

connect



# Conduct Policy

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# Introduction

The Cache Valley Transit District, dba “Connect Transit” henceforth referred to as “Connect,” is dedicated to providing quality public transit services to all members of the community and visitors regardless of age, sex, race or national origin. Connect Transit is also committed to providing a pleasant and safe atmosphere for all of its patrons, and expects that all of its patrons will abide by generally-accepted social norms of behavior. This policy applies to all passengers and employees of Connect Transit. This policy is instituted to safeguard the security, safety, and well-being of all individuals utilizing Connect services and facilities.

## Definitions

**Connect property:** structures, vehicles, bus stops or public or private right-of-way used primarily by the Connect for public transit operations.

**Minor:** a person who is 17 years of age or younger.

**Terminal:** bus stop, transit center, or bus garage.

**He/His:** The words “he” and “his” are used throughout this Policy without regard to the actual gender of the person.

## Prohibited Conduct

1. Youth under the age of 10 are not permitted to ride Connect services without being accompanied by an individual 10 years of age or older.
2. Alcohol and Tobacco. No person shall possess an open container of alcoholic beverage on a transit vehicle or within a transit facility. No person shall ingest intoxicating liquor, or smoke tobacco or other products in or upon any transit vehicle. Smoking tobacco on transit facilities are only allowed in designated areas. Any person reasonably believed to be unlawfully under the influence of alcohol may be refused admittance to any transit facility or transit vehicle.
3. No person shall bring or carry on Connect property any animal other than a service animal or a K-9 public safety officer. Authorized representatives may

- give permission for a non-service animal to be brought in or on Connect property as long as such animal remains in an enclosed carry-on, does not obstruct the free movement of passengers within any transit vehicle or transit facility, and does not create a nuisance to the operator or passengers.
4. No person shall fail to vacate seats reserved on a transit vehicle for a senior, or person with a disability, when requested to do so by a Connect representative. If all such seats are held by senior or person with a disability, the representative may designate additional seating as reserved.
  5. No person shall place their feet on the seats of any Connect property.
  6. No person shall falsely hold themselves out to be an employee or a transit public safety officer.
  7. No property, rubbish, trash, or debris may be discarded, deposited, or abandoned in or upon a transit vehicle or facility other than in a proper trash receptacle provided for that purpose.
  8. The District's facilities and buses are to be used for transportation and not for loitering. No person shall loiter in or about a transit facility in a manner and under circumstances manifesting the purpose to engage in acts of misconduct including, but not limited to, exhibitionism, solicitation, malicious mischief, or acts of indecent exposure. Persons loitering will be asked to leave. Failure to comply may result in suspension of riding privileges and/or being trespassed from the property.
  9. No person shall bring or carry aboard a transit vehicle any package or article of a size that will block any aisle or stairway on the vehicle.
  10. No unauthorized person shall place, permit or cause to be placed any notice or advertisement upon any transit vehicle or transit facility.
  11. No person shall deface, destroy, litter on, or otherwise misuse any transit facility.

12. No person furnished transportation on the Connect system bus shall be permitted to distribute any form of literature if such distribution causes a nuisance, disagreement or discomfort for the other passengers on the bus. Distribution of literature shall be permitted if such distribution is done in a safe, polite and non-offensive manner. A person distributing literature shall cease to do so upon the request of the bus driver or other authorized Connect employee.
13. All persons on Connect property are required to wear clothing that prevents lewdness as defined by Utah's criminal code Section 76-9-702. Foot coverings are also required.
14. No person shall be permitted to engage in conversations that are unwelcome or if a person has requested the conversation to end. If an authorized Connect employee requests the person to cease conversations with others because a complaint has been filed, then that person will cease the conversation.
15. No person shall be allowed to create a public nuisance as defined by Utah's Criminal Code, Section 76-10-801, 76-10-803 and 78-38-9. If such a nuisance is caused, the person will be asked to stop the behavior that is causing the nuisance. If the behavior is not stopped, then the person will be asked to leave the premise.
16. No person shall threaten to breach or breach the peace on any transit vehicle or facility.
17. No person may create a hazardous or offensive condition upon any vehicle or facility including:
  - A: Brandishing or discharging a firearm
  - B: Threatening with or assaulting any person with any weapon;
  - C: Threatening with, or igniting any flammable substance;
  - D: Spitting, defecating, urinating or discarding any offensive substance in or upon a transit vehicle, facility, or any person.

- E: Initiating or circulating a report, knowing it to be false, concerning an alleged or impending fire, explosion, bomb, crime, catastrophe or other emergency;
  - F: Activating the “emergency stop” device of a transit vehicle in the absence of an emergency;
  - G: Subjecting any other person to offensive physical contact, extortion, harassment intimidation;
  - H: Engaging in lewd or obscene behavior. as defined by Utah’s Criminal Code, Section 76-9-702.
18. No person shall cause public inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm within any transit vehicle or facility by;
- A: Engaging in fighting, violent, or threatening behavior;
  - B: Making excessive and unnecessary noise;
  - C: Using abusive, obscene, profane, or vulgar language, or make obscene gestures;
  - D: Interfering with the duties of any operator, public safety officer, or authorized representative.
19. No person shall fail to obey a reasonable request or lawful directive of an operator, Connect representative, public safety officer, or other person in charge or control of a transit vehicle or facility.
20. No person shall extend any portion of his body through any door or window of a transit vehicle while it is in motion.
21. No person shall hang onto or attach himself to an exterior part of a transit vehicle.
22. No person shall park a private vehicle on transit facility, boarding zone, or safety zone.

23. No person shall ride a skateboard, roller skates, or roller blades upon any transit vehicle or facility.
24. No person shall seize or exercise control, by force or violence, of any transit vehicle or facility.
25. No person shall be permitted on Connect property that has a contagious or infectious disease.
26. No passenger may refuse to leave a Connect bus, terminal or shelter after having been ordered to do so by the operator or other designated agent of Connect. In the event that a person has been ordered to leave a Connect bus or Connect property by a designated agent of Connect, he will not be allowed on Connect property until such time that his riding privileges are formally restored. If he is found to be present on Connect property before his riding privileges are formally restored, Connect will summon the Police to have him arrested for trespassing.
27. In order for a person's riding privileges to be restored, he must personally meet with the General Manager or his designated representative; if a minor, his parent or designated guardian must be present. At this meeting, a determination will be made as to the validity of the purported conduct upon which access to Connect service or property was suspended.
28. If a determination is made by the General Manager or his designated representative that the behavior was indeed inappropriate, the person's riding privileges may be suspended for a period of time based on the severity and/or frequency of the offense and/or offenses. If the General Manager or designee determines that extenuating circumstances led to the revocation of the person's riding privileges, his riding privileges will be immediately restored.
29. If a person's riding privileges are suspended, and the person wishes to regain the riding privileges, the person will be required to sign a "contract" (see Attachment A) indicating:

- a. understanding that the behavior cited was inappropriate;
  - b. understanding of the ordinances and policies governing behavior; and
  - c. understanding that similar prohibited conduct will lead to further sanctions.
30. If the General Manager or designee determines that a person's riding privileges are indeed suspended, the person may not have access to Connect service or property for a period of time. The person will be notified of the amount of time riding privileges are suspended.
- The suspension may be in addition to those fines, actions, or sanctions applied through the civil or criminal ordinance/statutes of the State of Utah, or the Federal government.
31. In the event that a person causes intentional damage to Connect property, police will be summoned to arrest the offender and criminal charges filed in accordance with established local, State and Federal statutes. In addition, restitution for all costs will be sought from the offender (or parents/guardians in the case of a minor). Until such time that full restitution is paid, the person's riding privileges may be suspended.
32. In the event that an article is thrown at or from Connect property, police may be summoned to arrest the offender and criminal charges filed in accordance with established local, State and Federal statutes.
33. Compliance with Legal Standards and Utah Criminal Codes: No person shall engage in any activity on Connect property, within Connect vehicles, or at Connect facilities that is deemed illegal under local, state, or federal laws, or that constitutes a violation of the Utah Criminal Code(s). Connect Transit retains the authority to suspend or revoke the riding privileges of individuals found in violation of these legal standards, at its sole discretion. Such determinations will be made following an investigation. The process for reinstating suspended or revoked privileges due to engagement in illegal activities or violations of the Utah Criminal Codes shall follow the guidelines



outlined within this policy, with considerations given to the severity of the offense and any corresponding legal actions, along with any past conduct.

## Administrative Appeals Process

Any person who desires to appeal their suspension of riding privileges must file a written appeal within 15 days of the written notification of suspension of riding privileges. The appeal shall be addressed to the General Manager and may be delivered via email, mail or in-person. The appeal must contain the name of the suspended passenger; the date of the suspension and information related to the reason for the appeal.

Connect will provide an opportunity to be heard and to present information and arguments to an Appeals Committee within 30 days of receipt of the appeal. The Appeals Committee is comprised of:

1. The General Manager
2. The Administration Director

Written notification of the decision and reasons for the decision will be forwarded to the applicant by the Appeals Committee via Registered Mail or email as indicated by the person who submitted the appeal.

Connect will not allow the individual to use Connect's service pending the determination on appeal. However, if Connect has not decided within 30 days of the completion of the appeal process, Connect will allow the individual to use Connect's service from that time until a decision on the appeal is issued.

# Attachment A



## AGREEMENT

### FOR REINSTATEMENT OF TRANSIT RIDE PRIVILEGES

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree, in return for my privileges to ride Connect Transit, to abide by the rules, regulations and policies of Connect Transit in accordance with Connect Transit Policy Conduct Ordinance and Utah State Law. These sources outline a variety of conducts that are prohibited on transit vehicles and transit property. I have received a copy of Connect's Conduct Policy.

I understand that the bus driver and any other Connect Transit official have the authority to ask me to leave the bus and/or transit property if, by my conduct, I disturb other passengers and/or interfere with the safe operations of the transit service.

I understand that if I refuse to leave, the police will be summoned to eject me, and that appropriate charges may be leveled against me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Citizen's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian (if needed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Operations Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date