



POLICY AND PROCEDURE ON SAFE TRANSPORTATION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of persons served as well as staff during transportation and include the provisions for handling emergency situations.

II. POLICY

When transportation is the responsibility of MRCI, staff will assist in transporting, handling, and transferring persons served in a safe manner and according to their *Community Service and Support Plan* and/or *Community Service and Support Plan Addendum*.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. Upon employment, and if a requirement of the job, staff are informed that they must hold a valid driver's license, appropriate insurance, and maintain a safe driving record. Staff may also be required to complete additional training on safe transportation procedures.
- B. The Designated Coordinator and/or Designated Manager/Transportation Coordinator/or Designee will ensure the safety of vehicles, equipment, supplies, and materials owned or leased by MRCI and will maintain these in good condition. Standard practices for vehicle, equipment, supplies, and materials maintenance and inspection will be followed.
- C. Staff will transport persons served with a MRCI vehicle. If there is no program vehicle, staff will attempt to use public or contracted transportation. If those options are unavailable, staff will use their own vehicle for transportation of persons served.
- D. For contracted transportation, the Designated Coordinator and/or Designated Manager will ensure that all required documentation is completed and submitted before the first trip is scheduled. Staff or the residential provider will arrange ongoing use of contracted transportation or will assist persons served, as needed, in arranging transportation for themselves.
- E. Staff drivers will follow the established drop-off practice for each individual served, unless stated in the *Community Service and Support Plan* and/or *Community Service and Support Plan Addendum*. Any necessary information will be presented to the staff or other responsible party.
- F. In accordance with state laws, anyone riding in a moving vehicle must wear seatbelts.
- G. Staff are prohibited by state law (MN Statutes, section 169.475) to compose, send, or receive an electronic message while operating a motor vehicle. This includes a MRCI vehicle or a staff person's own vehicle. An electronic message (as defined by state law) "means a self-contained piece of digital communication that is designed or intended to be transmitted between physical devices. An electronic message includes, but is not limited to, e-mail, a text message, an instant message, a command or request to access a World Wide Web page, or other data that uses a



commonly recognized electronic communications protocol. An electronic message does not include voice or other data transmitted as a result of making a phone call, or data transmitted automatically by a wireless communications device without direct initiation by a person.”

- H. Persons served using wheelchairs will be transported according to manufacturer’s safety guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, safe operation and regular maintenance of lift equipment, checks of straps to secure the wheelchair to the floor of the vehicle, and use of adaptive seating equipment (i.e. headrests, lap trays) when appropriate. Staff who are transporting persons served and who complete “tie-downs” of wheelchairs will receive training on how to do so and will be required to demonstrate competency prior to transporting persons using wheelchairs.
- I. Staff will receive training on each person’s transferring or handling requirements for the person and/or equipment prior to transferring or transporting persons. All transfers and handling of persons served will be done in a manner that ensures their dignity and privacy. Any concerns regarding transportation, transfers, and handling will be promptly communicated to the Transportation Coordinator and/or Designated Coordinator and/or Designated Manager who will address these concerns.
- J. When equipment used by a person served needs to be transported, staff will place the equipment in a safe location in the vehicle.
- K. If there is an emergency while driving, staff follow emergency response procedures to ensure the person(s) safety. This will include pulling the vehicle over and stopping in a safe area as quickly and as safely as possible. Staff will use a cell phone or any available community resource to contact “911” for help if needed. If a medical emergency were to occur, staff will call “911” and follow first aid and/or CPR protocols according to their training.
- L. While transporting more than one person served and person to person physical aggression occurs, staff will pull over and stop the vehicle in a safe area as quickly and as safely as possible, redirect the persons served, and if necessary, attempt to contact another staff person, the Transportation Coordinator and/or Designated Coordinator and/or Designated Manager, or “911” for assistance.
- M. Persons served are prohibited from driving program or staff vehicles at any time.