

Section: Patient Transport  
Subject: FAMILY MEMBERS / SERVICE ANIMALS RIDING DURING TRANSPORT  
Section #: 301.06  
Issue Date: March 21, 2011  
Revision Date:  
Approved By: 

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**1. FAMILY MEMBERS**

- a. Any individuals riding in the patient compartment of the rescue unit shall do so at discretion of the rescue officer.
- b. Parents of small children and HCFR personnel are *generally* the only persons allowed to ride in the patient compartment of the Rescue.
- c. Officers are strongly advised to avoid allowing potentially violent or uncontrollable family members to ride along with the patient.

**2. SERVICE ANIMALS**

- a. It is the intent of HCFR to aid in the transportation of a patient's service animal whenever possible.
- b. Service Animals – the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.
  - i. If they meet this definition, animals are considered service animals under the ADA regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government.
  - ii. A person claiming an animal as a service animal is NOT required to provide proof or documentation as to the legitimacy of the animal's purpose.
- c. Exclusion of a service animal:
  - i. Under the ADA HCFR members may exclude the service animal from transport in an HCFR vehicle if:
    1. The animal is out of control and the animal's owner does not take effective action to control it.
    2. The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
  - ii. If an animal cannot be transported due to behavior problems HCFR personnel should attempt to make other arrangements for the animal either through Hillsborough County Animal Control, other family members, or HCSO.