

## Pilot Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What is *CAIR Flight*?**

**A.** CAIR Flight is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) qualified charitable organization.

The mission of CAIR Flight is to facilitate access to health care by coordinating free air transportation aboard private aircraft. CAIR Flight links volunteer pilots with the people who need them most.

CAIR Flight is an opportunity to combine your love of flying with volunteer community service. Your participation will benefit people whose medical problems have left them without the funds to reach diagnostic or treatment facilities.

### **Q. Who does *CAIR Flight* transport?**

**A.** CAIR Flight offers transportation to people whose medical problems make it necessary for them to travel for diagnosis or repeated treatment. CAIR Flight also flies people whose condition or location makes it difficult or impossible for them to use other means of transportation. We also help those who lack the financial resources for medical transportation. CAIR Flight missions typically do not exceed 600 miles.

Examples of CAIR Flight missions include the following:

- transporting cancer patients for chemotherapy surgery or other treatment
- transporting children with life-threatening illnesses for specialized diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up
- transporting people with kidney problems to obtain dialysis or kidney transplants
- transporting patients with heart problems for specialized diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up
- transporting children to and from "special needs camps" such as camps for burn survivors, children with renal disease, or children with cancer or leukemia

CAIR Flight also responds to many other compelling human needs for which free air transportation would be of value.

Adult patients flown by CAIR Flight must be ambulatory, children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and all patients must be medically stable and non-contagious. They must be able to get in and out of the aircraft on their own (or with limited assistance), sit up for the duration of the flight, and not require medical treatment during the flight. We are not an air ambulance service.

Patients often have a friend or family member accompany them.

### **Q. Where do the calls come from?**

**A.** Most requests for CAIR Flight missions come directly from a patient or patient family member. Many times they have been referred by a social worker or discharge planner at a hospital or health care agency. We also deal directly with healthcare professionals. Other requests come from charitable organizations and societies such as: the American Cancer

Society, The American Red Cross, Moffitt Cancer Center, and many other hospitals, clinics, and foundations. We receive referrals from the Air Care Alliance, an umbrella public benefit organization to which CAIR Flight belongs.

By using the expertise of these agencies and their personnel, we determine that a person meets our medical and/or financial-need criteria and thus justifies the pilot's donation of time and flying expenses.

**Q. What kind of aircraft do CAIR Flight pilots use?**

**A.** Most of CAIR Flight pilots' aircraft are single or twin-engine, propeller-driven aircraft, jet aircraft are also welcome and ideal for the longer distance missions.

The majority of our missions are flown in single-engine, four to six-seat aircraft. Most mission requests that we receive are well within the capability of such aircraft. You do not need either a large or a fast airplane to be of assistance to most people who seek CAIR Flight's help.

**Q. What are the pilot requirements?**

**A.** An instrument rating is necessary to fly P.I.C. on all CAIR Flight missions. The minimum number of hours P.I.C. for pilot participation is 250 logged time. Pilot documentation such as license, medical, insurance, and current bi-annual reviews will also be needed.

**Q. What is my liability as a CAIR Flight pilot?**

**A.** Flights you make for CAIR Flight have the same status as any flight made with passengers by a private pilot under Part 91 of the Federal Aviation Regulations. You have no greater liability when flying a passenger for a CAIR Flight mission than when flying a friend or neighbor. Pilots are required to have liability insurance but do not have to name CAIR Flight as an additional insured.

**Q. Who are the members of CAIR Flight?**

**A.** The members of CAIR Flight are private pilots (aircraft owners and renters) and a dedicated team of ground support volunteers and board members.

**Q. I love to fly. How can I help?**

**A.** CAIR Flight uses our network of volunteer pilots to provide free transportation via private aircraft to and from medical facilities. Our pilots donate their time, aircraft and fuel to help those whose medical problems have left them without the funds to reach places where they can get needed diagnosis or treatment.

CAIR Flight is a non-profit organization. This allows for flight expenses to become tax-deductible. (Consult your tax advisor for details.) So, if you are tired of punching holes in the sky, flying in circles, or going for a hundred dollar hamburger, let us show you how to put your aviation skills and talents to wonderful use! In order to keep up with the tremendous increase in mission requests, we must constantly increase our pilot member base. Please complete a pilot application and join our team!