

## Special Needs Shelter Information

This is a shelter of last resort for those people that need more medical supervision than a general Red Cross shelter can provide and have special medical needs, but do not require hospitalization.

Should you have no other place to go, you must pre-register with the Department of Public Safety. Find out now if you qualify before an emergency impacts our community. The shelter does not take reservations, so plan to arrive early once it has been determined that the shelter will be opened for a particular emergency situation. The registration form is required to be completed and returned to:

**Muscogee County**  
**Contact 211**  
**Attn: Donna Cassell**  
**P.O. Box 5414**  
**Columbus, Georgia 31906**  
**(706)327- 0199 ext 101**  
**(706)322-2877 Fax**

Once received, the form will be forwarded to the Health Department where the applications will be screened for eligibility. You will be notified by mail if you qualify for admittance into the special needs shelter or not, and if there may be additional information required for individual determinations, a Health Department nurse will contact you directly. Please update your information with us each year.

**At the time of triage, needs will be assessed and shelter requirements identified.**

- If you are a home healthcare company client, find out what the home healthcare company disaster plans are to continue providing services to you so you can plan your actions appropriately.
- Licensed healthcare facilities (nursing homes, adult living facilities, etc.) are required to manage their own facilities and have plans for the safety and well being of their clients and staff. Clients are not allowed to be dropped off at the Special Needs Shelter.
- Transportation to and from the Special Needs shelter only, can be coordinated through The Muscogee County School District should you have no other transportation options. You may call The Muscogee County School District at 706-748-2880.
- **Being disabled will not necessarily qualify you for the Special Needs Shelter.**
- The Special Needs Shelter will admit mental health clients as necessary. Each mental health client will be required to have a caregiver 24 hours a day for as long as the client remains in the shelter or that shelter operations remain open. There will be no or minimally trained mental health professionals available.

- The Special Needs Shelter will admit service animals only. No other animals and pets will be allowed.
- The Muscogee County Special Needs Shelter is located:  
**TBA in Muscogee County--**

**What you must bring to a special needs shelter:**

- **Each client MUST have one caregiver.**
- A full supply of ALL required medications for the special needs client that will last for a minimum of two weeks. (The shelter does not and will not provide medications).
- All medical equipment and supplies (oxygen tanks, etc.) required to sustain the special needs client for a minimum of two weeks.
- Any personal supplies (adult diapers, grooming supplies, etc.) to sustain the special needs client for a minimum of two weeks.
- Any special diet needs to sustain the special needs client for two weeks. Food provided will be minimal, unable to meet special dietary needs, and may be hot or cold, and the same food item for several days in a row. This is a shelter, not a hotel or hospital. Services will be basic life sustaining services.