staffing to provide oversight during transport
- Ensure enough seating and/or space for adaptive equipment
- Plan the seating arrangement to ensure a safe/pleasant trip
- Assist individuals as they enter
- Check seatbelts – **IT’S THE LAW!**
 - Everyone should have their own seatbelt; properly buckled and in good condition
- Use Car seats – for infants and young children per manufacturers’ directions
- Document each person on the attendance sheet as they enter the vehicle; do a head count before leaving



UNLOADING PEOPLE

- Designate a drop off area
- Check-off each person as they exit
- Assure safety and assist as needed
- Perform visual check of each seat (front, back & under) confirming everyone has exited
- **NEVER** leave a person in a vehicle unattended! Lock the vehicle to prevent entry while unattended (after the visual seat check)

WHEELCHAIR LIFTS

- Know how to safely operate the lift for the vehicle
- Avoid distractions; pay attention to **SAFETY!**
- Perform a visual check of the area before operating the lift
- Inform individuals before each step to ensure they are prepared
- Position the person and their wheelchair in the middle of the lift platform
- Lock the wheelchair brakes while on the lift to prevent rolling and uncontrolled movement
- Assure powered chairs are turned off while on the lift
- Secure each wheelchair in the vehicle using appropriate locking devices: seatbelts, tie downs, etc.
- Do not allow any horseplay on the lift; use it only for the purpose for which it was designed



REVIEW TRANSFER SAFETY TIPS ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FACT SHEET

TRANSFER SAFETY TIPS



• WHEELCHAIR TRANSFERS:

- ✓ **Always apply ALL brakes and test them.**
- ✓ **Apply anti-tip bar (if available).**
- ✓ **Ensure that the chair, bed, or other location is secure and does not slide.**
- ✓ **Make sure the individual is not restrained by a belt and/or clothing.**
- ✓ **Use a gait belt, especially when performing a one-person transfer.**
- ✓ **Move the individual from a high to low position whenever possible.**
 - ✓ **If transferring from a bed to a wheelchair, bed should be positioned higher**
 - ✓ **Use a Hoyer lift and/or two or more person lifts when needed**
- ✓ **Whenever in doubt, seek assistance or two-person transfer.**
- ✓ **Use good body posture when assisting with a transfer.**

• ADDITIONAL MOBILITY TIPS:

- ✓ **Ensure electric mobility devices are fully charged prior to use in the community.**
- ✓ **Keep traffic areas and pathways clear of clutter and debris.**
- ✓ **Be Respectful: A mobility device is an extension of the individual.**
 - ✓ **Maintain appropriate distance and respect as you would for the actual person: do not push on their mobility device, lean on it, or tap on it.**
 - ✓ **Always transport the person with care, facing forward, and speak directly to the person.**
 - ✓ **Do not ride on the device or allow children to ride on the device with the individual.**
 - ✓ **Do not inappropriately utilize the device as a door stop, foot stool, cart, “joy-riding”, etc.**
 - ✓ **Do not hang items such as backpacks and/or purses on the back of the device or place them on the individual’s lap during transport.**
 - ✓ **Handle and maintain the mobility device with care, respecting the individual’s dependence upon the device for their personal livelihood and independence.**
 - ✓ **Make certain the individual has a basic understanding of the safety and maintenance requirements for their mobility device.**

EMERGENCY

Immediately call 9-1-1 when any of the following conditions occur:

- **DIFFICULTY BREATHING**
- **LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS**
- **CHANGE IN ALERTNESS OR ABILITY TO PAY ATTENTION**
- **BLEEDING**
- **EXCESSIVE PAIN**



RESPONSIBLE DRIVING SAFETY INFORMATION FACT SHEET is #6 in a series of SAFETY INFORMATION FACT SHEETS compiled by the DDD Quality Assurance Unit. Fact Sheets are available upon request and posted on the Division’s Website: https://www.azdes.gov/developmental_disabilities/(Click on “News & Events”). July 2015

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