

ALLEN COUNTY SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY VAN

Policies & Procedures

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Services to the Elderly Transportation

Mission Statement

The mission of the Services to the Elderly Van is "uniting staff, individuals, families and community partners to provide quality, comprehensive services through compassionate, respectful relationships".

The mission of Services to Elderly Van is to provide safe, accessible and affordable point-to-point and door-to-door transportation to transit dependent citizens throughout Allen County. Through coordination with other transit providers, Services to Elderly Van will continue to enhance access to programs and services which will improve the quality of life and help transit dependent individuals maintain their choice of lifestyle.

Who We Serve and Service Area

Persons who are eligible for Services to Elderly Van transportation are the elderly 55 and over. Service areas for Services to Elderly Van are Allen County. This area covers 504 square miles and includes numerous rural communities with a total population of 13,414.

How to Contact Us

Van Phone 620-363-2023
Allen County Clerk's Office 620-365-1407
Allen County Commission 620-365-1406

FUNDING

Funding Sources

Services to Elderly Van currently receive funding from the county mill levy.

Mill Levy Program

Allen County Mill Levy helps fund this program that provides rides to elderly individuals residing in the County of Allen.

State of Kansas Grant Program

Kansas Department of Transportation – 5310 project Operating Expenditure for operating costs.

Fares & Donations

In all cases, a rider pays no fare. Fares or donations are not to be accepted by the drivers.

OPERATIONS

Office Hours

Services to Elderly Van hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Service Hours

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Services to Elderly Van will not operate on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day following Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Columbus Day. Holidays may vary from year to year.

Scheduling

Call 620-363-2023 from 8:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. to schedule a ride. Customers must have the street address of their destination when scheduling a ride.

Allen County Services to the Elderly Van Schedule

Normal Hours: 8:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Monday:	lola until noon Humboldt in the afternoon
Tuesday:	lola until noon Gas, LaHarpe & Moran in the afternoon (pick up at 1:30 – 2:00 a.m.)
Wednesday:	lola all day
Thursday:	Humboldt until noon lola in the afternoon
Friday:	Gas, LaHarpe & Moran until noon lola in the afternoon

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made within one hour of the scheduled ride pick up time. Notice given less than one hour from scheduled pick-up time would be inconsiderate.

Trips

Eligible trips are **necessary** trips to medical appointments, shopping, pharmacies, lawyers, post offices, personal residence, cultural event, post-secondary education, banks, grocery stores, social service agency in Allen County, laundromat or to visit someone in the hospital, assisted living or nursing home. These trips do not include liquor stores, smoke shacks, bait shops, fast food, convenience stores or to work *as there are not adequate resources for transporting persons to work*. Recreational rides are permitted with special permission.

The service area is within Allen County, Kansas boundaries. Special trips require permission from the Allen County Commission to operate the van after set hours; such as movie night, Cultural Arts events, holiday light viewings, Farmer's Market and special area events.

Wait Time for Driver & Passengers

Riders should be ready at least 15 minutes prior to pick up time. If a rider has waited 15 minutes past the scheduled pick-up time, the driver should be contacted at 620-363-2023.

Pick-Ups & Drop-Offs

For pick-ups, riders must be ready and waiting at the designated pick-up location. Drivers will wait for a rider in front of, or as close as possible to, the rider's designated pick-up location. Drivers may come to the door to assist passengers. If a rider needs assistance at the destination location, an escort must be available to assist.

For drop-offs, the driver will drop the rider off in front of, or as close as possible to, the designated drop-off location.

Delayed Vehicles

Public Transportation providers experience the same traffic and weather conditions as the rest of the commuting public. Occasionally, the driver may be late for a pick-up. If the vehicle has not arrived by 15 minutes after the scheduled pick-up time, please call Services to Elderly Van. They will know the status of the vehicle and what time to expect them.

Bad Weather

Passengers should be aware that transportation services will not be offered when severe weather makes traveling unsafe. Cancellation of services will be made known to the riders via radio broadcasts.

Boarding & Securement of Passengers

Drivers will secure wheelchairs and other mobility devices. In some cases, the driver may ask the rider to transfer to a seat if it is not possible to secure the passenger safely. It is the rider's choice to transfer or remain in their mobility device. Individuals who cannot board the vehicle using the steps may use a wheelchair lift for access. For individuals who are ambulatory, seat belts are required at all times.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Vehicles

Services to Elderly Van utilize a wheelchair accessible van to meet individual needs. An ambulatory individual not in a wheelchair may request to use a wheelchair lift on a vehicle to gain access if the stairs are a barrier.

Transportation of Motorized Carts/Wheelchairs

The Americans with Disabilities Act mandates transportation of motorized carts. Allen County Service to the Elderly van drivers will:

- Use best efforts to restrain or confine the device to the secured area.
- Not deny transportation to a user because their mobility device cannot be secured to or restrained to the system's satisfaction.
- Not require that a device user transfer into a vehicle seat, but will confirm the chair and user are secured.

All attempts to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility device will be made. Wheelchairs and other mobility devices must not exceed 48" in length, 30" in width and 600 pounds in total weight (occupied). Individuals with mobility devices exceeding these standards may be denied service.

Allen County requires that all mobility devices be secured. Allen County will make every attempt to secure wheelchairs and scooters prior to departure. If problems are encountered during this process and a determination is made by the driver that the wheelchair or mobility device cannot be adequately and safely secured then the driver will suggest that the passenger transfer to a vehicle seat. At that point, it is the passenger's choice to transfer to a vehicle seat or remain in their mobility device. All passengers who remain in the wheelchair or scooter are required to wear a seatbelt. Wheelchairs and other mobility devices must be clean, safe and in good working condition.

Escorts & Physical Assistance

An escort (attendant) who provides physical assistance to the rider may accompany the rider. An escort must be at least 16 years of age or older. Services to Elderly Van does not provide escorts, but some assistance may be requested from drivers.

Assistance Provided by Services to Elderly Van Drivers

Assisting passengers on safe and non-steeply inclined wheelchair ramps or stairs.

Providing assistance from the door to the vehicle, boarding the vehicle and securement in the vehicle.

Securement of mobility devices, equipment and packages in the vehicle.

Loading and unloading some packages (see "Packages" section).

Assistance Not Provided by Services to Elderly Van Drivers

Assisting passengers on unsafe or steeply inclined wheelchair ramps or stairs.

Providing assistance beyond the door.

Locking/unlocking doors or activating/deactivating house alarms.

Loading and unloading personal items (except some packages).

Packages

Carry-on packages are limited to a total combined weight for all the packages to 40 pounds. Drivers **may** help a rider carry packages from the door and on/off the vehicle. The driver is not held liable for any damage that may occur to packages during transport.

Equipment

Persons traveling with portable oxygen or other support equipment may be transported if it does not interfere with passenger's safety and is not prohibited by Hazardous Materials Regulations.

Bicycles are prohibited on Allen County Services to the Elderly Van.

Service Animals & Pets

Service animals are allowed to accompany you on your trip. Please inform the Services to Elderly Van when scheduling a ride if a service animal will be accompanying you. The animal's care and safety are the responsibility of the owner. Service animals are the only type of animal allowed on the van.

Definition of a service animal is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not considered service animals.

The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to:

- assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks
- alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds
- providing non-violent protection or rescue work
- pulling a wheelchair
- assisting an individual during a seizure

- alerting individuals to the presence of allergens
- retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone
- providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities
- helping individuals with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors

The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship are not considered work or tasks for purposes of the definition of a service animal.

While Emotional Support Animals or Comfort Animals are often used as part of a medical treatment plan as therapy animals, they are not considered service animals under the ADA.

RULES OF CONDUCT

The following rules are enforced for everyone's safety and comfort. Inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated at any time.

Rules of Conduct

Must wear seat belts or you will not be permitted to ride.

No smoking on board the van.

No riding under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

No abusive, threatening or obscene language or actions.

No physical or verbal abuse of another rider or the driver.

No standing while vehicle is in motion.

Passengers are not to extend arms, hands, heads or any body parts through the vehicle's windows.

Anyone having incontinence problems must be dry upon boarding the vehicle or they will be denied a ride.

The driver of any vehicle has the discretion to take measures, if a rider engages in persistent inappropriate and/or dangerous behavior. This discretion will include a vendor refusing service, a driver putting a rider out of the vehicle or calling the authorities, if necessary. Riders who violate these rules of conduct are subject to suspension of service. Riders who engage in physical abuse or cause physical injury to another rider or driver may be subject to immediate and permanent suspension and possible criminal prosecution.

DRIVER INFORMATION

Pre-Trip Inspection

Prior to use of Allen County Services to the Elderly van each day, the driver will inspect the vehicle to determine if it is in good working order. He/she will complete the Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist and any other necessary paperwork. If a condition exists that prohibits driving the vehicle, the driver will contact the Director for instruction. The supervisor will contact the appropriate service person.

Vehicle Maintenance

All vehicles will be maintained in accordance with maintenance schedules as recommended by the manufacturer and by KDOT. A record of routine inspections and

maintenance will be completed by the driver and will be kept in the County Clerk's Office. The driver is responsible for making sure that work is documented in the following locations: vehicle maintenance manual, expense report and on the daily pre-trip and post-trip inspection forms. All preventative maintenance performed shall meet the minimum required by the manufacturer for each KDOT vehicle.

Fueling the Vehicle

Driver will fuel the vehicle at the end of each day at the Allen County fuel pumps located at the Allen County shop.

Parking

Overnight parking and housing of the transportation vehicle will be in the south garage of the Allen County shop.

Railroad Crossings

Stopping the vehicle at railroad crossings is not required by law unless there are 18 persons or more on the vehicle. Occasionally the driver may face a situation where stopping at the railroad crossing is recommended for the safety of the individuals. The driver is responsible for following all Kansas State laws with regard to stopping at railroad crossings when signals are engaged or signal arms are down. Driver will NEVER drive the vehicle through a railroad crossing with activated signals.

Vehicle Breakdown

If the vehicle breaks down, move the vehicle to a safe place out of traffic (if mechanically possible), then contact the supervisor and advise them of the problem. Report the location and number of passengers on the vehicle. The supervisor will contact Public Works to arrange for vehicle service. If there are passengers, the supervisor will arrange for pickup of the passengers.

Cleaning of the Vehicle

The driver is responsible for the daily cleaning and care of the vehicle. Daily care includes picking up trash, replacing all seatbelts to their proper position, securing restraint system belts in designated locations and cleaning the vehicle, as required. The driver will be responsible for power washes and exterior cleaning. The van is to be washed outside and cleaned inside at least once a week (weather permitting on the outside of the van).

Lost & Found

The supervisor should be notified of all found objects. The supervisor will attempt to contact the rightful owner.

Driver Training

Allen County will send all drivers to the required Vehicle Driver Training Programs provided by KDOT to ensure the protection of passengers and drivers utilizing community transportation vehicles. Drivers are also required to complete Drug and Alcohol Training, and are also required to pass a DOT Physical. Drivers are subject to random drug testing as determined by the Director.

Daily Driver Documentation Requirements

All documentation on each vehicle is on file in the County Clerk's Office. KDOT Public Transportation Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist, Daily Trip By Trip Record, Daily Log Expense Reports, Incident/Accident Reports, as required.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Grievance Procedures

Every rider has a right to dispute or file a complaint regarding service. The procedures for handling any grievances or complaints from passengers, private providers or employees begin with an initial review conducted by the Allen County Clerk. All efforts will be made to reach an amicable agreement in the matter. If an agreement or resolution to the grievance cannot be achieved, then a hearing will be scheduled with the Allen County Commission at a specially convened meeting. The commissioners will hear both sides in the matter and then make a recommendation. The grievance procedure and timetable is set forth below.

1. Grievance complaint submitted in writing to Allen County Clerk or County Counselor; mail or drop off at 1 N. Washington, lola, KS 66749.
2. Grievance will be studied and a written response will be returned to the complainant within 15 working days.
3. The complainant may then, within 30 days, petition Allen County in writing to convene a special meeting with the Commissioners. The Commission meeting will be held within 15 working days of the complainant's petition to Allen County.
4. The commission will convene and receive information from the complainant and Services to Elderly driver.
5. Within 20 working days of the commission meeting, an opinion will be rendered in writing to both parties. The decision of the Commission is final.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Special Trips

In order to get permission to operate the van after set hours, advance notice is required as soon as possible. Such permission must be granted by the Allen County Commission.

Evacuation Procedure

Should the Services to the Elderly van be utilized for evacuations, there will be one child safety seat and one booster seat provided for use on the van.

Warranty Procedures

New transportation vehicles acquired through the KDOT grant program will have a three-year/36,000-mile warranty guarantee. As soon as factory recalls are received or repairs are required, the new vehicle will be taken to Twin Motors Ford, a Ford dealership in lola, Ks for immediate service. A record of warranty work done for each vehicle will be maintained in the County Clerk's Office.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS THIS 1st DAY OF MARCH 2022.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS



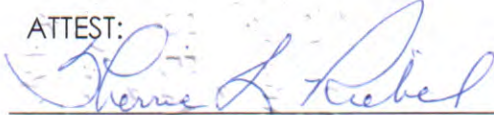
Jerry Daniels, Chairman



Bruce Symes, Commissioner



David Lee, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Sherri L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk