

# Transportation Issues

When using a vehicle, following the laws of the road are first and foremost. With this in mind, if it is known that a particular individual has had or is at a high risk of having behavior management issues while being transported, pre-trip safety precautions should be taken in to account before the trip begins.

## **Keep Safe (By order of importance)**

1. Safety of the driver – moving vehicle
2. Safety of the attendant/staff
3. Safety of others
4. Safety of the “Passenger of concern”
5. Follow the laws of the road
6. Think safety before needing to activate safety precautions
7. Activate 4-way emergency flashers ASAP!!

For individuals that are considered 2:1 supervision, transportation would require 3 staff to be in the vehicle at all times. The driver shall not be counted as a member of the 2:1 supervision while the vehicle is in motion.

As a general rule, the transported individual should be placed in the rear seat of the vehicle on the opposite side of the driver. If the vehicle is a van, place the individual as far from the driver as possible. If the vehicle is a car, at least one staff should be in the rear seat with the individual on the drivers side.

Are we ready to go?

## **1<sup>st</sup> Get ready:**

- Bathroom (Everybody tries to go at least 15 minutes before trip)
- Gas in vehicle, tires, battery (In other words, do a general walk around safety check of the vehicle, ***EVERYTIME***)
- Comfort items (Jacket, music, games, water, etc.).
- Directions and itinerary confirmed.
- Mirror, seat and belts are adjusted.

While transporting high risk individuals:

## **Driver:**

- Driver should stay hyper alert.
- Driver should use secondary roads when possible.
- Driver should avoid known high risk areas (Ex: Driving by favorite places: Eateries, playgrounds)
- Driver should maintain speed limit and anticipate lights, stop signs, traffic and possible

- places to stop.
- Driver should be equipped with a working cell phone or walkie talkie.
  - Driver should pull over if a physical behavior starts while the vehicle is moving.
  - Driver should activate flashers and look for safe spot to pull over, if he/she becomes the target of the aggression.

### **Staff (Non-driver) while vehicle is moving**

- Staff should sit in back seat near or with individual (At least one) staff.
- Staff should make sure individual stays secure in seat.
- Staff should alert driver early if a problem develops.
- Staff should try and deescalate the individual verbally
- No physical restraints shall occur while the vehicle is moving. Any attempt at physical holding should only last as long as it takes for the driver to stop the vehicle.
- Consider managing the individual while in their seat. Floor control no possible and allowing the individual to exit the vehicle poses increased risk to everyone.

### **Conclusion:**

As with any physical crisis intervention, a post analysis of the incident should occur as soon after as is reasonably possible. Until staff can write up an official report of the incident, they should take special mental notes of the following

- Time of incident and how long it lasted
- What part of the trip were you on (Beginning, middle, end)
- What if anything happened just prior to the behavioral upset
- Who witnessed the incident.
- What did/didn't work
- What would you recommend as a plan of action for future trips