

PARKING PLACARDS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

POLICY AND GENERAL INFORMATION



**EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 16, 2007**

Alberta 

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PARKING PLACARDS POLICY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES?

The parking placard policy's fundamental principle is the right of all people to have access to the community. For some individuals, designated parking is the only way to gain this access.

The policy is intended to ensure individuals having the greatest needs can find the parking stalls they require.

Parking placards provide an easily recognizable method for law enforcement officials to enforce parking restrictions.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT POLICY?

A person must be unable to walk 50 metres in order to qualify for a parking placard.

A certified medical professional (physician, occupational therapist, or physiotherapist) is authorized

to approve application forms for both temporary (up to 12 months) and permanent (five year) parking placards.

All applicants, including current placard holders, must complete a new application form which is available from any registry agent or at www.governmentservices.gov.ab.ca

Persons who have sensory impairments are not eligible for a parking placard unless they have reduced mobility as defined by the policy.

Placards will not be issued to volunteer drivers.

WHAT UPDATES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE POLICY?

A stakeholder mid-term review of the policy was conducted in 2005/2006. Effective January 16, 2007:

- Organizations in the business of transporting persons with disabilities will be eligible for parking placards equivalent to

the number of registered vehicles in the organization's name. These placards can only be used in designated parking stalls while transporting clients who meet the eligibility criteria of not being able to walk 50 metres.

- Certified medical professionals will identify whether a person has a permanent disability, meaning that person is unable to walk more than 50 metres and his or her disability will not improve within the next 5 years. In these cases, the applicant will not need to be re-examined by a certified medical professional for future placard renewals, and will be able to self-declare to renew their placard.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information sheets are available for certified medical professionals defining eligibility criteria; for individuals and organizations outlining proper placard use; and for enforcement professionals identifying placard abuse situations.

Individuals are required to immediately disclose to the Registrar any disease or disability that affects driving. This requirement is found in the *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation* s.16 (1). More information is available at www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca

The placard holder must leave the vehicle when parked in a designated stall. Remaining in the vehicle while a family member or friend runs an errand is an abuse of placard privileges.

Abuse of a parking placard or a designated stall can be reported to the traffic bylaw enforcement agency of the municipality in

which the incident took place. Abuse can result in a fine being issued and/or a placard being cancelled.

A person does not need to own a vehicle or be the driver to use their parking placard.

If a person no longer needs the placard, it must be returned to any Alberta registry agent.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Alberta Government Services Contact Centre at (780) 427-7013.

If you are outside of the Edmonton calling area, call toll-free 310-0000.