



## SOARING FOR SAFETY

**PRE-FLIGHT INFORMATION** 



WHERE WE FLY

\*WE CAN ALSO HELP LOCATE FLIGHTS
WITH PARTNER AGENCIES OUTSIDE OUR
REGIONAL SERVICE AREA.



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# SOARING FOR SAFETY PROGRAM PRE-FLIGHT INFORMATION

Soaring For Safety is a joint project between Angel Flight West and the ACFLS Charitable Foundation that helps integrate this incredible transportation resource into the family law community giving attorneys, mediators and other family law professionals the ability to utilize the service for those clients dealing with Domestic Violence at a level that requires them to be removed from their local area for safety of themselves or their children.

As safety and adherence to the law is of utmost importance, we have developed a set of guidelines and processes that must be adhered to in order to ensure a safe and legal flight operation, and to heighten the safety of both pilot and passenger(s). The goal is to complete each mission quickly and seamlessly while reducing the risk to all on board an Angel Flight.



### About Angel Flight

Flying towards hope on the wings of an angel.

There's an angel in the cockpit.

The ability to travel easily across the state or country is something that most of us take for granted. But for those whose lives are in turmoil, the financial, physical, and emotional burdens can make ordinary trips extraordinarily difficult. That's when they turn to Angel Flight West.

With a network of 1,800+ volunteer pilots, they fly their own planes and pay for all costs out of their own pockets, in order to help people make these critical journeys.

The Angel Flight West headquarters is in Santa Monica, California, which is where the coordination team manages the complex process of matching pilots with passengers, coordinating the flights, spreading the word among referral agencies, and continually recruiting new volunteers.

What they do is much like running a small airline, further complicated by the extra care and expense of working with passengers who need help, their families, as well as third party personnel.

The beneficiaries of the flight – the passengers and their families – pay nothing at all, ever.

Angel Flight pilots love to fly. And they want to help.

So, who are these pilots, and why do they give so much of their time and money to help strangers? They're engineers, scientists, and teachers. Doctors, lawyers, and corporate executives. Retired commercial pilots and young entrepreneurs. But as different as these men and women might be, they all have two things in common: the love of flying, and the desire to touch people's lives.

When Angel Flight West began in 1983, their mission was so unique that they sometimes had trouble convincing providers that they would and could do what they promised: fly people in our own planes for free. It almost seemed too good to be true.

Today, no one questions their capabilities or their commitment. Not only have they earned the gratitude of the passengers, they have earned the trust and respect of a long list of organizations – including children's protective services, domestic violence shelters, and special camps for children with medical needs.

### Requirements for Flight

#### **QUALIFICATIONS FOR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELOCATION FLIGHT**

To qualify for an Angel Flight West mission, the passenger(s) must:

- Be experiencing and/or a survivor of domestic violence.
- ☑ If traveling within the state borders, have proper authorization to leave the county. If there are no children involved and the person is not on parole or probation, they do not need any authorization or court orders to travel. If there are children involved and no court action is pending, the traveling parent is required to file a "good cause report" with the local district attorney's Child Abduction Unit before leaving and follow their protocol. If there is a court case pending, they must have a court order allowing the children to leave the county. If there is no such order, then the "good cause report" shall be filed with the local district attorney's Child Abduction Unit.
- ☑ If leaving the state, be in possession of a court order, including stipulations for children as required. A copy of a signed court order must be in the aircraft at all times and available upon demand of law enforcement. If there are no children involved, no court orders are required for the traveling party UNLESS they are on parole or probation. When children are involved, the court order must be reviewed to ensure it was filed more than 30 days from the time of the flight or that the traveling party has a copy of the signed Appellate Court order allowing the travel in less than 30 days. If a "good cause report" was filed with the local district attorney's Child Abduction Unit, that information must also be available. Any documentation required shall be the sole responsibility of the passenger and/or attorney.
- ☑ Have a medical release for anyone with a known medical condition, or who has suffered recent injuries or is pregnant. AFW can't transport pregnant women after 20 weeks or at any stage of a high-risk pregnancy.
- Fill out and sign AFW waiver.
- Have a proper and safe escort to the departing airport/aircraft and someone to receive and transport passenger(s) at the arrival airport.
- ☑ If flying privately, be able to fly in a small unpressurized aircraft.
- ☑ If there is a Domestic Violence Protection Act Restraining Order in effect in addition to any other order, a file endorsed copy of that order must be in the aircraft at all times and available upon demand of law enforcement. A certified copy is preferred, but not required.

### How To Schedule Flight

Currently, flights must be scheduled through an attorney or through one of the wonderful organizations available to help those who are in need of legal assistance but who don't have the resources to pay for an attorney.

Attorneys can connect with the Angel Flight West Mission Operations Team directly at:

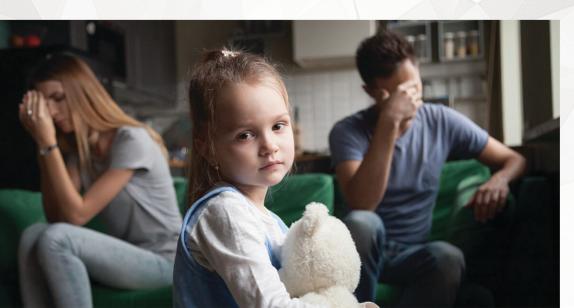
(888) 4AN-ANGEL (or 888-426-2643) to start the process.

Our project leads have worked tirelessly with AFW to ensure that their operations team verifies all the information and flights are scheduled within the legal confines of the situation and do not breach the obligations of the ATROs or other legal requirements.



### Attorney Checklist

- ☑ Confirm the need for relocation due to safety concerns that stem from domestic abuse/violence or other act that may jeopardize the safety of the client and/or children.
- Ensure the option to relocate is in adherence with the law, including Automatic Temporary Restraining Orders (ATROs) or the appropriate court order has been issued and signed by a judge allowing movement out of county or state.
- ☑ Call AFW and advise on the need for the flight. Give mission coordinator all pertinent information about the situation and parties in need of the flight.
- ☑ Have your client sign all waivers and allow AFW staff to schedule relocation flight.
- AFW requires assurance from the requester (to the best of their ability) that the victim no longer has any contact with the abuser and also that the victim is not going to inform the abuser of his/her departure time/place, for his/her safety and that of the pilots.
- Once flight is scheduled, organize safe transportation to the designated departure airport and from the designated arrival airport to a safe location. The safety of both the client and the pilot(s) must be a priority.
- On the day of the flight, attorney must communicate directly with the pilot to ensure aircraft location is confirmed, as well as ramp access instructions.
- Once flight is underway, the attorney must be available for in-flight issues as well as confirmation that safe transportation is available at the receiving airport at the scheduled arrival time.



- ☑ Due to weather and wind changes, we advise that ground transportation at the arrival airport be on site 15-20 minutes early in case of modified arrival time.
- ☑ Upon arrival and release of the client to ground transportation, and if prearranged with pilot, the pilot may be able to confirm that the flight has terminated. Any arrival confirmation shall be considered voluntary due to the workload involved in safe flight operations.

#### Additional Information

- Passengers are not permitted to carry weapons of any kind.
- Scheduling may take up to 7 days but urgent matters will be handled as priority.
- If there are more than two children accompanying the survivor, we may need to employ two aircraft. If necessary and reasonable, they need to be willing to travel separately.
- Due to weather and unforeseen circumstances, AFW can't guarantee a flight. Passengers will need a back-up plan, including -- on multi-leg flights -arrangements with another facility in the case of an overnight layover.
- When a flight is requested, the victim's name is entered into the AFW database. This is a secure, password protected system that only AFW staff can access. Volunteer pilots reviewing the "Missions Available" list see only a first name and the "domestic violence survivor" identifier.

