

Do you qualify for a Disabled Handicapped Parking Permit?

As you are most certainly aware, special parking is available to disabled persons. As you will discover by reviewing the list below, just because somebody isn't using a wheelchair, walker, or cane, doesn't mean that they are not entitled to or in need of the handicap spot. Regulations differ from state to state, but some of the criteria is standard. If you fall into any of the categories listed below, it would certainly be beneficial for you to research your particular situation further.

- You are confined to a wheelchair.
- You're unable to walk without assistance from another person or an assistive device. Note that any assistive device that significantly restores your ability to walk to a point that your limitation is no longer severe will negate your eligibility for the handicapped parking permit.
- The need to use portable oxygen. Additionally, it is possible to qualify even if you do not have to keep oxygen with you if your doctor confirms that your condition warrants the need for assistance. There are specific guidelines that must be met for this determination. Check with your doctor or, if you are a veteran, your VA medical staff will surely be happy to assist you.
- Suffering from a professionally-diagnosed cardiac condition that meets the standards set by the American Heart Association is another possibility.
- An arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition that results in a severe limitation to walk is demonstrated.
- An optometrist has certified that you are legally blind.

Your local Motor Vehicles Department would be the the point of contact to submit a request. If you have questions or need assistance, feel free to call **George Sink, Sr., at 1-888-398-3625**. As a disabled veteran himself, he has first-hand experience and will happily guide you though the process and ensure that you meet the specific requirements in your state to receive the most from you well-deserved benefit.

There are two different types of handicapped parking permits.

The common type is for long-term disabilities, but even if you are temporarily restricted, you may qualify for a short-term disability parking permit. Each type must be renewed periodically according to your state's regulations. Both can be issued in the form of a license plate or a placard that is hung from the rear-view mirror.

A veteran with a service-connected disability is eligible for a disabled veteran permit and the fees are often waived in this situation.

Remember, guidance is just a phone call away: **George Sink, Sr. 1-888-398-3625**

Things to investigate in your state or when traveling to other states.

Rules and amenities vary from state to state and city to city. Here is a list of possibilities:

- Obtaining a designated handicapped parking spot in front of your home.
- Free parking at metered spaces. Many states allow persons with a Disabled Parking Permit to park for free at a metered space.
- No cost parking is available at a few private and government parking lots for disabled customers.

Be aware of handicapped parking etiquette!

Once you complete the process and have your handicapped parking permit, you should understand and follow certain etiquette rules.

- There are three different types of handicap parking spots:
 - Standard Handicap Parking Spaces are the most common type you will encounter. They are marked with the wheelchair picture on a blue background and are at least 60 inches wide to accommodate standard vehicles.
 - Handicap Parking Spaces For Vans With One-Sided Entry are indicated by the same logo but are typically labeled as “Van Accessible.” In addition to the standard parking space, there is a 96-inch wide area designated with white stripes on the passenger side to allow space for a wheelchair to easily and safely exit the vehicle using a ramp or lift. The side where the exit door is at will determine whether the vehicle should pull in or back in to the parking spot.
 - Handicap Parking Spaces For Vans With Two-Sided Entry are exactly what you are thinking! There is an area of white stripes on both sides of the parking spot that ensures plenty of room to exit and maneuver a wheelchair on either or both sides.
- Be sure to properly display your permit, placard, or tag and replace it immediately upon expiration.
- Don't lend it to anybody! Ethically and legally, anyone who has not been issued a disabled parking permit is not allowed to park in these designated spots unless the permit owner is present. If abuse is determined, the permit can be revoked and fines can be issued to both the owner and the abuser.

Becoming disabled is scary and it takes time to adjust to the situation. Hopefully this article has enlightened you in at least one aspect of the transition. If you still have questions or need any type of assistance, just pick up the phone and call **George Sink, Sr., at 1-888-398-3625**. He is able and enthusiastic to assist you in many ways to make your life better and negotiate any obstacles.

Remember, disabled is certainly not unable!

