

Sample Letter of Medical Necessity for Columbia Spirit APS Car Seat

Patient: Jane Doe

DOB: 7/2/2001

Patient weight: 76 lbs.

Patient height: 56 ½"

Item Requested: Columbia Medical Spirit APS 2400 Car Seat

To Whom It May Concern:

Jane is a 9 year old girl with athetoid cerebral palsy, developmental delay and seizure disorder, with corresponding variable tone, fair-poor sitting balance, and musculoskeletal contractures. Her movements are characterized by uncontrolled, slow and writhing motions. She requires close supervision to moderate assistance to perform the simple task of static sitting on the edge of a mat table. Jane spends most of her sitting time in a wheelchair with the support of a seating system with postural supports. Her wheelchair does not have a transit option that has been tested for crashworthiness to be used as a seat in a motor vehicle and her family does not have an accessible van for transporting a wheelchair to be used as a seat. Therefore Jane must be transported to medical appointments and her community activities seated on the vehicle seat.

Louisiana law states:

"Every resident of this state who transports a child or children under the age of thirteen years in a motor vehicle which is equipped with safety belts at the time of manufacture or assembly, or is currently equipped with safety belts, shall have the child properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in an age or size appropriate passenger restraint system which meets the applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards in effect."

Because of Jane's poor dynamic sitting balance, an internal harness, versus the vehicle lap-shoulder belt, is medically necessary to safely restrain and protect her and her fellow passengers during vehicle transport. She needs the benefit of recline and postural support to maintain a safe seated position during travel.

Jane is currently being transported in an outdated forward facing car seat in which she exceeds the upper weight limit by 36 lbs. Other commercially available forward facing seats have been researched in depth unsuccessfully in efforts to find one with an internal harness restraint that can support Jane's weight of 76 pounds.

The Columbia Medical Spirit APS car seat provides a 5 point harness that supports the weight of a child up to 130 pounds so it will support future growth. It has the ability to recline and has the option of lateral trunk supports that will assist Jan to maintain sitting in order to properly access the protection of the car seat's 5 point harness occupant restraint.