Charter Bus Policy

General Description

Policy Summary:
Transporting people is a liability exposure that impacts the safety of students, faculty and staff, as well as the institution’s reputation. Whether chartering buses for athletic, academic or leisure purposes, Trinity is committed to safety.

Purpose:
When planning a trip, you may be focusing on convenience and cost, but safety should always be the highest priority. While the majority of bus operators are responsible and operate safely, there are some that fail to meet safety requirements - putting passengers at risk due to:

- Poorly maintained buses or lack of required safety equipment, increasing the likelihood of breakdowns and crashes.
- Failure to comply with federal safety regulations, such as not using licensed and qualified commercial drivers, or not following the Hours of Service rules that keep fatigue-impaired drivers off the road.
- Failure to hold proper registration, authorizing interstate commercial operations.

Policy Content

Approved Charter Bus Companies

Trinity University departments and recognized organizations may have a need to utilize charter bus services for university-sponsored local trips, out of town trips, or extended multi-day trips. To meet this need, agreements with Trinity Approved Carriers have been developed.

Trinity’s Approved Charter Bus Companies include:

Georgia Coach Lines
Wendy H. Cox
405 Ethan Drive
Fayetteville, GA 30214
Ph: (404) 681-1600 Fax: (404) 681-0222
charter@georgiacoachlines.net

Grayline - Star Shuttle & Charter
Morgan Sanchez, Group Sales
Office: 210-341-6000 ext. 104
PO Box 17967
San Antonio, TX 78217
http://starshuttle.com/
Kerrville Bus Company
Advantages of Using Trinity Approved Carriers

- Risk Management has verified insurance and has current Certificates of Insurance on file.
- Blanket Agreements are on file with these Approved Charter Bus Companies, saving you time by eliminating the contract review/signature process.
- Trinity Approved Charter Bus companies have satisfactory Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Safety Ratings.

Use of Other Non-Approved Charter Bus Companies

If you are unable to utilize a Trinity Approved Charter Bus Company, please follow the instructions
Look Before You Book. Check the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Safety Rating of the Charter Bus Company. If the Charter Bus Company has a FMCSA Safety Rating of Satisfactory; Request a Certificate of Insurance with evidence of $5 million Auto Liability and $1 million Commercial General Liability with Trinity University endorsed as an Additional Insured; and Workers' Compensation Statutory Benefits/$1 million Employer's Liability;
Submit the Contract and Certificate of Insurance to Risk Management for review at least 5 business days prior to a trip.
Know Your Facts: Before You Hire a Motorcoach Company What You Need to Know
Attachments

What You Need To Know Before You Go

Know Your Facts

Motorcoach Companies
- Must be registered with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).
- Must maintain their vehicles and inspect them annually.
- Must have a minimum of $5 million liability insurance coverage.
- Must comply with all other federal and state safety requirements.

Motorcoach Drivers
- Drivers may not drive:
  - More than 10 hours without at least 8 consecutive hours off
  - After having been on duty 15 hours (including driving) without at least 8 consecutive hours off
  - After having been on duty:
    - 60 hours in 7 days, or
    - 70 hours in 8 days
- Without a valid Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) with a Passenger Endorsement and a valid medical certificate on their person.

Your Risks and Exposures—Actual “Worst Case Scenarios”
- Jury awards $132 million settlement in bus crash lawsuit.
- Settlement over Hurricane Rita bus fire brings closure ($80 million).
- Lawsuit targets tour operator in Utah bus crash.
- Chartering parties may be held liable for negligent selection of bus operator.

“...it takes 10 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you’ll do things differently.”
—Warren Buffett

A presentation that further addresses these important safety issues is available from ABA.

Where to Get Help

- American Bus Association
  - Phone: 202-842-9645
  - Web: www.abausa.org
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
  - Phone: 1-800-4SAA-Safety
  - Web: www.fmcsa.dot.gov

Before You Hire a Motorcoach Company

What You Need to Know

Not all motorcoach companies are the same, and price should never be the only consideration when hiring a motorcoach operator to transport your group.
Related Documents

Related Content:
- Look Before You Book
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Safety Rating

Revision Management

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