

Excerpts from the 2008 Mother Advisor Handbook and the 2009 Grand Officers' Handbook

NEVADA RAINBOW DRIVING POLICY

(June 1998; revised 8/07; 3/2010)

This policy is reviewed annually by the Grand Officers at their Grand Officer Leadership Weekend.

Seat belt use is mandatory for the driver and all passengers. Girls under the age of 12 and/or smaller in stature are encouraged to ride in the back seat in cars with passenger-side air bags. No one will transport more passengers than he/she has seat belts available. The use of seatbelts is required by law and is not negotiable.

Drivers on any designated Rainbow trip or when transporting Rainbow Girls are participants in the **"NO PHONE ZONE"** program.

While driving on any Rainbow event, no driver may text.

While driving, both youth and adult drivers are encouraged to use a blue-tooth or hands-free phone system when phone conversations are absolutely necessary. Viable solution include: driver must find a safe place to stop the car to have a phone conversation, ie grocery store parking lot; utilize a passenger to communicate such important information, i.e., we are stuck in traffic and will be arriving safe but 20 minutes late.

Drivers will utilize a designated passenger in one car to call and converse with the designated passenger in another car in the caravan.

Designated drivers are encouraged to collect all but one cell phone, all iPods and electronics from all passengers and secure them within the car (back seat tote bag, trunk, etc) during the length of the trip – to encourage interaction among the passengers while on a Rainbow road trip, rather than allowing everyone to be "wired" into their own electronic world. The designated cell phone should be with the designated passenger, and is probably most effective if it is the driver's phone which contains the cell numbers of other drivers in the caravan.

ASSEMBLY FUNCTION: An activity or event approved by the Advisory Board or its designee (Mother Advisor) for Assembly attendance/participation to which the girls and adults will travel and attend as an organized group. Appropriate adult chaperoning is required for Assembly functions.

Example: Assembly A was invited to attend Assembly Z's Installation; the Advisory Board of Assembly A approved this as an "assembly function" and adults were organized as drivers and chaperones.

NON-ASSEMBLY RAINBOW ACTIVITY/EVENT: An activity or event sponsored by another Assembly which has not been "endorsed" by the "visiting" assembly's Advisory Board as an Assembly Function.

Example: Assembly A was invited to attend Assembly Z's Installation; the Advisor Board of Assembly A was unable to organize adult drivers and chaperones; this activity now becomes a Non-Assembly Rainbow activity.

WHO CAN DRIVE?

Any time there are sufficient adults (Advisory Board Members and parents) to drive all the girls to a Rainbow Function (identified above), girls are to be passengers in those vehicles. Grand Officers are

encouraged to make their personal schedules accommodate such travel plans so they are not driving independently to "Assembly Functions."

A Rainbow Girl who is a LICENSED, INSURED DRIVER (16-18) may transport other Rainbow Girls to Rainbow Functions:

- Within the geographic area of her Assembly with the **written** permission of the driver's and the passenger's parents/guardians.
Example: Licensed and insured Rainbow Girls from Carson Assembly can transport girls within Carson City and Reno; licensed and insured Rainbow Girls from Boulder Assembly can transport girls within Boulder City and even to Las Vegas, but not to Pahrump. Generally speaking, a geographic area would be within about a 15 mile radius. Advisory Boards are encouraged to delineate the geographic area of their Assembly for this purpose.
- Outside the geographic area of her Assembly if she is at least 18 years old and has **written** permission from both hers and her passenger(s) parents.

Geographic area means the general Reno/Sparks/Fernley/Carson City areas in the north; Las Vegas/Henderson/Boulder City in the south.

A Rainbow Girl who is a licensed, insured driver may transport other Rainbow Girls to non-assembly activities/events only under **written** agreement of both the driver's and the passenger's parents/guardians.

Example: A Grand Officer may take her Trailer to visit another local Assembly - just because they want to visit - provided both sets of parents have given permission.

Whenever several cars from an Assembly are traveling to a special event, i.e., Rainbow Camp or Grand Assembly, they will travel together, each keeping track of who is at the front and back of the caravan. Groups are encouraged to establish specific rendezvous points for refreshment, rest, etc., i.e., the McDonalds in Hawthorne. All cars should leave the rendezvous point together after such breaks.

When traveling, girls and adults assigned to specific cars remain assigned to that car until the end of the trip.

Example: Mary, Jane and Alice are going to Camp in Mrs. Blue's car. They remain "assigned" to Mrs. Blue's car until they return home. Girls shall not rotate through cars during the course of a Rainbow trip - because the potential for "losing" a girl ". . . because we thought she was with someone else. . . ." is too great.

When traveling as a larger group, TWO copies of the girls' and adults' permission slips and emergency numbers should be available - one in the driver's possession, and one in the possession of the Mother Advisor (or Advisory Board designee).

Rainbow trips begin as the group departs the Temple or other meeting place and end when the group returns to the Temple or rendezvous place. Behavior during Rainbow trips should be consistent with the expectation of Rainbow girls and adults at any other function.

Example: Mrs. Service picks Mary, Jane and Alice (with seat belts on, and little Alice in the back seat) at the Temple in Fernley and takes them to Rainbow Camp in Tonopah. The trip begins as they leave the Temple and ends when they return to the Temple and Mary's, Jane's and Alice's parents meet them at the Temple after a great Camp experience. Mary, Jane, Alice and Mrs. Service had a great time because they behaved like Rainbow girls and adults should.

When reimbursement for gas expense is pre-authorized by the Board and the Assembly members, payment is made by the Treasurer, by check, upon presentation of paid gas receipts by the organized drivers at the Rainbow meeting following the trip.

Each girl and adult traveling with the Assembly, along with her current medial release form and a listing of emergency numbers, will give the Mother Advisor (or the designated adult) a sealed envelope, with her name on the outside, containing a list of ALL medications she is currently taking. It is important for the Mother Advisor to have complete information available if a medical emergency arises while the girls are away from home. AT THE END OF THE TRIP the unopened envelopes are returned to each girl. Girls and adults must understand the information contained in the envelope remains unopened and confidential unless a medial emergency exists and it is needed by a treating physician.

Example: Mother Advisor Smith is taking Mary, Jane and Alice to Winnemucca for an Official Visit; Mary, Jane and Alice have their mothers sign their medical releases and prepare a listing of emergency numbers (i.e., doctors' numbers, numbers where the parents can be reached while they are traveling); Mrs. Smith also completes this form and places all these forms in her purse. [In case of an emergency, police officers will look in Mrs. Smith's purse and find what they need to have!] These girls and Mrs. Smith also place individual sealed envelopes containing a listing of all (if any) medications they may be taking. Mrs. Smith attaches these to medical releases and adds them to her purse.

Result: A safe trip is enjoyed by all; the girls are returned home safe and happy to their parents; Mrs. Smith hands each one back her unopened envelope - a level of confidence has been reached by both the girls and the Mother Advisor.

Same story - unfortunate situation. Mother Advisor Smith and these girls head to Winnemucca and have a minor accident which required general observation in an emergency room by the attending physician. Mrs. Smith gives the doctor the medical releases; she has the emergency numbers for each girl readily available and makes the necessary calls home to the parents, assuring them everyone is ok. Mrs. Smith also has the sealed envelopes and provides one to the doctor as this girl may have a minor concussion and he may need to know she takes a particular kind of medication to determine if her reaction is to medication or the bump on her forehead.

Result: A trip which had an unfortunate "bump" in it turned out ok because the needed information was available to the attending physician; the Mother Advisor could easily reach the parents; and trust was maintained as confidential information remained confidential.

Nevada Rainbow's insurance coverage is a "secondary" insurance. In the case of an accident, the driver/passenger insurance is the primary carrier; Rainbow's insurance is activated only after the primary carrier has met its full obligation.

The Nevada Rainbow Driving Policy has been written to provide clear guidelines for the girls and adults throughout our State. If there are areas of this policy that do not work, written suggestions should be sent to the Supreme Officer so the policy can be revised.