

## **Monroe County Special Needs Registry Sheltering Information**

Individuals are eligible to be registered with the Special Need Registry if during periods of evacuation or emergency, require sheltering assistance, due to physical impairment, mental impairment, cognitive impairment, or sensory disabilities, and are not served in or by a residential facility program. Eligible clients are required to complete and sign this application and read the HIPAA Disclosure of Information and HIPAA Privacy Act forms before they are placed on the registry.

You should first try and seek help or shelter from friends, neighbors, or family in the event of 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 an evacuation order is expected for Monroe County and given specific information and instructions. Clients must decide if they will be evacuating at this time. There is no time for a second call. Clients who choose to evacuate to the Special Needs Shelter will be instructed to report to a nearby staging area where they will board a chartered bus for transportation to Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, Monroe County's designated out-of-county shelter. If clients do not have the ability to get to the staging area on their own transportation may be provided at no cost through Monroe County Transportation. Clients 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 supply of this special food that will not spoil. It may be several hours before arrival at the shelter – it is suggested that you bring along a snack to hold you over. Please remember to bring **all prescription medications**, as well as a list of these medications and other important papers/documents, etc. 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:

**Special Needs Coordinator  
Special Needs Registry  
Monroe County Emergency Management  
490 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Ocean, Suite 150  
Marathon, FL 33050  
Phone: (305) 289-6043**

## **What to Bring to a Shelter Special Needs Clients**

### **Food:**

If you have the need for special foods (Ensure, etc.) you must 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. Bring enough for 7 days.

### **Clothing and Bedding:**

At least one complete change of clothing including footwear. Plan enough for 7 days. 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. Please bring diapers if necessary. Bring a 7 days' supply.

### **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 and address any needed wound dressing changes. Please provide a **30-days'** supply of all medications and dressings.

### **Important Papers:**

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

### **Pets:**

Pet-Friendly sheltering is available for Special Needs Clients. You must provide a 14-day supply of food, and 30 days' worth of pet medications, a crate or cage. Monroe County will provide separate transportation for all pre-registered pets.

### **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. (Firearms are prohibited in shelters) \*\* Smoking is not permitted on any of the premises where we will be sheltering\*\* including the outdoors of the facility. Each location is now designated as a "non-smoking" area. These areas include: FIU-any area of the University and any Monroe County School Board Property.