

Application

- Applications for disability plates or parking placards are available at your local County Motor Vehicle office or by visiting www.colorado.gov/revenue
- Your medical provider may already have a copy of the form in their office.
- A medical professional must certify on the application that you have one of the six specific qualifying disabilities. 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.



For more information or to obtain an application for the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities, please visit www.colorado.gov/revenue

For questions or complaints, please call the **message line** at **303-313-8666** or **888-887-9135 (toll free)**

Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities



Program Eligibility

To qualify for disability license plates or a parking placard, an applicant must submit a *DR 2219 Persons with Disabilities Parking Privileges Application*. The form must be completed by a qualified medical professional certifying that the applicant has one of the following six specific medical conditions that severely impairs their 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, wheel chair or other assistive device.
- 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.
- 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.

Parking Privileges

- Vehicles properly displaying disability plates, a parking placard, or Disabled Veteran Handicapped plates may park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities and are exempt from meter fees or time limitations on parking, except at meters, signs, or other markings with time limitations of 30 minutes or less.
- 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.
- 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.

It is courteous to always leave the "Van Space", which are the extra wide spaces with the wide access lanes for those who use lift equipped vans, unless there are no other disabled spaces. This allows them the extra room needed to put the lift down and get on or off it.

The person who the plate or placard was issued to must get in or out of the vehicle while it is parked in the disabled space. If someone is dropping the plate or placard holder at the door and will be picking them up also, they cannot park in a disabled space.

A parent may not use their child's plate or placard unless the child is with them.



Disability License Plates

Persons with permanent disabilities may obtain disability plates for vehicles titled in their name. An immediate family member residing in the same household may obtain a placard if the qualifying person with disabilities does not own a vehicle and must rely on someone else for transportation.

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

Parking Placards

There are two different types of placards available:

- **Three Year Placards** are issued to persons with a permanent disability and expire three years from the date of issue.
- **Temporary Placards** are issued to persons with a temporary disability and are valid for the length of time indicated by the certifying medical professional.

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 qualified medical professional's certification verifying disability.

Placards are not transferable and it is illegal to copy or duplicate a placard for any reason.

If a placard is no longer needed or the authorized holder dies, please contact your local Division of Motor Vehicle office.

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.

Placards should be removed before the vehicle is in motion to prevent damage or excessive exposure to sun. Also, the placard can obstruct the driver's view if left hanging from the mirror.

Penalties for Misuse

It is illegal to:

- Park in a space reserved for persons with disabilities without disability plates or a parking placard. Violators may be issued a minimum \$350 fine.
- Park in an access aisle—the vertical lines adjacent to the parking space for persons with disabilities. The access aisle reserves room for persons to safely enter and exit their vehicle. You can be fined a minimum of \$350 for parking in the access aisle even if your vehicle is displaying a placard or disability plates.
- Use disability plates or a parking placard without the authorized holder present. Violators face the following penalties: first offense—minimum \$500 fine and 30-day driver's license suspension; second offense—minimum \$750 fine and six-month driver's license suspension; third offense—minimum \$1,000 fine and one-year driver's license suspension.
- Manufacture, copy or alter disability plates or placards; obtain disability plates or placards based on fictitious information; use a stolen placard; or knowingly transfer disability plates or placards to others so they may use privileges granted to authorized holders. A violation is a Class A misdemeanor and carries a fine of up to \$2,500 and a one-year driver's license suspension.

Police may confiscate a placard if they believe it is being used illegally. Police officers have clear authority to enforce parking laws on private property, such as at a mall or grocery store.

Self-Serve Gas Stations

Gasoline and service stations in Colorado must comply with provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act by:

- Dispensing fuel for the driver of a vehicle displaying disability plates or a parking placard upon request of the person with the disability;
- Posting signs informing persons with disabilities that they may obtain refueling assistance by either honking the horn or otherwise signaling an employee; and
- Providing refueling assistance at no additional charge beyond the cost of gas.