



CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

KIM GUADAGNO
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

PO BOX 726
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0726

Visit us on the web at :
www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd

Jennifer Velez
COMMISSIONER

Dawn Apgar
Deputy Commissioner

TEL. (609) 631-2200

April 8, 2011

Important Reminder about Stephen's Law

Dear Provider:

On September 9, 2008, P.L. 2008, Chapter 79, was approved and signed into law by Governor Corzine. Also known as Stephen's Law, it was named for Stephen Griscti who suffered a broken femur when his wheelchair fell over while riding in a group home van.

The law requires drivers to assure a passenger in a wheelchair is secured "in a properly adjusted and fastened wheelchair securement and occupant securement device. The securement devices shall be in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Standards." The law applies to passenger vehicles, including vans, pickup trucks and utility vehicles.

In August 2010, the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety issued Bulletin Number 12, which specifies that applicable vehicles utilized to transport persons in a wheelchair must use securement devices that meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard §571.222. (See sections S5.4.2 Wheelchair Securement Devices; and S5.4.3 Wheelchair Occupant Restraint Anchorages; and S5.4.4 Wheelchair Occupant Restraints.)

The Division of Developmental Disabilities expects its service providers to fully comply with this law. Stephen is not the only person receiving services from the Division who has suffered injuries as a result of improperly secured wheelchairs.

If there are any questions regarding compliance with this law, please contact Mary Lou Goho, Director, Contract Administration, at 609-631-6512.

Very truly yours,

Dawn Apgar, Ph.D, LSW, ACSW
Deputy Commissioner

c: Mary Lou Goho
Shawn McInerney
DDD Website