

TRAVEL PLANNER HANDOUT: TRAVEL BY AIR



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Flight #: _____ Time of Flight: _____

GETTING TO THE AIRPORT

Have you arranged to be picked up by an accessible vehicle? Yes No

If yes, fill in the information below.

Name of company: _____

Contact name: _____ Phone: _____

Date of pickup: _____ Time of pickup: _____

AIRLINE INFORMATION

Have you made special arrangements with the airline for assistance at the airport? Yes No

If yes, fill in the information below.

Airline: _____ Contact name: _____ Phone: _____

Are you traveling with a service animal? Yes No

If yes, fill in the information below.

Airline: _____ Phone: _____

- Call airline to tell them that you will be bringing a service animal on your flight
- Find animal relief areas in the airports you will be using. These are places that are set up for your dog to pee or poop. You can find a map of an airport's animal relief areas on the airport's website
- Limit your dog's water intake so it is less likely that they will need to pee during the flight
- Bring identification and documentation of your dog's status as a service animal
- Arrive at the airport at least 2 hours early
- When you get to the security check point, tell security staff that your dog is a service animal
- When you arrive at the gate, tell the gate attendant that you are travelling with a service animal
- Tell flight attendants that you have a service animal when you board the plane

CONTACT TSA CARES

TSA Cares helps people who are disabled or have medical conditions get information about security screening at the airport. TSA Cares can also arrange for someone to help you go through security if you need extra time and support.

- To ask questions about things like travelling with a service animal or wheelchair
- To ask for any help you might need when you go through the security check

Cure SMA | 800-866-1762 | cureSMA.org



Cure SMA is a national organization that advocates for individuals with spinal muscular atrophy, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that robs people of physical strength, taking away their ability to walk, swallow, and breathe.

TSA Cares Phone: 855-787-2227

TSA cares email: ContactCenter@tsa.dhs.gov

Contact TSA Cares at least 72 hours in advance of your flight for information about your specific airport.

GATE-CHECKING A MANUAL OR POWER WHEELCHAIR

Wheelchair weight (lbs): _____ Wheelchair width (inches): _____

Wheelchair height (inches): _____

Type of battery (lithium, spillable, or non-spillable): _____

- Gate-checking means you can stay in your personal wheelchair until you/your family member get on the plane
- You can always ask the gate agent and flight crew if the plane is large enough or the chair is small enough to accommodate driving the chair onto the plane
- If you are unable to drive the chair onto the plane, you/your family member will then be moved into an “aisle chair” that is small enough to wheel onto the plane and down the aisle
- Take off all parts of your wheelchair that could easily break or get lost (headrest, footrest, cushions, etc.)
- You may want to plastic wrap any parts that cannot be taken off but could break
- It may be helpful to write and laminate instructions to tape to your wheelchair for handlers, including the dimensions of the chair
- Airlines allow passengers with special needs to board the plane first. This is known as “pre-boarding.” Arrive at the gate early and let the agent know you plan to pre-board
- If you are taking more than one flight, keep in mind that gate-checked wheelchairs may require extra time to unload and are often the last thing to come off the plane. For this reason, make sure to plan your flights so that there is enough time in between for your wheelchair to be unloaded and reloaded
- If your wheelchair is damaged, the airline is responsible for paying up to 100% of the original purchase price. Immediately file a claim at the baggage office to avoid repair delays or denial of the claim
- For small children, consider bringing a small manual wheelchair that can be stored in the overhead bin

LEAVING THE AIRPORT

Have you arranged to be picked up by an accessible vehicle? Yes No

If yes, fill in the information below.

Name of company: _____

Contact name: _____ Phone: _____

Date of pickup: _____ Time of pickup: _____

For more information on Traveling with SMA, visit <https://www.curesma.org/traveling-with-sma/>.

Cure SMA | 800-866-1762 | cureSMA.org



Cure SMA is a national organization that advocates for individuals with spinal muscular atrophy, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that robs people of physical strength, taking away their ability to walk, swallow, and breathe.