



Freedom Village at Brandywine

Managed by Life Care Services*

ELECTRIC MOBILITY VEHICLES POLICY

Residents may use mobility aids such as canes, walkers, manual or motorized wheelchairs, and/or motorized carts. A resident's use of an aid may be restricted or prohibited if the use of the aid is creating a direct threat to the health or safety of the resident or others or would result in substantial physical damage to the property of the Community or others.

The following information applies to residents who use electric mobility vehicles ("carts") at the Community:

1. SPECIFICATIONS FOR A CART.

- 1.1 The cart must be equipped with the following:
 - An adjustable speed control; and
 - A warning device.
- 1.2 The cart must have a non-acid battery.
- 1.3 The cart should be designed to prevent tipping when in use.
- 1.4 The resident's name and residence number must appear on the cart. The Community will provide the label.
- 1.5 A cart must have a whip antenna with pennant or similar device and reflective striping whenever it is being operated in the Community's parking lots or driveways or after dark so that it can be easily seen by vehicle drivers.
- 1.6 The cart must be able to fit through the Community's doorways without causing any damage.

2. REGISTRATION OF THE CART.

A resident is required to register the cart with the [Wellness Center]. A staff member will provide the resident with a copy of the Electric Mobility Vehicles (Carts) Policy and assist the resident with the paperwork necessary to ensure the resident's cart is properly identified.

Once a year, the [Wellness Center] will review the current Electric Mobility Vehicles (Carts) Policy with the resident, and provide the resident with another copy.

3. OPERATING THE CART.

- 3.1 A resident should receive training and education regarding the cart's use, operation and maintenance from the vendor, AARP or skilled therapy provider if appropriate.

- 3.2 A resident is required to operate the cart slowly and be aware of other residents, staff, guests, housekeeping cleaning carts, and other items in the hallways or elevators. Pedestrians always have the right-of-way. A resident should be aware of the hazards associated with the operation of a cart. It is the responsibility of the resident to operate the cart in a safe manner.
- 3.3 A resident's use of a cart may be restricted or prohibited if it would create a direct threat to the health or safety of the resident or others, or would result in substantial physical damage to the property of the Community or others.
- 3.4 The resident shall not use the horn in the building, unless it is being used in an emergency or as a warning device.
- 3.5 The resident shall drive no faster than normal walking speed of 3-5 mph. The Community reserves the right to physically adjust the resident's cart to reduce its maximum speed in the event the resident violates this requirement.
- 3.6 The resident shall travel in the center of hallways to avoid persons stepping out of residences or offices; however, the resident shall keep to the right when passing a person walking towards the cart.
- 3.7 The resident shall exercise extra caution when approaching doorways, intersections, and congested areas. The horn should be sounded if the resident cannot see around a corner.
- 3.8 The resident should never approach too closely to people without warning them of his/her approach.
- 3.9 Due to limited space and risk of injury to other people, carts are not permitted on elevators if there are people already on the elevator. When entering a vacant elevator, the resident must proceed on the lowest speed and, when exiting, sound the horn as a warning before backing out of the elevator. The resident should drive the cart into the elevator front first and back out upon exiting. A resident operating a cart can be accompanied on the elevator by no more than two people.
- 3.10 When operating the cart indoors, the whip antenna must be removed or folded down and out of view.
- 3.11 For outdoor use, the resident should operate the cart on sidewalks, when possible. Pedestrians always have the right-of-way. Avoid inclines and rough terrain, and proceed with caution on level areas. Avoid driving directly behind parked vehicles.
- 3.12 The resident should keep tires free of dirt, grime or mud when entering and moving through the interior of the Community.
- 3.13 Use of the cart by others is prohibited.

4. **PARKING/STORAGE OF THE CART.**

- 4.1 The cart must be stored inside the residence. Fire and safety codes and regulations prohibit the storing of the cart outside a residence.
- 4.2 It is permitted to park outside the residence of another resident when visiting. However, parking cannot impede traffic or violate any fire and safety codes or regulations.
- 4.3 Temporary or permanent storage for a cart will not be provided by the Community.
- 4.4 While utilizing a cart in common space areas at the Community, the cart is to be parked only in certain areas, as designated by the Executive Director or his/her designee. Residents cannot park carts in violation of any fire and safety codes or regulations.

5. **SAFETY.**

- 5.1 Battery chargers used to power the cart must be U.L. approved and properly maintained to avoid fire hazards. When recharging the battery of a cart, the proper placement of the battery charger is extremely important. Battery chargers can spark and cause a fire if the charger is placed upon combustible material. All battery chargers should be placed upon a hard surface. Batteries must not be charged in hallways or other common areas.
- 5.2 The following batteries are prohibited: lead acid and wet cell batteries.
- 5.3 Immediately report all incidents, damages or injuries to the Executive Director or his/her designee.
- 5.4 **It is the resident's financial responsibility for any damages caused to self, other residents, employees, guests or property, including doors, walls, furniture, flooring and other property. The Community will bill the resident for the cost associated with repairing such damages.**

6. **SPECIFIC AREAS OF OPERATIONS.**

- 6.1 Residential Dining Room. The Community's Dining Room and Events Policy will govern the use of carts in the Community's dining venues.
- 6.2 Social Gatherings. A resident must always exercise caution when using a cart at a social gathering. A resident should proceed cautiously and should drive the cart to a place where it can remain stationary during the event. It is strongly recommended that a resident operating a cart not consume any alcoholic beverages or be under

the influence of medications that would impair the resident's judgment in operating the cart.

- 6.3 Assisted Living or Skilled Nursing. A cart may be operated by a resident in assisted living or skilled nursing. However, use of a cart may be restricted or prohibited if the use of the cart creates a direct threat to the health or safety of others or to the resident, or if it would result in substantial physical damage to the property of the Community or others. In such instance, resident will be required to transfer to a standard wheelchair in order to access assisted living or skilled nursing. Transfers must be done by the resident's personal service provider, through a home health agency, or through the Community's [Wellness Center] **at the resident's expense**.
- 6.4 Transportation. If the cart does not fit on the Community's transportation vehicle, the resident will need to transfer to a standard wheelchair and have a personal service provider for assistance. The personal service provider's presence will only be allowed if it is necessary for the resident to participate in the activity. Further, participation in an offsite activity will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 6.5 Common Areas. Use of a cart may be restricted or prohibited if the use of the cart creates a direct threat to the health or safety of the resident or others, or if it would result in substantial physical damage to the property of the Community or others. In such instance, resident will be required to transfer to a standard wheelchair in order to access the common areas. Transfers must be done by the resident's personal service provider, through a home health agency, or through the Community's [Wellness Center] **at the resident's expense**.

7. INSURANCE.

The Community recommends, but does not require, that the resident obtain liability insurance to protect the resident against any personal losses resulting from injury to other persons and/or damage to others' property.

8. VIOLATION OF POLICY.

Failure to abide by the Electric Mobility Vehicles (Carts) Policy may result in termination of residency at the Community.

