

TRANSPORTATION OF MINORS POLICY

Oneida Gospel Church

Maximum safety for all individuals involved in each trip is our utmost concern. Transportation provided for any of the ministries of Oneida Gospel Church whether using private vehicles, church vehicles, or rented vehicles are subject to the following policy.

Safety Requirements

- Driver must read and agree to the Transportation Safety Requirements listed below and turn in a signed Driver/Vehicle Information Form to the Pastor/Ministry Director or church office prior to the ministry event.
- Driver must have a valid driver's license
- Driver must abide by all traffic laws.
- Driver and vehicle must be insured and provide proof of insurance to Pastor/Ministry Director.
- The use of seatbelts by all passengers is mandatory. Hence, the number of seatbelts in the vehicle will determine the maximum number of passengers. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- All children under the age of 12 are to be seated in a back seat with a seatbelt in use to avoid injury in the event of passenger side airbag deployment.
- No driver shall use a cell phone when driving, even if using a "hands-free" device. The driver must safely pull over, stop the vehicle, and then place or answer a call. *The only exception would be for using GPS mapping and directions.*
- The following distance restrictions must be observed:
 - a) One rest stop every 250 miles
 - b) No more than 14 hours of travel in any one 24-hour period
 - c) No travel between the hours of midnight and 6 AM
- Driver must report any incident involving accident, injury, or police to the Pastor/ Ministry Director as soon as possible within 24 hours of the incident
- If a driver who has been approved under this policy is involved in any accident which is deemed to be his/her fault, the Pastor/Ministry Director may suspend his/her driving privileges for Oneida Gospel Church ministries.

Additional requirements for those transporting minors

- Driver must undergo a background check
- Driver must be at least 21 years of age
- Driver may not be alone in a vehicle with an unrelated legal minor. Either another screened adult must be in the car with the driver and the minor, or two or more children must be in the car with the driver at all times.

Using Church or Rented Vehicles

- Only approved drivers are allowed to drive church or rented vehicles. The Church Office handles this process. All Christian Education ministries must work with the Office to insure appropriate steps are taken well in advance of a scheduled trip. Driver approval is based solely on the procedures undertaken by the Administrative office and the insurance policy of the church.
- Exceptions to these regulations may be granted at the discretion of the Office or in the case of an emergency, by the Pastor or a Deacon.
- The Transportation Policy and Driver/Vehicle Information Form will be distributed to Pastors/ Ministry Directors and staff. It will also be available in the church office and from the church website. It will be the responsibility of the Administrator, Pastor/Ministry Director, and staff to implement this policy at the volunteer level.