

The Duties Placed on Drivers of Designated Vehicles

Section 165 of the Act outlines the duties placed on drivers of designated wheelchair accessible hackney carriage and private hire vehicles:

The duties are:

- to carry the passenger while in the wheelchair;
- not to make any additional charge for doing so;
- if the passenger chooses to sit in a passenger seat to carry the wheelchair;
- to take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the passenger is carried in safety and reasonable comfort; and
- to give the passenger such mobility assistance as is reasonably required.

The Act then goes on to define mobility assistance as assistance:

- to enable the passenger to get into or out of the vehicle;
- if the passenger wishes to remain in the wheelchair, to enable the passenger to get into and out of the vehicle while in the wheelchair;
- to load the passenger's luggage into or out of the vehicle;
- if the passenger does not wish to remain in the wheelchair, to load the wheelchair into or out of the vehicle.

It is an offence for the driver (unless exempt) of a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle which is on the licensing authority's designated list to fail to comply with these duties.