

Transportation #1

Working with Clients in Wheelchairs

or

“She said she could do it herself...”

For additional information, including assistance in implementing any of these guidelines, please contact your regional Risk Control Specialist or the NCACC Risk Management Pools. We will be glad to assist you.

Risk Control Specialists

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Assisting clients in wheelchairs

- Know your client. Everyone wants and needs to be as independent as possible. You are there to help your client while keeping yourself from being injured.
- If a client cannot transfer independently from the wheelchair, GET HELP.
 - ◇ A sling lift should be used to transfer a person who cannot assist or who is too heavy to lift.
 - ◇ A sit-to-stand lift should be used to transfer a person who can assist and bear some weight.
 - ◇ If a mechanical lift is not available, ALWAYS ask someone to help.
- If you have a choice, push the wheelchair, rather than pulling it.
- Be aware of foot pedals; they can be trip/fall hazards.



Transporting clients in wheelchairs

- Use a van with a wheelchair lift.
- When transporting a client who remains in their wheelchair
 - ◇ Face wheelchair and occupant forward
 - ◇ Secure the wheelchair independent of the occupant restraint
 - ◇ Provide upper-and-lower body restraints positioned over skeletal structures of the body
- Stay clear of the wheelchair lift while it is operating. DO NOT “ride” the lift.
- Be sure that the lift has a non-slip surface, even when it is wet.
- If assisting a client from their home to the van, be very careful on ramps. They can be very slippery when wet.