

Institute for Disability Studies
ShareCare Notes
Special Issue on Travel
Monday, August 14, 2006

We have been asked to help distribute travel information to our members. As a few of the rules changed today, the following text was excerpted and you are encouraged to visit the TSA Web site for the most current information. Guidance to travelers with disabilities is located on the Web site of the Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) at <http://www.tsa.gov>. This guidance includes tips specific to those with disabilities and medical conditions.

Travelers with Disabilities
Excerpted from correspondence
Friday, August 11, 2006
Olegario D. Cantos VII, Esq.
Associate Director for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington, DC 20502
mocantos@who.eop.gov (E-mail)

TSA's Checkpoint Security Screening Procedures for persons with disabilities, individuals with medical conditions, and the mature have not changed as a result of the current threat situation. All disability-related equipment, aids, and devices continue to be allowed through security checkpoints once cleared through screening.

Items permitted beyond the checkpoint include: Wheelchairs; scooters; crutches; canes; walkers; prosthetic devices; casts; support braces; support appliances; service animals; any and all diabetes-related medication, equipment, and supplies; orthopedic shoes; exterior medical devices; assistive/adaptive equipment; augmentation devices; ostomy supplies; medications and associated supplies; hearing aids; cochlear implants; tools for wheelchair disassembly/reassembly; personal supplemental oxygen; CPAP machines; respirators; CO2 personal oxygen concentrators; baby apnea monitors; Braille note takers; slate and stylus; tools for prosthetic devices; and any other disability-related equipment.

It is also recommended that those with medications only take the amount of medication essential to sustain them until arrival at their final destination. Additional medication can be placed in checked baggage or mailed to their final destination. This will help speed up the screening process and avoid additional delays.

Travelers with disabilities, medical conditions, and the mature may want to consider the following:

- Arriving at the airport well in advance, 2-3 hours prior to flight
- Following all published rules on carry-on items and medications

- Viewing the TSA Web site tips for persons with disabilities and medical conditions and other TSA screening advisements located on TSA's Web site under "Our Travelers"
- Bringing documentation on medications, devices, medical condition where possible. This is not a requirement and will not exempt a passenger from the screening process.
- Packing medications in a clear bag separate from other carry-on items/bags
- Exercising patience with the lines, delays, and stringent screening procedures

For concerns about potential rights violations, contact the TSA Office of Civil Rights at 1.877.336.4872 (Voice) 1.800.877.8339 (TTY)
tsa-contactcenter@dhs.gov (E-mail)

For information about overall air travel accessibility, contact the Air Carrier Access Act Hotline of the Department of Transportation at 1.800.778.4838 (Voice) 1.866.754.4368 (TTY)
airconsumer@ost.dot.gov (E-mail)
Web site: <http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov>

A note from Project ShareCare: The staff at Project ShareCare select books, articles and news stories to share with you from the news wires, scientific/medical journals and other selected media. We aim to provide you with relevant and timely information to help you in your role as a caregiver. The articles we share with you are not necessarily the opinion expressed by Project ShareCare. We strongly encourage you to please read the original articles and form your own opinions.

Project ShareCare Bank, funded by the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities, is a community building project that provides networking and neighborly services for families who have an adult member with a disability or chronic condition.

ShareCare is sponsored by the Institute for Disability Studies (IDS), Mississippi's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). IDS provides university training, community service activities, research, and information that promote the independence, productivity, and community inclusion of individuals with disabilities and their families.

For more information about IDS, visit the Institute's Web site at <http://www.usm.edu/ids> or call 1-888-671-0051 (TTY). To make a tax-deductible gift to IDS for this and other projects, visit <http://www.usm.edu/ids/supportus.html>.