

Excerpted from the Transportation Security Authority website:
http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial_1572.shtm

Air Travel Screening for Travelers with Disabilities

Parents or guardians of children with disabilities should...

- Inform the Security Officer if the child has any special needs or medical devices.
- Inform the Security Officer if you think the child may become upset during the screening process as a result of their disability.
- Offer suggestions on how to best accomplish the screening to minimize any confusion or outburst for the child.
- Ask the Security Officer for assistance during the process by helping you put your and the child's carry-on items on the X-ray belt.
- Know that at no time during the screening process will you be separated from your child.
- Know that if a private screening is required, you should escort and remain with your child during the private screening process.
- Tell the Security Officer what are your child's abilities are. For example: can the child stand slightly away from equipment to be handwanded, walk through the metal detector, or needs to be carried through the metal detector by the parent/guardian.

Before You Go

Travelers with Disabilities and Medical Conditions

- Provide advance notice to your airline or travel agent if you require assistance at the airport. TSA can only assist you with the screening process. Your airline will assist you through the airport facility and the screening queue line.
- If you require a companion or assistant to accompany you through the security checkpoint to reach your gate speak with your airline representative about obtaining a gate pass for your companion before entering the security checkpoint.
- The limit of one carry-on and one personal item (purse briefcase or computer case) does not apply to medical supplies, equipment and mobility aids, and/or assistive devices carried by and/or used by a person with a disability.
- Pack your medications in a separate pouch/bag to facilitate the inspection process. Ensure that containers holding medications are not too densely filled, and that all medication is clearly identified. It is recommended that passengers refrain from packing any medications in their checked baggage that they do not want exposed to X-rays. Instead,

send larger quantities of medications to your destination by mail or any other way preferred.

- If you have medical documentation regarding your medical condition or disability, you can present this information to the Security Officer to help inform him of your situation. This documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the security screening process.
- Make sure all your carry-on items; equipment, mobility aids, and devices have an identification tag attached.

Tips For the Screening Process

Travelers with Disabilities and Medical Conditions

- If a personal search is required you may choose to remain in the public area or go to a private area for your screening. If you refuse either option you will not be able to fly.
- You should be offered a private screening before the beginning of a pat-down inspection if the pat-down will require the lifting of clothing and/or display of a covered medical device.
- You should be offered a disposable paper drape for additional privacy before the beginning of a pat-down.
- You may request a private area for your personal search at any time during the screening process.
- Your companion, assistant, or family member may accompany you and assist you during a private or public screening. After providing this assistance, the companion, assistant, or family member will need to be re-screened.
- You may ask for a chair if you need to sit down during the screening process.
- You may request a pat-down inspection in lieu of going through the metal detector or being handwanded. You do not need to disclose why you would like this option.
- If you have a disability, condition, or implant, that you would like to remain private and confidential, ask the Security Officer to please be discreet when assisting you through the screening process.
- You have the right to ask a Security Officer to change her/his gloves during the physical inspection of your accessible property, before performing a physical search (pat-down,) or any time a Security Officer handles your footwear.
- Medication and related supplies that are carried through a checkpoint are normally X-rayed. However, as a customer service, TSA now allows you the option of requesting a visual inspection of your medication and associated supplies.

- You must request a visual inspection before the screening process begins; otherwise your medications and supplies will undergo X-ray inspection.
- If you would like to take advantage of this option, please have your medication and associated supplies separated from your other property and in a separate pouch/bag when you approach the Security Officer at the walk-through metal detector. Request the visual inspection and hand your medication bag to the Security Officer.
- In order to prevent contamination or damage to medication and associated supplies and/or fragile medical materials, you will be asked at the security checkpoint to display, handle, and repack your own medication and associated supplies during the visual inspection.
- Any medication and/or associated supplies that cannot be cleared visually must be submitted for X-ray screening. If you refuse, you will not be permitted to carry your medications and related supplies into the sterile area.

Hidden Disabilities

Travelers with Disabilities and Medical Conditions

- Persons with a hidden disability can, if they choose, advise Security Officers that they have a hidden disability and may need some assistance, or need to move a bit slower than others.
- Family members or traveling companions can advise Security Officers when they are traveling with someone who has a hidden disability, which may cause that person to move a little slower, become agitated easily and/or need additional assistance.
- Family members or traveling companions can offer suggestions to Security Officers on the best way to approach and deal with the person with a hidden disability, especially when it is necessary to touch the person during a pat-down inspection.
- Family member or traveling companions can stay with the person during a public or private screening; however, they may be required to be re-screened if they provide assistance to the person.

If you have additional concerns or questions you can also contact TSA's Call Center. E-mail - tsa-contactcenter@dhs.gov

For concerns about potential civil rights violations, you can contact TSA's Office of Civil Rights. Toll-free - 1-877-336-4872; TTY - 800-877-8339; E-mail - tsa-contactcenter@dhs.gov

For information about overall air travel accessibility: DOT Air Carrier Access Hotline Toll-free - 1-800-778-4838; Internet - <http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov>