Law Enforcement Quick Reference Guide to the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities

The State of Colorado issues two types of parking placards:

Three Year Placards
are issued to persons with a permanent disability.

Temporary Placards
are valid for up to 90 days.

Facts and Procedures

- For persons not able to reach their mirror, putting the placard on the dash is acceptable.
- Law enforcement can ticket on private property such as malls and grocery stores.
- Photo enforcement and tickets via mail are allowed by law.
- The person to whom the placard or plate was issued must get in or out of the vehicle while it is parked in a disabled space.
- You can match ID to those in possession of the placard (last four digits).
- A parent may not use the placard or plate unless the child is with them.
- Persons who use disability placards or plates without the authorized holder present face the following penalties:
  - Minimum $500 fine
  - License suspension for the first offense
- Parking in a space reserved for persons with disabilities without a placard or plate—violators may be issued a minimum $350 fine.

If you believe a placard is being misused, you should confiscate it and notify the DMV.

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.

The Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities

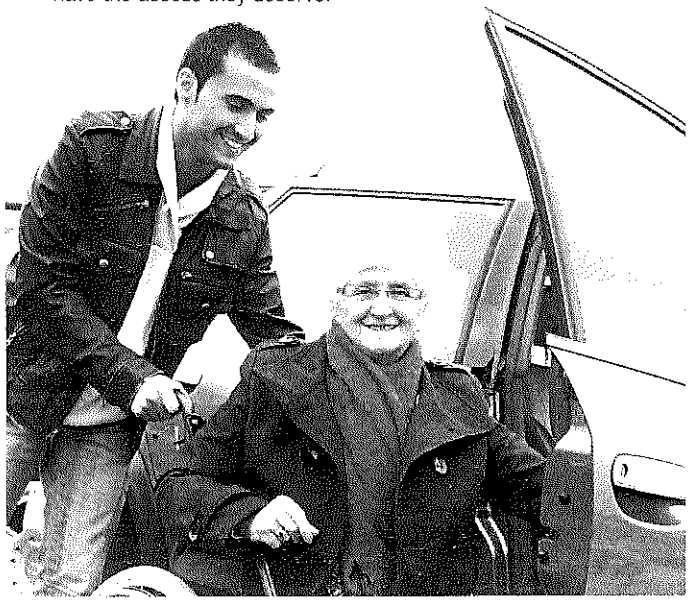
The Persons with Disabilities Parking program is vital to many Coloradoans and it helps them maintain their independence and to stay active. The fraudulent use of disability license plates and parking placards is a serious problem—and medical professionals are a part of the solution. Medical professionals are the front line to prevent abuse by ensuring that only those who qualify for the program are certified for the program.

For instance, it is not an acceptable practice to leave signed forms which have not been completed with the patient's name and other information in your waiting room. It is also not acceptable to sign a form and give it to a patient without adding in the patient information. You do not know if these forms are actually being used for the patient you intended.

When someone illegally obtains a placard and then occupies a disabled parking space or other assessable feature, it is not just an inconvenience for the person left without a parking space. That person may need to leave that area without their prescription, groceries, or without being able to see their doctor or clinic.

This brochure will help you understand the program and the qualifying factors needed. Included is information on eligibility and the certification process as well as the use of the parking plates or placards and the penalties associated with misuse.

By partnering with the medical community, law enforcement, and disability organizations we can ensure that those who qualify have the access they deserve.



The fraudulent use of disability license plates and parking placards is a serious problem.

Medical professionals are part of the solution!

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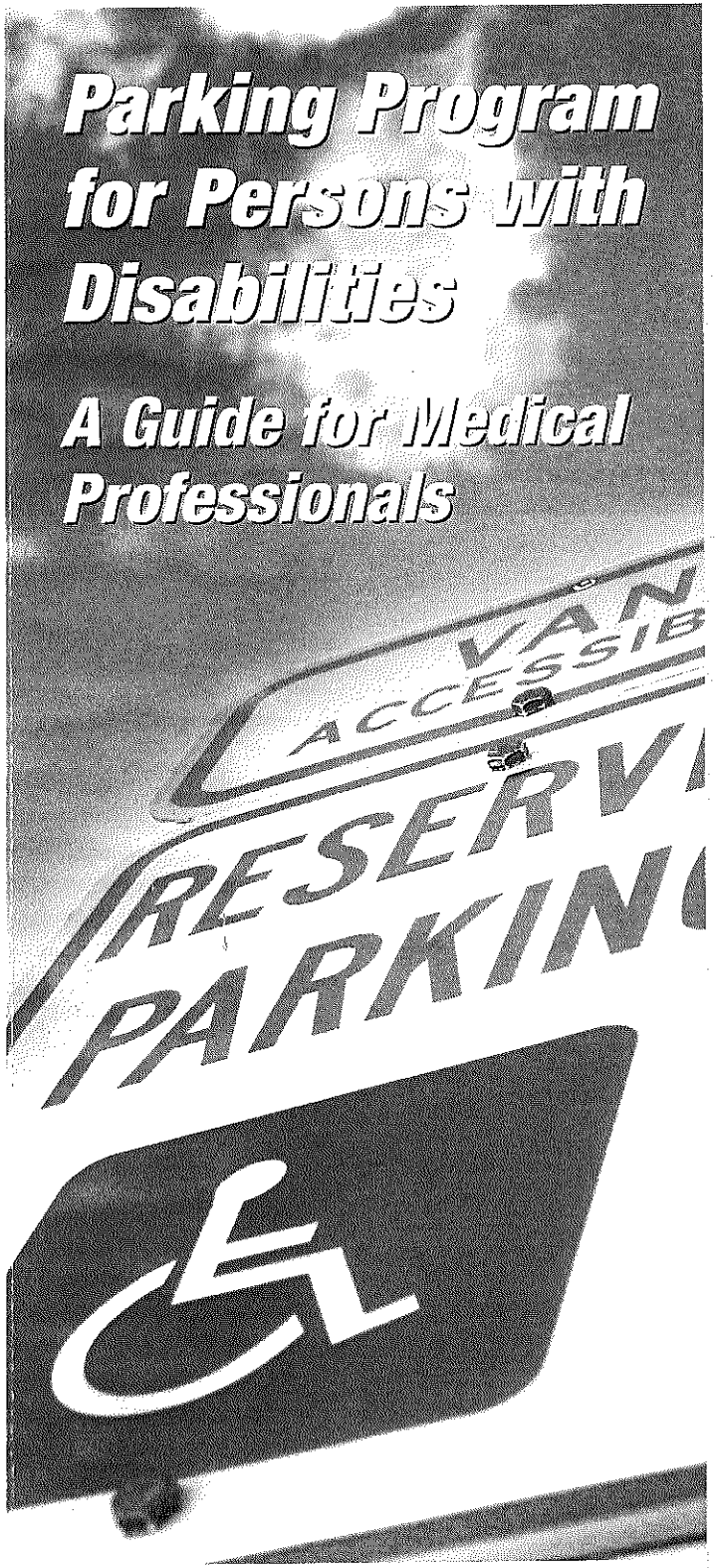
Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities

A Guide for Medical Professionals



A Guide for Medical Professionals

Program Eligibility

A person with a disability or impairment is not automatically eligible for disability plates or a parking placard. When considering a patient's eligibility for disability plates or a parking placard, an approved medical professional must certify that the applicant has one of the following six specific medical conditions that severely impairs his or her 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.

Application/Certification

A licensed physician, commissioned medical officer, advance practice nurse, physician's assistant, or podiatrist must complete Side A of the *DR 2219 Persons with Disabilities Parking Privileges Application*, certifying that the patient meets one of the above qualifying medical conditions. Medical professionals residing in states that border Colorado may also certify that the patient meets the qualifying medical conditions. The provider also must:

- Specify the appropriate length of the disability—either permanent or temporary. If temporary, the physician must state the duration of the disability, which may not be more than 90 days.
- Sign the application and include his or her provider's license number.
- Include the provider's name, address, and telephone number.

Providers must be willing to certify, under penalty of perjury, that the patient has a physical impairment complying with 23 CFR 1235. They must also attest to having read and understand Colorado Revised Statute 42-3-204 and 42-4-1208 as they pertain to certifying persons with disabilities. Providers must affirm their knowledge of the contents of persons with disabilities notices and documentation made available to me pursuant to 42-3-204(5)(b), C.R.S.

Providers who knowingly misuse the application process or who make false statements to help someone obtain or retain disability parking plates or a parking placard may be fined up to $500,000.00 and/or a 2–6 year prison sentence for the Class 4 Felony and fined up to $1,000 and a 3–12 month prison sentence for a Class 1 Misdemeanor.

Parking Placards

A parking placard may only be used in a vehicle in which the authorized holder of the placard is driving or is a passenger. Two types of parking placards are available:

- **Three Year Placards** are issued to persons with permanent disabilities 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 physician, not to exceed 90 days.

Disability License Plates

The difference between disability plates and a 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, or a parent or legal guardian of a minor with a disability.
- Disabled Veteran Handicapped plates are issued only to veterans who provide proof of a service-connected disability that meets all disability requirements and must demonstrate meeting the requirements of 42-3-304(3)(a), C.R.S.

Parking Privileges

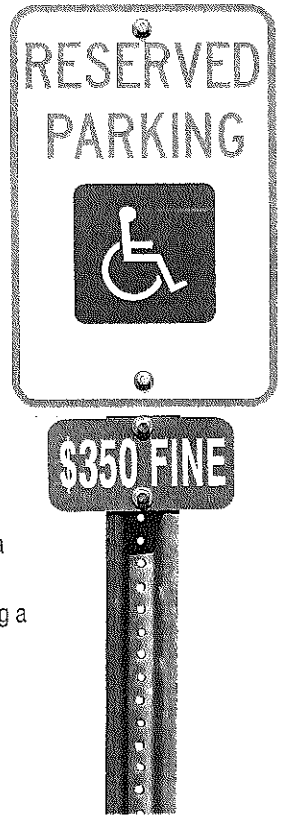
- Vehicles properly displaying disability plates, a parking placard, or Disabled Veteran Handicapped plates may park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities and are exempt from parking meter fees or time limitations up to double the meter time. Then the vehicle must be moved to another spot.
- Vehicles may not park in access aisles or areas where parking is prohibited. Vehicles also are prohibited from parking in any manner that creates a traffic hazard.
- 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.

Handicapped Parking Signs

These signs mark special parking areas for only those vehicles displaying a disabled parking permit. Handicapped parking indicators may also appear on the pavement in designated parking spaces. Crosshatched sections are for van access only and parking is not allowed in this marked space at any time.

Penalties for Misuse

- The minimum fine for parking in a space reserved for persons with disabilities without plates or a placard range from $350–$5,000, 10 hours of community service, denial of renewal of your license plates, and a misdemeanor for violations of the disabled parking statutes. The penalties double if the violation is with a commercial vehicle.
- Unauthorized use of disability plates or parking placards can result in a $500 fine and driver's license suspension for a first offense.
- Police officers also may confiscate a placard and the Motor Vehicle Division may suspend or revoke plates or placards being used illegally.

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. Altering a parking placard.

- Possessing a fake, fraudulent, lost, or stolen placard.
- Duplicating or manufacturing a placard.
- Selling or otherwise distributing a fraudulent placard.