

Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc. – STAR Transportation

Policy on Reasonable Modification/Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

It is the Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation policy to make reasonable modifications to its policies, practices, or procedures when requested to do so by individuals with disabilities when such accommodations are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability.

Requests for accommodations will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may be denied on one or more of the following grounds:

- Granting the request would fundamentally alter the nature of Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation service, programs, or activities;
- Granting the request could create a direct threat to the health or safety of the requestor or others;
- Granting the request would create an undue financial or administrative burden for the Agency; or
- Without such modification, the individual with a disability is otherwise able to fully use Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation services, programs, or activities for their intended purpose.

In determining whether to grant a requested modification, Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation will be guided by the provisions of United States Department of Transportation at 49 CFR Appendix E to Part 37.169.

When choosing among alternatives for accommodations, Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation will give priority to those methods that offer services, programs and activities to qualified individuals with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate for the needs of the individual(s) with disabilities. In any case in which Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation denies a request for an accommodation, they will attempt to ensure that the individual with a disability receives the services or benefits provided by Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation by other means that comport with this policy.

Process for Requesting Modifications/Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

Requests for modifications of Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation policies, practices, or procedures to accommodate an individual with a disability may be made either in advance or at the time of the transportation service. Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation is best able to address and accommodate a request when customers make their requests for modifications in advance.

The process for making a request is as follows:

Advance Requests:

- When making a request, please thoroughly describe what is needed in order for you to use the service, and why this assistance is necessary.
- Whenever feasible, a request for modification to Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation service should be made in advance before STAR Transportation is expected to provide the service. Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation will review your request, and will make every effort to communicate in advance whether or not the requested modification can be made.
- If the modification is not made, STAR Transportation will provide the reason for the denial of the request.

Requests may be denied on one or more of the following grounds:

- Granting the request would fundamentally alter the nature of Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation service, programs, or activities;
- Granting the request could create a direct threat to the health or safety of the requestor or others;
- Granting the request would create an undue financial or administrative burden for the Agency; or
- Without such modification, the individual with a disability is otherwise able to fully use Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation services, programs, or activities for their intended purpose.

Requests may be made through the following means:

- Call (260) 665-9856.
- Submit a written request email to: odalton@steubenco.org.
- Or at the main office located at: 1905 Wohlert Street, Angola, IN 46703

Same Day Requests:

- When a request for modification cannot practicably be made and determined in advance, you may make a request on the same day, at the time of, or during service.
 - *You should make your request to the operator of your vehicle.
 - *Please describe in detail what accommodation you require and why it is necessary in order to use the service.
- Operators are required to consult with dispatch to receive direction. Requests may be granted, if such request is reasonable and meets the requirements of the Agency's policy.

Requests may be denied on the following grounds:

- Granting the request would fundamentally alter the nature of Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation service, programs, or activities;
- Granting the request could create a direct threat to the health or safety of the requestor or others;
- Granting the request would create an undue financial or administrative burden for the Agency; or
- Without such modification, the individual with a disability is otherwise able to fully use Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation services, programs, or activities for their intended purpose

- Operator availability may be very limited when providing service and if the request would require extended consideration, we may not be able to grant your request immediately, and you may be encouraged to submit a written request for further consideration in future trips.
- Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation's ability to grant the requested modifications may vary by route, day of travel, time of day, or other circumstances. For example, while a request may be able to be granted in one instance, that same request may be denied in another instance if granting the request would fundamentally alter the nature of the service or create a safety threat, or if the request is not a functional necessity.
- In the case of a denial of a request, Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation will take, to the maximum extent possible and in compliance with its policies, any other appropriate actions to ensure you receive service.

Designated employee for compliance: Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation has designated the Transportation Coordinator, as the employee responsible for ensuring compliance of this policy and for administering the prompt and equitable resolution of any related complaints. Contact information is as follows:

Complaint Process and Contact Information: Complaints regarding the administration of or compliance with this policy shall be made in writing either by letter or email addressed to the Agency's Transportation Coordinator, or by completing and returning the Title VI or Discrimination Complaint Form found at: <http://www.steubenco.org>

All complaints will be handled in accordance with Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation's Title VI and Discrimination Complaint Process found at: www.steubenco.org. Steuben County Council on Aging, Inc./STAR Transportation will make every effort to make a prompt and equitable resolution of any complaint. The Agency's response to any Title VI complaint will be in writing and will include the Agency's decision and the reason(s) therefore.

Reasonable Modification
Request Form

Please complete this form to request a reasonable modification of STAR Transportation services.

Submit the completed form to:

STAR Transportation Director

EMAIL at: odalton@steubenco.org

or

MAIL to: 1905 Wohlert Street, Angola, IN 46703

Name: _____ Todays Date: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Description of Your Request:

Are you able to use STAR Transportation services without this modification?

Yes No

Please Explain: _____
