

PROTECTING PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS FROM THE DANGERS OF BEING LEFT UNATTENDED IN VEHICLES

A Fact Sheet for: **Drivers, Transportation Aides & Other Staff**

The Risks

- **Heat stroke, hypothermia and other medical complications related to dangerously high or low temperatures in the vehicle**--infants and young children, elderly adults, people who are overweight or who have chronic medical conditions including those taking medications such as psychotropic medications and diuretics are at a higher risk for heat stroke, hypothermia and other medical complications related to extremely high or low body temperatures.
- **Accidents and other emergencies**—lack of caregiver attention to a person who requires supervision and support can lead to many dangerous situations, including neglect of an individual's personal care and medical needs, prevention of high risk behaviors and accidents.

What You Can Do

- **Know Your Role in Ensuring Vehicle Safety.** Attend trainings on transportation standards and other vehicle passenger safety topics.
- **Know Your Passengers.** Understand who is on your route and their special needs when traveling by speaking with them and/or their care givers. Solicit relevant information about their requirements when traveling.
- **Don't Let Your Guard Down at Your Final Destination.** Stay alert. Stay together, follow supervision assignments, conduct a headcount and a hand-off of supervision responsibilities.
- **Look Before You Leave.** Perform on-board inspections. Make it your routine to complete post-trip vehicle inspections. Check the entire vehicle back to front for passengers before you leave, every time.
- **Report Abuse or Neglect to the Justice Center's 24/7 Statewide Toll Free Hotline.** Call: 1-855-373-2122.

Questions?

Justice Center
Information and Referral

Toll-Free:
1-800-624-4143

TTY: Dial 7-1-1 for the
NYS Relay and give the
operator 1-800-624-4143

Email:
[infoassistance@justicecenter.
ny.gov](mailto:infoassistance@justicecenter.ny.gov)