

Guide to the Parking Program for Persons With Disabilities

Enclosed is your Persons with Disabilities Parking Placard, which is valid through the punched, assigned date on the placard. **Please make a copy of your physical placard for your records before using it.**

The Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities is vital for many Illinois residents 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.

As a user of this program, please ensure that your disability plate and/or parking placard are being used correctly. Below please find important information below about the laws and guidelines for parking placards and disability license plates.

Parking Privileges

Parking placards and disability license plates are NOT transferable. Copy or duplicating a placard for any reason is illegal. The authorized holder must be present and must enter or exit the vehicle when the parking privileges are being used.

Parking placards and disability license plates do NOT allow vehicles to park in restricted areas, such as “NO STOPPING” or “NO STANDING” zones, or in front of fire hydrants, bus stops, and loading zones. Also, you cannot park your vehicle in a way that creates a traffic hazard.

Parking is NOT allowed in an access aisle (striped area) of an accessible parking space. Police may ticket any vehicle parked in the access aisle, whether or not it is displaying a disability placard or license plates (625 ILCS 5/11-1301.3). These spaces are to accommodate a person maneuvering with a wheelchair, crutches, or a cane.

Proper Display of Placards

This parking placard is issued in your name, NOT to your vehicle. It may be displayed in any vehicle in which you are the driver or passenger who will be entering or exiting when the parking privileges are being used. When the vehicle is parked in a space reserved for persons with disabilities, hang the placard from the rearview mirror or place it on the dashboard so it is visible through the front windshield.

Penalties for Misuse of Placards

The unauthorized use of a parking placard or disability license plates can result in a minimum fine of \$250 up to \$600, a confiscation of the parking placard by police, a suspension of the driver's license, and the suspension/revocation of the parking placard or disability license plate.

The following are Class A misdemeanors for a first offense (625 ILCS 5/11-1301.5 and 1301.6) 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:

- Using a deceased person's placard or disability license plates.
- Altering a parking placard.
- Possessing a fake, fraudulent, lost, or stolen parking placard.
- Duplicating or manufacturing a parking placard.
- Selling or otherwise distributing a fraudulent parking placard.

Self-Serve Gas Stations in Illinois Must:

- Dispense fuel for a vehicle displaying a disability parking placard/plates at no additional charge beyond the cost of gas.
- Post signs that persons with disabilities may obtain refueling assistance by honking their horns or signaling an employee.
- Provide and display at least one ADA-compliant motor fuel dispenser or a dispenser displaying a direct telephone number to the station so disabled individuals may request assistance.

States/Jurisdictions That Recognize Illinois Disability Parking Placard or License Plates

All 50 states recognize Illinois disability parking placards or license plates that are valid/current.

- For each state, check local ordinances for parking meter fee requirements.

The following locations also recognize Illinois disability parking placards or license plates that are valid/current:

- District of Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Puerto Rico.

Parking Placards

The Secretary of State issues four (4) types of parking placards:

1. **Meter-Exempt Permanent Placard** (yellow and gray striped) is issued to persons with permanent disabilities who have significant impairments that cause difficulty in accessing a parking meter. This placard allows the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, such as at a mall, grocery or retail store. It **exempts** the holder from parking meter fees and time limitations, except at meters or signs with 30 minutes or less. All vehicles, including those with Persons with Disabilities or Disabled Veteran license plates, **MUST** also display the Meter-Exempt placard when parking at meters to be exempt from fees.

To be eligible for this placard, persons with disabilities must have a valid driver's license and their medical professional must certify that they meet at least one of the following criteria.

To qualify, the patient cannot:

- Manage, manipulate or insert coins or obtain tickets or tokens in parking meters or ticket machines in parking lots or parking structures due to the lack of fine motor control of both hands.
 - Reach above their head to a height of 42 inches from the ground due to a lack of finger, hand or upper extremity strength or mobility.
 - Approach a parking meter due to the use of a wheelchair, or other device for mobility.
 - Walk more than 20 feet due to an orthopedic, neurological, cardiovascular, or lung condition in which the degree of debilitation is so severe that it almost completely impedes the ability to walk.
2. **Permanent Placard** (blue) is issued to persons with permanent disabilities and allow authorized holders to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, such as at a mall, grocery, or retail store. Permanent placards **DO NOT** exempt authorized holders from parking meter fees and time limitations.
 3. **Temporary Placard** (red) is 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 Secretary of State or up to 90 days if issued by a local municipality, and **DO NOT** exempt the holder from parking meter fees and time limitations.
 4. **Organizational Placard** (green) is issued to organizations that transport persons with disabilities free of charge. No medical professional signature is required for this placard. Organizational placards allow the authorized agent for the organization to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities when transporting and **DO NOT** exempt the agent from parking meter fees and time limitations. To obtain this placard, the organization must complete the Affirmation for Persons with Disabilities License Plates or Placards (VSD 816) available on ilsos.gov.



Red — Temporary



Blue — Permanent



Yellow/Grey — Meter-Exempt



Green — Organizational

Parking placards are only valid until the expiration date indicated on the placard. To receive a new placard, you must submit a new application with a medical professional's certification verifying disability. Certification applications are available at Secretary of State facilities, at ilsos.gov, or by contacting Secretary of State, Persons with Disabilities Placard Unit, 501 South 2nd St., Room 532, Springfield, IL 62756: 217-782-3166. **If a placard is no longer needed or the authorized holder dies, please contact the Persons with Disabilities Placard Unit at 217-558-3859.**

Persons With Disabilities License Plates

A disability license plate must stay permanently affixed to the vehicle for which it was issued. A disability plate is issued only to persons with a valid permanent disability placard who own a vehicle and have their name on the vehicle title; a parent or legal guardian of a minor with a disability; or an immediate family member who owns the vehicle, resides in the same household as the person with disability, and is responsible for transport. These plates allow the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, such as at malls, grocery stores, etc., but **DO NOT** exempt them from the payment of parking meter fees and time limitations, unless the authorized holder displays the Meter-Exempt placard. Authorized holders of license plates with accompanying blue, red, or green parking placards are responsible for paying all applicable fees associated with parking.

Corporations, school districts, limited liability companies, nursing homes, convalescent homes, and special education cooperatives transporting eligible persons may obtain disability plates as well.

Disabled Veteran License Plates

A disabled veteran plate is issued only to veterans who provide proof of a service-connected disability certified by a medical professional. The same parking limitations and parking meter restrictions apply as for a disability plate.

Applications for Persons with Disabilities or disabled veteran license plates are available at Secretary of State DMVs, at ilsos.gov, or by contacting Secretary of State, Non-Standard License Plates, 501 South 2nd St., Room 532, Springfield, IL 62756: 217-782-2470.