

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Applications/Certifications for disability plates and/or parking placards are available at your local Secretary of State facility, at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com), or by contacting the Persons with Disabilities License Plates/Placard Unit at 217-782-2709.
- A licensed physician must certify on the application that you have one of the six specific medical conditions that severely impairs your ability to walk. You also must include your date of birth, gender and driver's license or state ID card number.
- If applying for disability plates on a vehicle currently registered in the applicant's name, a copy of the registration card or title is required.
- If applying for disability plates on a new vehicle, the Certificate of Title or Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin is required.
- If current plates expire within 90 days, submit: Persons with Disabilities Certification for Parking Placard/License Plates; Application for Reclass to Disability Plates; and a check or money order payable to Secretary of State for the applicable renewal fee and \$29 replacement fee for a random-number plate.
- If current plates do not expire within 90 days, submit: Persons with Disabilities Certification for Parking Placard/License Plates and \$29 replacement fee for a random-number plate.
- Vanity and personalized disability plates are available and carry additional fees. For more information, visit Pick-a-Plate at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

### Submit applications to:

**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



**JESSE WHITE**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

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



The Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities is a vital program for many Illinois residents with disabilities. My office has made significant progress in reducing fraud and abuse of disability license plates and parking placards. As a result, our program has received praise from the disability community and law enforcement agencies across the nation.

In Illinois, the illegal use of a parking space reserved for persons with disabilities carries a minimum \$250 fine. Unauthorized use of disability plates or a parking placard carries a minimum \$600 fine, a driver's license suspension and/or revocation of the plates or placard.

As a user of this program, please ensure that your disability plates and/or parking placard is being used accordingly. Disability plates and 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.

For more information, please contact the Persons with Disabilities License Plates/Placard Unit at 217-782-2709.

*Jesse White*

Jesse White  
Illinois Secretary of State



# RESERVED PARKING



## Application/Certification Process and Program Eligibility

In order to obtain a parking placard and/or disability license plates, an applicant must submit a Secretary of State Persons with Disabilities Certification for Parking Placard/License Plates form. The form must be completed by a licensed physician certifying that the applicant has one of the following six specific medical conditions that severely impairs their ability to walk:

- Cannot walk without the assistance of another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistive device.
- Is 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.
- Uses portable oxygen.
- Has a Class III or Class IV cardiac condition according to standards set by the American Heart Association.
- Is severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, oncological or orthopedic condition.
- Has permanently lost the use of or is missing a hand or arm.

The application process can now be done electronically or by using the paper system. Visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) and search for the placard renewal link to access the electronic application.

## Parking Privileges

- Disability plates and parking placards are not transferable and **it is illegal to copy or duplicate a placard for any reason**. The authorized holder must be present and must enter or exit the vehicle at the time the parking privileges are being used.
- Disability plates and parking placards do not permit vehicles to park in areas where parking is prohibited or restricted. Vehicles also are prohibited from parking in any manner that creates a traffic hazard.

## Persons with Disabilities License Plates

Disability plates must be permanently affixed to the vehicle for which they are 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 residing in the household. Disability plates allow the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, such as at a mall, grocery or retail store. Disability plates alone **DO NOT** exempt the authorized holder from parking meter fees and time limitations.

Disabled Veteran plates are issued only to veterans who provide proof of a service-connected disability that is certified by a licensed physician. The same parking limitations and parking meter restrictions apply as for regular disability plates.

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

## Parking Placards

The Secretary of State issues four types of parking placards:

1. **Meter-Exempt Permanent Placards** (yellow-and-gray-striped) are 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, and exempts the authorized holder from parking meters fees and time limitations, except at meters or signs with time limitations of 30 minutes or less. To be eligible for this placard, persons with disabilities must have a valid Illinois driver's license, and their physician 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 his/her 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; or
  - 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** (blue) are 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 Placards** (red) 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 up to 90 days if issued by a local municipality, and **DO NOT** exempt the holder from parking meter fees and time limitations.
  4. **Organization Placards** (green) are issued to organizations that transport persons with disabilities free of charge. Organization placards allow the authorized agent for the organization to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities when transporting persons with disabilities and **DO NOT** exempt the agent from parking meter fees and time limitations.

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 physician's certification verifying disability. **If a placard is no longer needed or the authorized holder dies, please contact the Persons with Disabilities License Plates/Placard Unit at 217-782-2709.**

## Proper Display of Placards

Because a parking placard is issued to the person with the disability and not to a vehicle, it may be used in any vehicle in which the authorized holder is driving or is a passenger. When parked in a space reserved for persons with disabilities, the placard must be properly displayed in one of the following locations so it is clearly visible to law enforcement:

- Hanging from the rearview mirror, or
- Placed on the dashboard.

**Failure to properly display a parking placard may result in a fine. It is illegal to hang the placard on the rearview mirror when the vehicle is in motion.**

## Penalties for Misuse

- The minimum fine for parking in a space reserved for persons with disabilities without disability license plates and/or a parking placard is \$250. Local municipalities may increase the fines up to \$350.
- Unauthorized use of disability plates and/or a parking placard can result in a \$600 fine and driver's license suspension for a first offense.
- Police may confiscate a placard, and the Secretary of State's office may suspend or revoke license plates or parking 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:

- Using a deceased person's disability license plates or parking placard.
- 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.