


# FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL POLICY MANUAL

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|  | <b>SUBJECT</b><br>AUTHORIZED PASSENGERS IN FLORIDA<br>HIGHWAY PATROL VEHICLES | <b>POLICY NUMBER</b><br>17.11    |
|   |   | <b>ISSUE DATE</b><br>02/01/96    |
|   |   | <b>REVISION DATE</b><br>02/13/19 |
|   |   | <b>TOTAL PAGES</b><br>3          |

## 17.11.01 PURPOSE

To establish guidelines which members of this Division are required to follow when transporting passengers in Patrol vehicles.

## 17.11.02 POLICY

It is the policy of the Florida Highway Patrol that all persons transported in Patrol vehicles are authorized and such transportation is in connection with official Department business as outlined in DHSMV Policy #10.02.

## 17.11.03 PROCEDURES

- A. Members will not transport persons in Patrol vehicles unless such transportation is in connection with official business. Blanket permits authorizing persons to ride in patrol vehicles are prohibited. However, members of the legislature, legislative staff, judicial representatives, members of the news media, representatives of the Governor's Office or of Cabinet Offices, members of the Florida Highway Patrol Advisory Council, Florida Highway Patrol interns, and Florida Highway Patrol communications personnel may be approved to ride in a Patrol vehicle for observation purposes. Specific authorization and assignment shall be made only by the Troop Commander or acting Troop Commander. Except for emergency transportation or transportation in conjunction with official Department business, passengers under the age of 18 years are not permitted in Patrol vehicles.
  
- B. Spouses or family members may be authorized to travel in Patrol vehicles when the member is attending an official function on Department business and spouses or family members are included as part of the official function; and when such attendance will enhance the image of the Florida Highway Patrol.
  
- C. Circumstances not requiring approval of higher authority to transport persons in Florida Highway patrol vehicles:
  - 1. When transporting prisoners.

2. When providing search, rescue, and public service.
  3. When necessary in the performance of duty.
  4. Employees of the Department who have an interest in and a legitimate reason for being in a Division vehicle.
  5. Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary members.
- D. Circumstances requiring authority of a supervisor to transport persons in Division vehicles:
1. Relatives of a member on a limited basis.
  2. Employees of the Division who are not normally passengers in Division vehicles, such as, secretaries, duty officers, and maintenance personnel when required to attend a Division function.
  3. Persons who are passengers under provisions in Section "D-1" must sign the Request to Ride as an Observer and Waiver of Liability Agreement (HSMV 61004), available on the FHP SafetyNet Forms page, each time prior to becoming a passenger in a Division vehicle.
  4. Florida Highway Patrol Chaplains as authorized in FHP Policy 24.01.
- E. It is not permissible for a member of the Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary to ride on patrol with a trooper who is an immediate family member. This would include a father, mother, brother, sister, daughter, son or spouse. In hazardous situations, a close family relationship could interfere with objective decision making on the part of the trooper or the auxiliary member.
- F. When assigned to a special detail authorized by the Director, a sergeant or higher may authorize someone to ride in a Patrol vehicle when such action is in keeping with the nature of the detail. (For example, manhunts and natural disasters.)
- G. A lieutenant or higher may authorize the one-time transportation of an individual to and from a Division facility within his/her area of responsibility, if this person is to perform a service to the Patrol. (Example: To pick up a Department of Transportation employee to check and advise on repair of a driveway.)
- H. Any person not covered in Sections 17.11.01 through 17.11.03 "G", who wishes to ride in a Patrol vehicle must comply with the following:
1. An Observer Application form (HSMV 61003), available on the FHP SafetyNet Forms page, to ride in a Florida Highway Patrol vehicle must be completed and submitted to the District Sergeant at least 30 days in advance of the date the person is to ride.

2. Any person who receives approval to ride in a Patrol vehicle may do so only on one occasion for the normal hours of the regular assigned shift.
  3. It is the responsibility of the District Sergeant to personally check all entries on the application. The Sergeant is to make a check of the applicant's background, character and reputation. Any person with a criminal record shall not be approved.
  4. Upon completion of the requirements of Sections "1", "2" and "3", above, the District Sergeant shall prepare and submit a written statement of his/her findings via the District Lieutenant and Captain to the Troop Commander. The last paragraph in this report will clearly define the purpose and benefit to be received by the individual and the Division.
- I. The Troop Commander will approve or disapprove each request.
  - J. If the riding request is approved, it shall be the District Sergeant's responsibility to have the individual sign the Request To Ride as an Observer and Waiver of Liability Agreement.

**NOTE: If the ride-along participant has not received a minimum of Level 1 CJIS Security Awareness Training and/or has not been fingerprinted in accordance with CJIS Security Policy, the Mobile Data Computer (MDC) must be locked any time that participant is to be left alone in the patrol vehicle.**