

Policy regarding Age of Unattended Minors

Information compiled November 19, 2007

The Question: Do you have a policy on how old a child needs to be before they can ride unattended? If you do have a policy, is it the same for fixed route and paratransit?

Ben Franklin Transit says... A child has to be 6 to ride both the bus and paratransit with supervision.

Clallam Transit says... We do not have a policy on this.

Community Transit says... "Children under the age of six are not considered independent customers in their own right and must be accompanied by a fare-paying person. If the coach operator feels uncomfortable with a situation, notify Dispatch." This statement is in an internal document as instructions or information for our operators.

CUBS says...CUBS does not have a policy.

Everett Transit says.... Everett Transit's age of independent travel on fixed route and paratransit service is 5 years of age. Children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by a person capable of caring for the child under the age of 5.

Grays Harbor Transit says...This is a difficult question; we do not have a set policy regarding the age a child can ride the bus unattended. It states on our schedules children under the age of (5) years or younger ride free with an adult. After speaking with our dispatchers it appears our past practice has been, when asked by a customer how old does my child have to be before riding the bus alone our response is. We don't have a set age for riding the bus alone, we need to inform you that our bus driver is unable to watch the child while on the bus; you need to feel confident your child can care for themselves.

Paratransit would be different; we operate a door to door service so if the child were confined to a wheelchair we would accept responsibility from door to door.

Intercity Transit says...Intercity Transit has set the age of 6 for children to ride unaccompanied on any Intercity Transit vehicle. The policy applies to both fixed route and our paratransit service, Dial-A-Lift.

Island Transit says...We have it noted in our schedules 'Children under the age of 6 must be accompanied by a responsible guardian'. This applies for fixed route and paratransit.

Jefferson Transit says... Our policy is that a child 7 yrs and older can ride on their own paying a reduced fare. We have not dealt with this in paratransit. I would be interested in knowing how other agencies deal with that aspect.

Link Transit says...Children 5 years or older may ride unattended and this policy applies universally to FR and paratransit.

Mason Transit says... Children must be 8 years old or older to ride unaccompanied on Mason Transit, either DAR or Fixed Route. Children 7 and younger must be accompanied by a responsible adult which we define as 18 or older.

Pacific Transit says...Our policy on both the fixed route and dial a ride is, children 6 and under must be accompanied by an individual 13 years or older.

Twin Transit says...Twin Transit policy is children under 6 years old must be accompanied by an adult or appropriate care-taker type person. This is the same for fixed route and paratransit.

Whatcom Transit says...Here at Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) we do not have a written policy about how old a child needs to be to ride a fixed route or paratransit bus unattended. We leave it up to the Operator's discretion if a child is old enough.

Yakima Transit says... On a fixed Route, children have to be 6 yrs old to ride. DAR any age with a PCA.