

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

A Fact Sheet for: **Provider Agencies**

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

- **Be Proactive.** Have *Missing Persons Search Protocols* that direct staff to immediately check transport vehicles when an at-risk individual is discovered missing.
- **Implement Policies and Procedures.** At a minimum, a transport safety plan should include safe vehicle operation and post-trip vehicle inspection procedures, policies for attendance and notification of unexpected absences, transportation plans, and emergency missing persons search procedures.
- **Train and Mentor Your Staff.** Train your staff on all relevant policies before they begin transporting individuals and offer retraining on a regular basis. Supervise and coach staff to ensure that they consistently follow standard safety procedures.
- **Regularly Re-evaluate Your System of Safeguards.** Include routine compliance monitoring measures and utilize all appropriate environmental controls.
- **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)