

Policies Regarding Securement for Children Accompanying Para Transit Riders

Information compiled on June 18, 2009

The Question: What is your policy regarding securement for children who accompany para transit riders?

We are looking to update our policy that now states the following:

Children from birth to age 3 who accompany our customers are required to be secured with seat belts or car seats appropriate for their age, weight, and condition. The passenger is responsible for providing an appropriate car seat that works in our vehicles. Drivers cannot carry or lift a child on or off the van.

Please send a copy of your policy.

Columbia County Public Transportation says...We follow the WA state seat belt law as far as securement goes. If they are required to use a car seat in their personal vehicle then they are required to use one in our busses. As the law states, once they get to the age or weight requiring booster seats, they are exempt because our para transit vehicles only have lap belts. The passenger is responsible for providing the car seat and getting the child on and off the bus and in to their car seat.

Grays Harbor Transit says...**Specialized Van Service** requires child safety seats for any child under the age of three who travels with you, in accordance with Washington State Law, RCW 46.61.687. GHT is **not responsible** for providing child safety seats.

Island Transit says...At this time we do not have a policy for children who ride with Paratransit Clients. We do not have clients with small children. But it is something we should look into because I know it is just a matter of time. This is our Policy for fixed route. "Children under 6 must be accompanied by a responsible guardian"

Kitsap Transit says...Here is the policy information that we have on this issue.

TRANSPORTING CHILDREN

A responsible, eligible customer must accompany children under the age of six on ACCESS vehicles.

The child's parent or guardian is responsible for providing a car seat compatible with safety belts on ACCESS vehicles and for securing the car seat and the child into position.

Children in strollers will be required to be removed from the stroller and held by the parent/guardian. The empty stroller shall be collapsed and stored in a safe area of the bus.

Strollers cannot be left in the aisle of the bus, nor secured as a wheelchair.

Link Transit says...Link's policy mirrors the policy being considered for amendment

Mason Transit says...MTA drivers can only encourage use of seat belts. In the case of car seats, it is the parent and/or guardian's responsibility to secure the child.

Pierce Transit says...This is the language in our SHUTTLE Handbook.

"Children under six years of age must travel with a responsible, SHUTTLE-eligible adult and may board only when the customer is ready to board. SHUTTLE vehicle safety belts are compatible for use with child safety seats."

Spokane Transit says...In response to the question listed below our policy is:

Children under 4 years of age (or under 40 pounds) must travel in an approved child seat. Paratransit vans are not equipped with child seats, so you will need to bring one with you. You are responsible for installing and placing your child in the car seat. If you need assistance getting your child seated, please bring along someone to help you. Once your child is seated, the van driver will secure the safety belt on your child. The driver cannot transport children who are not safely seated and wearing a seat belt.

You are responsible for your child during your trip.

Twin Transit says...Twin Transit does not have a written securement policy for children on paratransit or fixed route. Not all of our buses are equipped with seat belts so we cannot require all riders to use them; following ADA guidelines, we do not then single out once segment of riders with this requirement. In fact, we require children to be removed from car seats while on the bus, as an unsecured car seat on the floor of the bus is believed to be more unsafe for the child, should the bus stop quickly or be in a collision. We do require all children 6 and under to be accompanied by an adult and to be seated next to that adult while riding.