

VOLUNTARY PSYCHIATRIC & DETOXIFICATION TRANSPORT VEHICLES

Across the United States, multiple processes are used to transport individuals requiring psychiatric or detoxification services to the appropriate facility. In many instances, these facilities can be several hours distance and many of these transfers are done with ambulances.

As an alternative, an agency may implement a specially designed vehicle for the safe and efficient non-emergent transfer of these individuals. Consider the following items when looking to implement this type of program.

CONSIDERATIONS

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

- Vehicle must meet applicable state inspection requirements and have regularly scheduled maintenance and preventative maintenance.
- A video and audio recording system that records the vehicle driver and any passengers.
- Vehicle rear doors should open from the outside only.
- An installed partition system that separates the driver and rear-seat passenger.

GUIDELINES

- Only voluntary psychiatric commitment and detoxification center individuals.
- Minimum 18 years of age; if less than 18, a parent or legal guardian must accompany.
- Individual must not have current medical conditions that require any medical intervention and must be medically-cleared by a physician at the sending facility.
- If medications have been used for behavioral control, the individual must be awake, alert, oriented and cooperative during the entire transport.
- Individual must be able to ambulate to and from the vehicle with minimal assistance.
- Individual must be able to sit for extended periods of time.
- Sending facility must ensure all required transfer paperwork is completed / signed.
- Sending facility staff should accompany the individual to the transport vehicle.
- Individual belongings will be placed in a secure area of the vehicle with no access by individual and, provided to the receiving facility staff upon arrival.
- All occupants of the vehicle will wear a seatbelt anytime the vehicle is in motion.
- Receiving facility staff should meet the vehicle on arrival and accompany the individual into the facility.

DURING TRANSPORT

- Notify communications center or other entity (as determined by the agency) of sending facility departure time and mileage.
- Provide updates to communications center or other entity (as determined by the agency) as needed.
- Notify communications center or other entity (as determined by the agency) of receiving facility arrival time and mileage.
- Receiving facility staff sign for acceptance of the individual.

POLICIES & PROTOCOLS

The agency should have policies and protocols to address the following scenarios:

- Additional agency driver(s) needed depending on length of round-trip.
- Request urgent / emergent law enforcement or EMS response if needed.
- Medical event during transport involving the individual.
- Medical event during transport involving the agency driver.
- Restroom need by agency driver or individual.
- Individual exhibits aggressive behavior.
- Vehicle/mechanical issues.
- Transport vehicle crash.
- Inclement weather.
- Elopement during transport or at sending or receiving facilities.
- Refusal of service during transport.