

ILLINOIS

New Disabled Parking
Placard and License Plate
Program and Enforcement

SECRETARY OF STATE JESSE WHITE



Currently

- **Any person with a qualifying disability and certification from a licensed physician may obtain a disabled parking placard or license plates from the Secretary of State.**
- **Placards are issued free of charge and are good for up to 4 years.**
- **License plates must be renewed annually.**

House Bill 5624 – Public Act 97-0845

- **Legislation recently passed allowing only individuals with certain types of disabilities to qualify to park in metered spaces at no charge.**
- **Changes are enforceable January 1, 2014.**
- **Legislation will require all persons with disabilities to recertify with their physician during 2013 and the Secretary of State to reissue parking placards before 2014.**

House Bill 5624 – Public Act 97-0845

- **Depending on the type of disability, individuals will qualify for one of three types (formerly two types) of disabled placards:**
 - **Meter Exempt, Permanent Disability Parking Placard**
 - **Non-Meter Exempt, Permanent Disability Parking Placard**
 - **Temporary Disability Parking Placard**

Meter Exempt, Permanent Disability Parking Placard



- Issued to persons with permanent disabilities, who have significant impairments that cause difficulty to access a parking meter.
- Must have an Illinois driver's license
- Exempts the authorized holder from the payment of parking meter fees and time limitations at parking meters that exceed a 30-minute time limit statewide.
- Must meet a more stringent disability eligibility criteria:
 - Cannot manage, manipulate or insert coins or obtain tickets or tokens in parking meters or ticket machines in parking lots due to the lack of fine motor control of BOTH hands;
 - Cannot 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;
 - Cannot approach a parking meter due to use of a wheelchair or other device for mobility; or
 - Cannot 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.

Non-Meter Exempt, Permanent Parking Placard

- Issued to persons with permanent disabilities.
- Allows the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities such as at a mall, grocery or retail store but **DOES NOT** exempt the authorized holder from the payment of parking meter fees and time limitations at parking meters.



Temporary Disability Placard



- For persons with a temporary disability
- Valid for 6 months or less if issued by the Secretary of State
- Valid for up to 90 days if issued by local townships
- Allows the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities such as at a mall, grocery or retail store but **DOES NOT** exempt the authorized holder from the payment of parking meter fees.

Organization Placards



- Issued to non-profit organizations that transport persons with disabilities.
- Allows the authorized organization to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities such as at a mall, grocery or retail store if they are loading or unloading disabled passengers but **DOES NOT** exempt the authorized holder from the payment of parking meter fees.

Disability License Plates

- Issued only to persons with a permanent disability who owns a vehicle and have their name on the vehicle title, to the parent or legal guardian of a minor with a disability or to an immediate family member residing in the same household.
- Issued to specific vehicles and cannot be transferred without transferring registration. LEADS will return a “qualifying person” code giving the relationship between the vehicle owner or disabled immediate family member.
- Persons issued a disability plate are also issued a disability parking placard reflecting the type of disability (i.e., meter-exempt permanent, non meter-exempt permanent)
- Allows the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities such as at a mall, grocery or retail store but **DOES 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.
- Parking meter exemptions are allowed **ONLY** if the motor vehicle also displays the appropriate parking placard (yellow/gray striped) for meter-exempt parking.



Disabled Veteran License Plates



- Issued only to veterans who provide proof of a service-connected disability that is certified by a licensed physician.
- Issued to specific vehicles and cannot be transferred. LEADS will return a “qualifying person” code.
- Qualifying veteran must own the vehicle.
- Persons issued a disability veteran plate are also issued a disability parking placard reflecting the type of disability (i.e., meter-exempt permanent, non meter-exempt permanent)
- Allows the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities such as at a mall, grocery or retail store but **DOES 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.
- Parking meter exemptions are allowed **ONLY** if the motor vehicle also displays the appropriate parking placard (yellow/gray striped) for meter exempt parking.

Unlawful Use of Disabled Placard or Disabled License Plates

- **The authorized holder of a disabled parking placard or license plates must be present and must either enter or exit the vehicle at the time parking privileges are used.**
- **Vehicles using a disabled parking placard or license plates may not park in disabled parking access aisles (the striped area adjacent to the accessible parking space) even if they display a placard or disability plates.**
- **Vehicles using a disabled parking placard or license plates may not park where parking is prohibited such as:**
 - **No stopping and standing zones**
 - **In front of or near fire hydrants**
 - **Public building entrances and exits**
 - **Bus stops and loading zones**
 - **Blocking curb cuts, curb ramps, driveways or the public right-of-way**
 - **In any manner that creates a traffic hazard**

Unlawful Use of Disabled Placard or Disabled License Plates

- **Unlawful use of a placard or license plates is a violation of state law under 11-301.3(a-1) and is a \$600 minimum fine, half of which returns to the issuing department.**
- **Police officers may seize unlawfully used placards and return them with a report and/or a copy of the citation. The Secretary of State may take driver's license sanctions against the user. Information should be sent to the Secretary of State at:**

Persons with Disabilities Placard/Plate Unit

501 South Second Street, Room 541

Springfield, IL 62756

Enforcement

- **Police have clear authority to enforce the provisions of accessible parking on private property such as a mall, grocery or retail store.**
- **Upon request of a police officer, a parking placard/plates holder must present photo identification to verify he/she is the authorized holder of the placard/plates.**
- **Questioning the nature or validity of the user's disability is not a law enforcement function. Some disabilities are not apparent.**

-Warning-Warning-Warning-

Verify proper identity only. Do not inquire about or express doubt about a holder's disability. It is not a law enforcement function to question a disability. Many disabilities are not obvious or apparent. Inquiring about or expressing doubt of a person's disability may lead to complaints.

If you have specific doubts about an identified placard or plate holder, do not question the holder. Contact the Secretary of State and file a complaint form. The office will contact the issuing physician to determine if the placard was issued according to standards.

Complaints may be filled out on-line:

www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Click on the Persons with Disabilities Complaint Form

If you develop information about a physician assisting in fraudulently issuing placards or plates, please contact the Secretary of State Police using

www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Fraudulent Placards

Placards may not be copied or any part forged. Fraudulent placard use is a Class A misdemeanor and a \$1,000 minimum fine under 11-1301.6.

Out-of-state placards are harder to verify.
Develop out-of-state verification contacts.

Look for:

- Paper layovers
- Improper colors
- Improper holographs
- Scissor-cut corners or holographs
- Illinois placards that return 'no record'

Pay special attention to laminated placards



Unauthorized Parking

Parking in an accessible parking space without a placard or plate is illegal.

Parking in the designated access aisle adjacent to any accessible parking space, with or without a disabled plate or placard, is illegal. The aisle is reserved to allow space for disabled persons to enter vehicles.



Additionally, property owners are responsible for keeping accessible parking and aisles clear 24 hours after snow. Parking and aisles must be free from debris and other obstructions such as garbage containers or other unreasonable objects.

Common Violations (State Statute)

- *11-1301.3 Unauthorized use of parking places reserved for persons with disabilities -Petty offense
- *11-1301.3 Unauthorized parking in designated access isle adjacent to person with disabilities parking place -Petty offense
- *11-1301.3(a-1) Unlawful use of disability plate or placard -Petty offense
- *11-1301.3(a-2) Unlawful use of disability plate or placard, holder deceased –Class A
- *11-1301.5 Fictitious or unlawfully altered Persons with Disabilities plates, placard or device -Class A misdemeanor
- (#)*11-1301.6 Possession without authority of any fraudulent, lost or stolen Persons with Disabilities license plates, placard or device -Class 4 felony or charge Attempt possession, Class A
- 11-1301.8 Failure to clear disability parking space or aisle of snow, debris, trash container, or other obstructing object -Petty offense

* Mandatory court appearance

Mandatory fingerprinting (felony only)

Petty offense -bond \$120

Class A misdemeanor -bond \$1500, 10% applies

Felony- set by judge

Secretary of State police have found differing rates and types of violations in different areas. Violators in some areas use parking privileges on a daily basis to avoid commuter parking costs while violators in other areas unlawfully use privileges for convenience wherever they might find themselves.

Regardless, regular enforcement appears to reduce occurrences of violations and is widely supported by the public, including many disabled persons police contact during enforcement who's privileges we are trying to protect.

As no suspicion is necessary to contact people using parking reserved for the disabled, most people you meet will be good people complying with the law who have an unusually high respect for law enforcement. Please help protect the good image the public has by treating everyone with respect and dignity.

Questions

For the General Public

Illinois Secretary of State

Disabilities License Plates/Placard Unit

217-782-2709

217-782-2434

217-782-3166