



## Transport

Some ministry activities may include the offer of transportation to those attending. As with any ministry practice, there are certain considerations that need to be thought through in order to establish the protocols and boundaries needed to keep transportation safe and accountable.

### ROAD SAFETY

You must consider the following before you provide transport of any kind:

- All vehicles used must be registered and in good working order.
- All drivers must be licensed.
- All road rules must be followed.
- All drivers must be aware of their responsibilities to provide safe transport and take every precaution to ensure that their passengers are safe.

### CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

The Code of Conduct states in Point 11 that you will not drive a **child or young person** unaccompanied. This is not intended to stop you doing ministry with **children or young people**. It is intended to make you stop and think about the risks associated with driving children and young people unaccompanied. These risks are serious and are best minimised by making sure you are always accompanied by a second leader.

However, in circumstances where a leader driving **children or young people** unaccompanied is unavoidable, this point of the Code can be changed, with the approval of Session.

To make the changes, Session will:

- assess the risk involved,
- obtain appropriate written permission from parents / guardians,
- determine the people, times and places to be included in the provision,
- set a period of time for the change to be valid,
- consult the CPU for review of the intended changes, and
- formally record the details of the change in Session minutes.

Before a **child or young person** travels with a group or is driven in a car or bus by a person associated with the church for any reason, you must have a permission note signed by the **child or young person's** parent / carer. An example of an off-site or travel permission note is provided on the BTS website.

It is preferable that chosen drivers have their full license; however, where it is necessary for a driver with a provisional license to provide transport, this must be clearly stated on the permission note so that parents can make an informed decision.

Be aware that the vulnerabilities associated with young people do not disappear on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Safe ministry practices needed for teenagers should remain in place until their position has changed enough that they are able to establish a more balanced dynamic with those in leadership.



It is strongly advised that there is more than one leader in a vehicle for the duration of the trip, regardless of the number of **children or young people**. This ensures the leaders are kept accountable for the interactions that take place in the car and reduces the risk of grooming occurring, whilst also protecting leaders.

## **ADULTS**

When providing transport to just one other adult, people in positions of leadership must recognise their position of power and how that places their passenger in a vulnerable position. Leaders must ensure they are transparent with others in church leadership about their transport arrangements. Session should be aware of anyone in a position of authority who is regularly providing transport to someone of the opposite sex. Accountability measures must also be implemented for those travelling unaccompanied with a person who has other vulnerabilities (such as a disability).

Consider a vehicle in the same way you consider any ministry space. It is another context in which safety, transparency and accountability need to be actively implemented to prevent anyone from misusing their position in a secluded setting.