

FACT SHEET

Person with Disability/Severely Disabled Veteran Parking Placard

PURPOSE

This fact sheet explains the requirements for obtaining a Person with Disability parking placard, a Severely Disabled Veteran parking placard and a Person with Disability Temporary parking placard.

WHAT IT IS

The placard is issued for use in any vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of not more than 14,000 pounds which is being operated exclusively by or for the benefit of a person with disability and may only be used when those persons are actually being transported in the vehicle.

HOW IT WORKS

Any vehicle displaying the placard hung from the front windshield rearview mirror being operated by or for a person with a disability qualifies to park in areas so designated as being reserved for persons with disability. The placard will not entitle these vehicles to be parked in areas where parking is prohibited. When the vehicle is used by or for the person with a disability, the placard will allow vehicles to park for a period of 60 minutes in excess of the legal parking period permitted by local authorities, except where local ordinances or police regulations provide for the accommodation of heavy traffic during morning, afternoon and evening hours. **NOTE:** A customer may have two Persons with Disability parking placards or one Persons with Disability parking placard and one Persons with Disability registration plate.

CARE AND USE

The placard should not be displayed on the rearview mirror while the vehicle is being operated. Placards are only to be displayed when the vehicle is parked in areas designated for the use of persons with disabilities. Placards are designed and manufactured to be durable for five years. To avoid damage to the placard, when it is not being displayed it should be stored in a safe place away from long exposures to extreme hot and cold temperatures and direct sunlight.

NOTE: If the placard owner no longer requires the use of the placard, and the placard is still valid, the placard must be returned to PennDOT. The placard must be mailed to: Bureau of Motor Vehicles, P.O. Box 68268, Harrisburg, PA 17106-8268. If the placard has expired, it can be destroyed; there is no need to return to PennDOT.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

In order to obtain a placard, Form MV-145A, "Person with Disability Parking Placard Application" must be completed by the person with a disability, a health care provider, or a police officer and returned to PennDOT. Health care providers may only certify disabilities within their scope of practice, and must be licensed or certified in PA or a contiguous state; New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia or Ohio. Police officers may only certify disability codes (1) and (4). The applicant must have his/her signature notarized on the application. The age of the applicant is not a factor, nor is the applicant required to be a licensed driver or have a vehicle registered in his/her name. One of the following disability codes must be met:

- (1) is blind;
- (2) does not have full use of an arm or both arms;
- (3) cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;

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- (4) cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistive device;
- (5) is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 MM/HG on room air at rest;
- (6) uses portable oxygen;
- (7) has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to the standards set by the American Heart Association;
- (8) is severely limited in his or her ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition; or,
- (9) is a person in loco parentis of a person specified in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) or (8) above; or,
- (10) is the parent, including adoptive parent or foster parent, of a child or adult child provided that the person has custody, care or control of the child or adult child and the child or adult child satisfies paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) or (8); or,
- (11) is the spouse of a person specified in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) or (8).

A health care provider is defined as a physician, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, physician's assistant or a certified registered nurse practitioner licensed or certified in Pennsylvania or a contiguous state. Health Care providers may only certify disabilities within their scope of practice.

The application permits the individual in Loco Parentis to sign on behalf of the applicant. The definition of a Person in Loco Parentis is ANY ADULT charged by law with the natural parent's rights, duties and responsibilities acting on behalf of a child in place of the child's natural parents. In addition, a parent, including an adoptive or foster parent who has custody, care or control of the child or adult child or a spouse may sign on behalf of the child, adult child or spouse (applicant) provided the applicant meets eligibility requirements (1) through (8).

The law also provides for the issuance of a "temporary" placard for those with a temporary physical disability that impairs a person's mobility. The temporary placard will be issued for up to a six month period. Application procedures for the temporary placard are the same as those for the permanent placard. However, temporary placards may not be renewed. If an individual requires the further use of a temporary placard, they must be recertified by a licensed health care provider. NOTE: Temporary placards may not be certified by a police officer.

In order to be issued a severely disabled veteran parking placard, the disability must be service-connected and certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration Regional Office Administrator (Philadelphia or Pittsburgh) or service unit in which the veteran served. A legible photocopy of the applicant's Letter of Promulgation or Awards Letter may also be used if the applicant has a 100% service-connected disability.

PLACARD ID CARDS

Customers will receive a wallet-size ID card to carry with them as proof of identification. The ID card will be mailed along with permanent placards.

Permanent placards processed at the Riverfront Office Center located in Harrisburg will be issued an interim ID card. This interim ID card is used until a wallet-size ID card is mailed to the customer at a later date.

Temporary placards will be processed and a temporary ID card will be provided to the customer along with the temporary placard.