

# Living Safely

## with disabilities and special health needs

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### Parking Lot Safety for Drivers

As you drive through a parking lot, look around for vehicles.

When driving through a parking lot, remain in one lane. Do not drive across empty parking spots in the lot.

Pay attention and obey signs posted in the parking lot. These can include “Do Not Enter,” “No Parking,” “One Way,” and “Crosswalk” signs. It is important to obey the speed limit posted in the parking lot. If you are unable to find the sign, it is safest to drive 10 miles per hour.

When pulling in or out of a parking spot, be aware of other vehicles, people, shopping carts, and items that may be on the ground. In parking lots, sometimes, children, vehicles, or objects can move suddenly and unexpectedly. Beware of other moving vehicles as well as vehicles with their engines running or brake lights on. These vehicles may be preparing to back up.

When parking, try to park in a spot that has lights around it. At night, well-lit parking spaces are usually safer than others.

If a parking space appears to be a tight fit, and you are not sure your vehicle will be able to fit into the space, look for another parking spot that has more room.

Avoid leaving important or valuable items in a vehicle parked in a parking lot. After shopping, place those items out of sight such as in a trunk or under a blanket.

After leaving your vehicle, make sure everyone is out and not left in the car or truck. Lock the door once everyone is out.

When you park your car in a lot, try to find parking spots close to where you are going. It is safest to avoid places that seem isolated or out of the way.

It is important to remember where you park your vehicle in a parking lot. Write down or take a picture of the area once you park. In many parking lots and parking garages there are letters, numbers, symbols, colors, or landmarks, which identify a parking area or level of a parking garage. If possible, try to observe these as a reminder of the location of your parking space.

When moving through a parking lot to get to your vehicle, have your keys ready before you get to the car. This helps to prepare you to get into your vehicle quickly in case of an emergency.

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We value the expertise of our partners in safety who have demonstrated their commitment to inclusive healthy communities.

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