



The fraudulent use of disability license plates and parking placards is a matter I take very seriously. Medical professionals play an integral role in preventing the abuse of parking privileges for persons with disabilities by ensuring

that a patient is qualified before approving him or her for disability plates or a parking placard.

With assistance from the Rush University Medical Center Americans with Disabilities Act Task Force in Chicago, my office developed this brochure to help medical professionals better understand the program and to determine whether a person meets the requirements to obtain special parking privileges. Included is information on program eligibility and the application process, as well as guidelines for the use of disability parking spaces and penalties for the misuse and abuse of disability plates and parking placards.

The Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities is vital to many Illinois residents with disabilities to help them maintain their independence and stay active. By working with medical professionals, disability organizations and law enforcement, we can ensure that those who qualify for special parking privileges have the access they deserve.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State

The fraudulent use of disability license plates and parking placards is a serious problem.

Medical professionals are part of the solution!

For more information or to obtain an application for the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities:

**Office of the Secretary of State
Persons with Disabilities
License Plates/Placard Unit
501 S. Second St., Rm. 541
Springfield, IL 62756
217-782-2709
800-252-2904 (TTY)**

WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM

JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE

Printed on recycled paper.

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois. December 2011-60M-VSD 688.1

Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities

A Guide for Medical Professionals



Jesse White
Secretary of State

PARKING PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

A GUIDE FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Program Eligibility

A person with a disability or impairment is not automatically eligible for disability plates or a parking placard. When considering a patient's eligibility for disability plates or a parking placard, a licensed physician must certify that the applicant has one of the following six specific medical conditions that severely impairs his or her ability to walk: ("Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest" is no longer a qualifying disability, unless it is related to one of these conditions.)

- Cannot walk without the assistance of another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistive device.
- Be restricted by lung disease to such a degree that forced (respiratory) expiratory volume (FEV) in 1 second, when measured by spirometry, is less than 1 liter.
- Must use portable oxygen.
- Have Class III or Class IV cardiac condition according to standards set by the American Heart Association.
- Be severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition.
- Has permanently lost the use of or is missing a hand or arm.

Application/Certification

A licensed physician must complete Side A of the Persons with Disabilities Certification for Plates or Parking Placard, certifying that the patient meets one of the above qualifying medical conditions. The physician also must:

- Specify the appropriate length of the disability — either permanent or temporary. If temporary, the physician must state the duration of the disability, which may not be more than six months.
- Sign the application and include his or her physician's license number.
- Include the physician's name, address and telephone number.

Certification forms are available at Secretary of State Driver Services facilities, at www.cyberdriveillinois.com, or by contacting: Secretary of State, Persons with Disabilities License Plates/Placard Unit, 501 S. Second St., Rm. 541, Springfield, IL 62756, 800-252-2904.

Physicians who knowingly misuse the application process or who make false statements to help someone obtain disability plates or a parking placard may be fined up to \$1,000.

Parking Placards

A parking placard may only be used in a vehicle in which the authorized holder of the placard is driving or is a passenger. Three types of parking placards are available from the Secretary of State's office:

- **Permanent Placards** are issued to persons with permanent disabilities and expire on the last day of the month of the holder's birth month in 2014.
- **Temporary Placards** are issued to persons with a temporary disability and are valid for the length of time indicated by the certifying physician, not to exceed six months if issued by the Secretary of State and 90 days if issued by a local municipality.
- **Organization Placards** are issued to organizations that transport persons with disabilities free of charge and expire on April 30, 2014. **No physician signature is required for an organization placard.**

Disability License Plates

The difference between disability plates and a permanent parking placard is that the plates must stay permanently affixed to the vehicle for which they were issued.

- Disability plates are issued only to persons with permanent disabilities who own a vehicle and have their name on the vehicle title, or a parent or legal guardian of a minor with a disability.
- Disabled Veteran plates are issued only to veterans who provide proof of a service-connected disability that is certified by a licensed physician.

Parking Privileges

- Vehicles properly displaying disability plates, a parking placard or Disabled Veteran plates may park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, and are exempt from parking meter fees or time limitations on parking, except at meters, signs or other markings with time limitations of 30 minutes or less.
- Vehicles may not park in access aisles or areas where parking is prohibited. Vehicles also are prohibited from parking in any manner that creates a traffic hazard.
- Disability plates and parking placards are not transferable. The authorized holder must be present and must enter or exit the vehicle at the time the parking privileges are being used.

Penalties for Misuse

- The minimum fine for parking in a space reserved for persons with disabilities without plates or a placard is \$250. Local municipalities may increase the fine up to \$350.
- Unauthorized use of disability plates or parking placards can result in a \$500 fine and driver's license suspension for a first offense.
- Police officers also may confiscate a placard, and the Secretary of State's office may suspend or revoke plates or placards being used illegally.

Following are Class A misdemeanors for a first offense and may result in a fine of up to \$2,500 and a one-year driver's license suspension. Violators may be charged with a Class 4 felony for a second offense.

- Altering a parking placard.
- Possessing a fake, fraudulent, lost or stolen placard.
- Duplicating or manufacturing a placard.
- Selling or otherwise distributing a fraudulent placard.

