Tips for Caregivers, Family, and Friends

Transporting Passengers with Memory Loss

Transitioning from driving is a key element in improving safety, access, and mobility for Florida’s aging road users. By providing information and raising awareness on the safe use of transportation by individuals with memory loss, together we can assist this vulnerable population remain safe and connected in their community.

The tips contained in this document are research-based and provide drivers valuable suggestions on how to serve people with dementia.

**Dementia-Friendly Transportation:** Going beyond senior-friendliness, a transportation service that considers the special needs of passengers with all stages of memory loss.

### Challenges of Dementia & Potential Transportation Problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in Personality</th>
<th>Problem with Language</th>
<th>Disorientation to Time and Places</th>
<th>Memory Loss</th>
<th>Changes in Mood/Behavior</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Memory Loss</td>
<td>May get lost after transit drop off</td>
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<td>Can’t remember time of appointment for ride</td>
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</table>

1Dept. of Elder Affairs, Florida Dementia Friendly Transportation Research Project, 2010
Know the “assistance capacity” of transit service—Will they provide additional support, such as door-through-door or escorted transportation, if needed?

Accompany the passenger on a trip (or provide a companion)

Communicate any changes in travel plans immediately to the transit provider

Be sure passenger has travel bag (containing water, cell phone, etc.)

Encourage passenger to use facilities before departure (in case of long trip)

Explore options of pre-paying travel costs (to reduce the need for cash)

Enroll your family member in Safe Return or a similar program

To learn more about how you can help an aging road user remain safe and mobile, please visit: www.FLSams.org