



Health & Safety Alert #40-3-02

Travel Training

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Situation: There have been several very serious incidents involving missing persons that have raised many issues that need to be considered in travel training programs.

Alert: A review of MUIs shows that individuals who travel independently should have basic skills to use every day and know what to do in the case of an emergency. There will be times that the buses are not on schedule or an individual may find himself or herself in an unfamiliar place. The Department recommends that all counties establish a travel training protocol to teach individuals to safely use the transit system and provide documentation to the board and providers that this process has been completed. Some items to include in the development of a training program:

- The individual's life skills.
- Money management skills.
- Telephone use.
- Telling time.
- Bus identification.
- Sign identification.
- Street crossing skills.
- Emergency procedure skills.
 - What to do if the individual becomes lost.
 - What the responsibilities are of all parties, including, but not limited to the staff, individual and guardian.
 - Development of a training sequence verifying that the individual has completed the route successfully and safely with independence (i.e., successfully mastered the route five times independently without prompting from the trainer).

For questions or comments regarding the above Alert, please contact the MUI/Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810.