



Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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OVERVIEW OF THE BROWARD COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS EMERGENCY SHELTERING AND TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If you have a medical condition that requires a greater level of care than can be provided at a General Population shelter, but do not require placement at a hospital or other medical institution, a Special Needs shelter may be appropriate for you.

These shelters offer basic medical assistance and monitoring. They are staffed by qualified medical personnel and have back-up electricity. Family members and caregivers are encouraged to accompany residents with special medical needs.

Pre-registration for the Special Needs shelter is open throughout the year and is recommended to ensure that shelter staff are aware of your needs and are prepared to accommodate you. You may still request sheltering when an emergency event occurs if you have not pre-registered. Participation in the program also includes emergency transportation to a shelter if you require it, but as of January 1, 2016, emergency transportation to locations other than emergency shelters is no longer provided through the Special Needs Sheltering program.

Please read the following information carefully:

Broward County Special Needs shelters **can** accommodate:

- Persons with health/medical conditions that require professional observation, assessment and maintenance
- Persons who require assistance with personal care and/or assistance with medications, but do not require hospitalization or a medical institution
- Persons who need assistance with medication administration and/or vital sign readings and are unable to do so without professional assistance
- Persons who need assistance in administering their own injectable medication,
 - NOTE: You must bring any medications that are needed to the shelter
- Persons with minimal restrictions in the performance of daily living activities, (individuals who need little or no supervision from medical personnel)
- Persons who need intermittent or continuous (24 hour) oxygen

NOTE: If a Special Needs Shelter cannot accommodate you as indicated above, we recommend you seek advice from your personal physician regarding your safe placement during an emergency.

All residents seeking placement in a Special Needs shelter will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine the best option for their needs.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for shelter residents with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including limited transfer assistance, sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, and a quiet zone for a cognitive disability or mental health need.

As with all public places within Broward County, residents with service animals, as defined by Federal law, are welcome at all shelter sites. Residents are encouraged to bring a caregiver or family member to the shelter to accompany them.