

up to 90 days if issued by a local municipality. The Temporary Placard allows the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, such as at malls, grocery stores, etc., and **DOES NOT** exempt the authorized holder from the payment of parking meter fees and time limitations at parking meters.

**4. Organization Placards** are issued to organizations that transport persons with disabilities free of charge and expire on April 30, 2018. **No physician signature is required for an Organization Placard.** The Organization Placard allows the authorized agent to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities when transporting persons with disabilities, and **DOES NOT** exempt the authorized agent from the payment of parking meter fees and time limitations at parking meters.

### 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; 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 disabilities and is responsible for transporting them. Disability license plates allow the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, such as at malls, grocery stores, etc., and **DO NOT** exempt the authorized holder from the payment of parking meter fees and time limitations at parking meters unless the authorized holder displays the Meter-Exempt Placard.



- **Disabled Veteran Plates** are issued only to veterans who provide proof of a service-connected disability that is certified by a licensed physician. Disabled Veteran plates allow the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, such as at malls, grocery stores, etc., and **DO NOT** exempt the authorized holder from the payment of parking meter fees and time limitations at parking meters unless the authorized holder displays the Meter-Exempt Placard.



### 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 \$600 fine and driver's license suspension for a first offense.
- Police officers may confiscate a placard, and the Secretary of State's office may suspend or revoke plates or placards being used illegally.

The 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 for:

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

**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  
800-252-8980  
888-261-5280 (TTY)**

**[WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM](http://WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM)**



# Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities

**A Guide for Medical Professionals**  
Changes in the law effective Jan. 1, 2014



**Jesse White  
Secretary of State**



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.

New legislation has made significant changes to the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities. My office has developed this brochure to help medical professionals better understand these new changes and determine whether a person meets the requirements to obtain a parking placard and/or disability license plates.

Included is information on program eligibility and the application process, as well as guidelines for the use of accessible parking spaces and penalties for the misuse and abuse of these special parking privileges. Physicians will have to sign the application in two separate sections if their patient is eligible for the new Meter-Exempt Parking Placard.

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  
Illinois Secretary of State

# PARKING PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

## A GUIDE FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

### Program Eligibility

In order to obtain a parking placard or disability license plates, a licensed physician, physician assistant or advanced practice nurse must certify that a person meets at least one of the qualifying medical conditions. Please keep in mind, a person with an impairment is **not** automatically eligible for disability plates or a parking placard.

When considering a patient's eligibility for the program, 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. (**Note:** "Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest" is no longer a qualifying disability, unless it is related to one of the following conditions.) To qualify, the patient must:

- Be restricted by lung disease to such a degree that forced (respiratory) expiratory volume (FEV) in one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter.
- Use portable oxygen.
- Have a Class III or Class IV cardiac condition according to standards set by the American Heart Association.
- Be unable to walk without the assistance of another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistive device.
- Be severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition.
- Have permanently lost the use of or be missing a hand or arm.

### Application/Certification Process

In order to obtain a parking placard or disability license plates, a licensed physician must complete Parts 2 and 3 of the Persons with Disabilities Certification for Parking Placard/License Plates (Form VSD 62.22). The physician also must:

- State the patient's medical diagnosis.

- Check the appropriate qualifying medical conditions.
- Specify the appropriate length of the disability — either permanent, permanent meter-exempt or temporary. If temporary, the physician must state the duration of the disability, which may not be more than six months.
- Sign and date the application where required and include the physician's license number. Copies or stamps of a physician signature are not accepted.
- Include the physician's name, address and telephone number.

Certification forms are available at Secretary of State facilities, at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://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; 800-252-8980.

**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

The Secretary of State's office issues four types of parking placards:



**1. Meter-Exempt Permanent Placards** are issued to persons with permanent disabilities who have significant impairments that cause difficulty in accessing a parking meter. The Meter-Exempt Permanent Placard allows the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, such as at malls, grocery stores, etc., and the placard exempts the authorized holder from payment of parking meter fees and time limitations. In order to be eligible for this placard, the person with the disability must possess a valid Illinois driver's license, and their physician must certify 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 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 Placards** are issued to persons with permanent disabilities, and allow the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, such as at malls, grocery stores, etc. This placard **DOES NOT** exempt the authorized holder from the payment of parking meter fees and time limitations at parking meters. A parking placard may only be used in a vehicle in which the authorized holder of the placard is driving or is a passenger.

**3. 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 or