

Questions and Answers:

Can I convert my disability plates to a placard?

Yes. Submit a written request for a transfer to the RMV. State your current Disability Passenger Plate Number and enclose a photocopy of the vehicle registration.

Will applying for Disabled Parking effect my driver's license status?

- There are a few conditions that automatically disqualify a person from holding a driver's license:
 - Legal blindness
 - Class IV heart disease as defined by the American Heart Association
 - Oxygen Saturation Rate of 88% or less at rest or with minimal exertion.

The medical professional who completes your application may comment on other conditions that could affect your medical or physical ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.

Can I use my placard in other states?

- Yes. If you have a legitimate Massachusetts license, you're a resident of Massachusetts, and you have a Massachusetts placard, you are allowed to use that placard out of state.
- If you relocate to another state, you must apply for a placard in that state.

Information retrieved from:

<https://www.massrmv.com/rmv/medical/parkingFAQ04eus.htm>

Massachusetts General Law Ch. 90 §2 **Fact Sheet:**

An applicant may be issued both a **plate** displaying the "International Symbol of Access" and a **handicap placard** by the registrar.

APPLICANTS ISSUED ONLY HANDICAP PLACARDS:

- Only a vehicle with private passenger registration or a vehicle designated to transport handicap persons may use a handicap placard.
- An authorized placard must be used when a vehicle is parked in a designated handicap space, including immediate drop off or pick up.
- Authorized placard users shall display the placard visibly through the windshield of the vehicle and in accordance with instructions provided.

APPLICANTS ISSUED HANDICAP PLACARDS AND/ OR HANDICAP PLATES:

- Any person who wrongfully displays a handicap plate or placard on or in a motor vehicle that is parked in a designated handicap, regular, or commercial parking space shall be subject to a fine of \$500 for a first offense and \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

DO

- Do display your placard while parking in a Handicap Parking location. It should be hung from your rearview mirror facing **toward the front of the vehicle**. You may use the privacy sleeve to cover personal information. This privacy sleeve **MUST** be removed if so requested by law enforcement.
- Do park in a Handicap Parking location when you need to exit the vehicle.
- Do use your disabled parking privileges in any designated Handicap Parking location.
- Do realize that (when used and displayed properly) your disabled parking privilege exempts you from parking meter fees in Massachusetts.
- Do lock your vehicle and close the windows when using your placard.
- Do obey all parking rules and regulations.
- Do destroy expired placards.

**USE OF A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR
DISABLED PLACARD IS UNLAWFUL
AND PUNISHABLE BY FINE OF
IMPRISONMENT.**

DO NOT

- Do Not drive while your disabled placard is hung from your rearview mirror.
- Do Not let anyone use your disabled placard parking privileges. The abuse of your disabled placard is punishable by a \$500 fine, loss of your disabled parking privileges, and 30 day suspension of your operator's license.
- Do Not park illegally. You must obey all parking rules and regulations or be subject to the fines imposed.
- Do Not park in cross-hatch areas (zebra stripes), which are reserved for van ramp/lift access. Parking on a cross-hatch is subject to a \$100-\$300 fine.
- Do Not use your Disabled Placard and/or Plate or Disabled Veteran plate parking privileges if you are not entering or exiting the vehicle.
- Do Not use your disabled placard in a vehicle weighing 10,000 pounds or more.
- Do Not display your disabled placard when the vehicle is in motion. This is potentially a \$50.00 fine.
- Do Not leave your disabled placard in an unlocked vehicle.
- Do Not use your disabled placard after its expiration date. You may be fined.

Disabled Placard and Parking Facts:

- Must have a photo ID on the placard to identify the owner
 - A white plastic covering is available if you wish to conceal your photo and/or name for privacy reasons.
- The sleeve must be removed if requested by law enforcement.
- It could take 4 to 6 weeks from the date of receipt for mailed-in applications to be processed.
- Medical Affairs will process walk-in applications the same day.
- A Handicap Placard is for the use of the disabled person only.

Placard Warnings:

- Always make sure your issued placard is **current** and **clearly displayed** when in use.
- Do **not** let any friends or family members use your legally obtained placard.
 - *The person misusing your placard could be fined and you may lose the privilege of having/using the placard for legitimate reasons.*
- **Expired placards must be destroyed.**

Placard Use in Other States:

- If you have a legitimate Massachusetts license, you are a resident of Massachusetts, and you have a Massachusetts placard, you are allowed to use that placard out of state.
- If you relocate to another state, you must apply for a placard in that state.

Handicap Placard Abuse:

What is Placard Abuse?

Handicap placard abuse is when an able-bodied person uses a handicap placard (issued to someone else) in order to reap the benefits of the placard.

Examples of placard abuse include:

- Using someone else's placard (including a family member, friend, or stranger)
- Using a placard that is expired or no longer valid
- Making counterfeit placards or using an altered placard
- Using the placard of a deceased person

What are the penalties of committing placard abuse?

- Parking ticket for \$100-\$300 (MGL c40 §22A)
- A RMV Citation of \$500 for a first offense and \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense
- Suspension or revocation of the placard
- A 30-day suspension of the abuser's driver's license for a first offense, a 90-day license suspension for a second offense, and a year long license suspension for a third offense

Why should you report placard abuse to authorities?

- People with real disabilities are deprived of parking in the designated handicap parking spaces when needed.