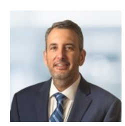
Paratransit Licensing

While interest in paratransit gains popularity, many see the government regulation involved in obtaining a paratransit license from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. Paratransit transportation is when a driver transports an individual who may be unable to drive themselves and makes a reservation to be taken from one place to another place often for a non-emergency medical appointment. State law requires that drivers act safely and have the necessary finances and insurance to protect their passengers. Our attorneys, led by a former executive director of the PUC, are experienced in paratransit licensing and can assist you in obtaining the necessary certifications. They understand the rules and regulations governing this area of the law.

In terms of getting your business started, our attorneys help clients gather the information needed, file the application, understand the expectations of the law and assist in providing information to the Commission on a timely basis. Once approved, we help clients kickstart their businesses with the leading transportation brokers in the private and public markets. We also assist with obtaining certificates of public convenience in matters including:

- Paratransit Carrier (Non-emergency filing applications)

Key Contacts



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Related Services and Industries

Trucking and Commercial Transportation
Regulatory and Government Affairs

- Household Goods in Use Carrier/Mover/Moving Company
- Property Carrier/Trucking Company
- Appeals/Denial of Service Applications/Petitions for Reconsideration
- Protests
- Post-certificate compliance
- Office of Developmental Programs – DHS Applications

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get clients for my paratransit business?

Paratransit companies may obtain business through several sources, including private-pay clients, contracts with medical providers and other businesses, and relationships with statewide transportation brokers. Depending on the services offered and the populations served, companies may also be able to participate in government waiver programs that provide opportunities for recurring transportation services.

What do I need to know about the insurance requirements?

Pennsylvania paratransit companies must obtain the minimum insurance coverage required by the PUC and file evidence of that coverage using Form E. This filing must be completed within the applicable timeframe to obtain a certificate of public convenience. Companies seeking to work with transportation brokers should also be aware that brokers may require liability coverage above the PUC's minimum requirements.

I want to start small and build up my business. Does this plan work?

Yes, and we encourage this. Typically, we file for limited territories based upon counties at first and suggest one limits their vehicle purchases. As the business grows, the company can go back into the PUC at a later date and add additional service territory as well as additional vehicles.

What if I find someone who is looking to sell an existing non-emergency medical transportation company, may I buy it?

Yes, but the transaction requires prior approval from the PUC. The buyer must demonstrate the technical and financial fitness necessary to operate the company and provide the authorized transportation services. Because regulatory approval can affect the structure and timing of the transaction, prospective buyers and sellers should consider the PUC process early in their planning.

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