



PINE COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES HIPAA NOTICE

The state has enacted a confidentiality practice to protect clients' privacy rights. It is called the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). It specifically outlines who we can share private medical information with.

It is very important that as voluntary drivers for Pine County that we do not discuss the passenger's medical conditions with anyone. We cannot even legally say the name of who we transported to anyone other than someone in our county office. So be very sure that you do not discuss your passengers name, problems, address, phone, or anything about them to anyone. No matter what they may tell you as you are driving, that information must remain confidential. It cannot be discussed with other passengers, other drivers, friends, family, and people in the doctor's waiting room. Drive them to the appointment, then home. Do not take them shopping, banking, out for personal reasons, or anywhere else.

We are a transportation service only. Our job is to safely and professionally transport passengers to appointments. With all the new laws and lawsuits, maybe the easiest way to think of ourselves is as a taxi, it is best not to get personal with your passengers, just drive. The less we know about the passenger is the easiest way to avoid getting into trouble.

Drive safe – buckle up (State Law – everyone in the vehicle must wear a seat belt, you can get a ticket for not having them wear one), follow the speed limits, and do not share personal data, always remember to be very professional. It is not our job to be their counselor, doctor, or anything besides a taxi service. Thank you very much for all that you do, and safe travels.

Seat Belt Laws: *(copied from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Driver's Manual)*

Of all the safety equipment in your vehicle, the seat belt is most likely to save your life. In Minnesota, motor vehicles must be equipped with seat belts; seat belt use is mandatory. A properly adjusted and fastened seat belt must be worn by all drivers and passengers in all seating positions, including the back seat. Law enforcement can stop motorists solely for seat belt violations.

If you do not wear a seat belt, consider the following:

- *Your chances of being killed or injured in a crash are four times greater.*
- *It is possible to be killed in a crash when traveling at speeds as low as 12 mph. • Seat belts keep occupants from being ejected from the vehicle, in the event of a crash. People who are thrown from vehicles are likely to die or suffer serious injuries.*

You are not legally required to wear a seat belt if you are:

- *Driving a passenger vehicle in reverse.*
- *Occupying a normal seating position in a motor vehicle in which all seat belts are being used by other passengers.*
- *In possession of a written certificate from a physician citing medical reasons for seat belt non-use.*
- *Driving a motor vehicle while engaged in work that involves frequent exiting and entering of the motor vehicle. This applies only if you do not drive at speeds greater than 25 miles per hour.*
- *A rural mail carrier delivering mail for the U.S. Postal Service.*
- *Driving or riding in a pickup truck while engaged in farm work.*
- *Driving a motor vehicle made before January 1, 1965.*

Signature:

Date: