



Five Questions to Ask That Support Logistical Safety

1. Why is it important for an individual with disabilities to have an ID?

There are many reasons an ID is needed. One reason to have an ID is for travel. Many modes of travel, especially air travel, require a valid government ID. Another reason to have an ID is for medical emergencies. The ID may contain important medical information that emergency responders need to know when treating you - such as allergies, medical conditions, or a medical release signature. An ID like the one described could also be used if someone's disability makes verbal communication difficult. Finally, Virginia is one of a handful of states that allow for designation of Intellectual Disability (ID) or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) on a license. Having this designation helps law enforcement be more aware of an individual's diagnosis and respond better to that person's unique abilities and limitations. You may also include information regarding hearing & speech impairments, need of a mechanical device to operate a vehicle, or insulin dependent diabetes on your license.

2. What are the steps for obtaining an ID?

Anyone who lives in Virginia can apply for a Virginia ID card, even if they do not want to have a driver's license. There is no age requirement; parents can apply on behalf of minor children. To apply you would bring the required documents to your local DMV and complete an application. Here are the documents they require from the individual or their legal guardians:

- One proof of identity and legal presence (like a birth certificate)
- Two proofs that you live in Virginia (like received mail that has your name and address on it)
- One proof of your Social Security number (like a Social Security card)

[Click here](#) to learn more about the application process or find your local DMV.

3. What should be considered before an individual with disabilities begins to drive alone?

Some questions to ask are:

- Do they follow rules?
- Do they appreciate the consequences of their actions and avoid unnecessary risks?
- Do they normally resist peer pressure?
- Do they take responsibilities seriously?

The answers to these questions will help assess whether or not someone fully understands the responsibility that comes with driving and if they have the emotional maturity to take that responsibility on.

Even once someone is mature enough to begin driving, a graduated approach should be taken. The person should start learning in a fully supervised setting, either individually or in a group. Here the primary focus is instruction. From there, the individuals should practice driving with restrictions. This means having only controlled access to the vehicle – such as only during certain times of day, weather conditions, or traffic conditions. They may also have restrictions around who else is in the car or where they are going. Once an individual shows they can be successful in these situations, they are more likely to be ready to drive independently.

4. What tools are available to increase safety when traveling?

There are technological tools that can help an individual stay safe. Google Maps and other navigation programs include the option to share your location with friends or family members. This can be a helpful way to know where the person traveling is at all times. You can also preload places, such as a frequent destination or a home base, so the individual doesn't have to rely on their memory. If they have started driving, an application like the [Road Ready App](#) can track useful information – such as driving time, conditions, and goals.

5. What options are there for getting around town without driving?

A Care Card allows a person to use the Carevan, a door-to-door van service at no cost through 2025. Completing the eligibility paperwork takes about 40 minutes. The approval process takes about three months. Even if you don't plan on your student using this or a similar service as a primary means of transportation, it is a useful back-up tool. Learn more about eligibility by [clicking here](#).

If a person has a Care Card, they can ride the GRTC bus for free! GRTC also offers free travel training to persons needing support learning to ride the bus safely. A Travel Training Instructor will meet with your family, get to know your student, and make a travel training plan with you. Learn more about travel training by [clicking here](#).

Another option besides public transportation is using car/ride sharing services, such as Uber, Lyft, or Uzurv. Uzurv specializes in assisted mobility and provides transportation that better meets the needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and other people who may need more assistance. Visit their site by [clicking here](#).