

## Monroe County Special Needs Registry Evacuation and Sheltering Information

Individuals are eligible to be registered with the Special Needs Registry if they are 60 years of age or older, frail, elderly, medically needy, and/or disabled and are not served in or by a residential facility program. Eligible clients are required to complete and sign the Special Needs Registry Application as well as the HIPAA Disclosure of Information and HIPAA Privacy Act forms before they will be placed on the registry.

You should try and seek help or shelter from friends, neighbors, or family in a hurricane or other disaster. Public shelters should be a last resort for those who have no other choice. If you cannot drive yourself, nor have any family, friends or neighbors who can take you to a shelter, you are encouraged to register for this service.

All registered clients will be contacted when a hurricane is threatening Monroe County and given information on the County's evacuation plan. In a category 1, or 2 storm, clients are transported to a local Special Needs Shelter. In a category 3, 4, or 5 storm, clients are taken to a "staging area" where they board a school bus and are taken to Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. At the time the client is contacted, they must decide if they will be evacuating. There is no time for a 2<sup>nd</sup> call. If evacuating, the client will be given an approximate time they will be picked up. They must have all their supplies and belongings ready to go.

Please remember that space and supplies are limited at shelters. Very few comforts will be available. If you need special foods, you should bring a couple days supply of food that will not spoil. It may be several hours before shelters are fully supplied. Please remember to bring **all prescription medications** and important papers. See "What to Bring to a Shelter" on the reverse side.

If you have any further questions, or would like an application sent to you, please write or call:

**Anna M. Haskins, Special Needs Coordinator**  
**Monroe County Transportation Program**  
**1100 Simonton St. Rm 1-180 Key West, FL 33040**  
**Phone: (305)292-4591**

## What to bring to a shelter Special Needs Clients

### Food:

If you have the need for special foods (Ensure, etc.) you may bring them with you. High energy foods such as peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix, and other snack foods may be a good idea if you get hungry in between meals. If necessary bring special dietary foods--such as diabetic, low salt, liquid diet, baby food and formula. Don't forget a manual can opener.

### Clothing and Bedding:

One complete change of clothing including footwear. A sleeping bag, blanket and pillow. Rain gear and sturdy shoes.

### Personal Items:

Washcloth, small towel, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, sanitary napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, towelettes, etc.

### Medications, First-Aid supplies:

Medications--clearly marked with your name, dosage, type of medication, and prescribing physician. You must be able to take all medications by yourself. Any dressing changes needed.

### Important Papers:

Identification and valuable papers (insurance documents, etc.), Name and address of doctors, Name and address of nearest relative not living in area.

### Pets:

Special Needs clients who pre-register their pet(s) are able to bring their pet(s) with them to shelter providing that Pet-Friendly sheltering is available at the time, they provide the required supplies (including a cage, food, etc.), and make arrangements in advance of their pick-up.

### Miscellaneous:

Bring a cell phone if you have one. It may come in handy. Games, cards, toys, battery powered radios, flashlights (no candles or lanterns), batteries, or other reasonable items you may need are welcome too. Take a bath and eat before you leave home.

**Not Allowed:** alcoholic beverages, or weapons.