



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Springfield, Illinois 62756

Jesse White  
Secretary of State

May 2013

Dear Law Enforcement Official,

As you may be aware, significant changes have been made to the Secretary of State's Persons with Disabilities Parking Program as a result of legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2013. These changes affect holders of disability license plates and parking placards as well as law enforcement officials assigned to enforce the parking program in their jurisdiction.

Beginning January 1, 2014, only persons with specific types of disabilities will be exempt from paying parking-meter fees. If a person has a disability that exempts them from paying meter fees, they will be issued a yellow-and-gray striped Metered-Exempt Parking Placard. Any person who does not have a Metered-Exempt Parking Placard will be required to pay for metered parking, regardless of whether they have a temporary or permanent parking placard. The yellow-and-gray striped Metered-Exempt Parking Placard can only be issued by the Secretary of State's office.

These changes require my office to recertify all current holders of disability license plates and parking placards and re-issue new credentials to ensure that those who qualify for metered-exempt parking receive the appropriate placard. The recertification process will take place throughout calendar year 2013 with enforcement commencing on January 1, 2014.

One of the key components to making the transition to the new program a success is educating all those impacted by these changes, including persons with disabilities, the medical community and local law enforcement organizations responsible for implementing the new parking provisions. My office is willing to work with your agency in any way you feel is beneficial to help educate your officers. Speakers are available to explain the new provisions of the program, and informational exhibits can be provided for workshops, meetings or conferences during the 2013 calendar year.

It is my hope that we can work together to ensure that everyone is informed about the changes to the law so a smooth conversion occurs when enforcement begins on January 1, 2014. If you have questions, would like to schedule a speaker/exhibit or would like more copies of the enclosed Law Enforcement Guide, please contact Mary Riseling with my office's Programs & Policies Department [MRiseling@ilsos.net](mailto:MRiseling@ilsos.net) or at 217-524-1166.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in working together to ensure that disability parking privileges are reserved for those who need them most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse White".

Jesse White  
Secretary of State

The Secretary of State issues four types of parking placards:

Gender of placard holder. If box is hole-punched, the holder is male. If box is solid, the holder is female.



Identification number

Gold foil hologram image with wording original and genuine.

Digits punched indicate last two digits of holder's birth year.

Month punched corresponds with the birth month of the holder.

Placard expires in 2018 of the month punched.

**METER-EXEMPT PERMANENT** Placards are issued to persons with a permanent disability and are exempt from paying for parking meter fees.

Gender of placard holder. If box is hole-punched, the holder is male. If box is solid, the holder is female.



Identification number

Gold foil hologram image with wording original and genuine.

Digits punched indicate last two digits of holder's birth year.

Month punched corresponds with the

Gender of placard holder. If box is hole-punched, the holder is male. If box is solid, the holder is female.



Identification number

Gold foil hologram image with wording original and genuine.

Expires the last day of the month punched of the current year.

**TEMPORARY** Placards are valid for up to 6 months if issued by the Secretary of State, or up to 90 days if issued by a municipality.

Gold foil hologram image with wording original and genuine.



Identification number

Expires April 30, 2018.

**ORGANIZATION** Placards are issued to nonprofit organizations that transport persons with disabilities.

exit the vehicle at the time the parking privileges are being used. Violators face a \$600 fine, driver's license suspension and suspension/revocation of the plates or placard [625 ILCS 5/11-1301.3 (a-1)].

■ Meter-Exempt Placards (yellow-and-gray-striped) allow authorized holders to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, and **EXEMPT** holders from the payment of parking meter fees and time limitations, **EXCEPT** at meters or signs with time limitations of 30 minutes or less. All vehicles, **including those with Persons with Disabilities or Disabled Veteran plates, MUST** display the Meter-Exempt Placard to qualify. Placards must be displayed in clear view, hanging from the rearview mirror or on the dashboard. Disability plates/placards do not allow authorized holders to park in restricted parking areas.

■ The following disability placards/plates **DO NOT EXEMPT** authorized holders from the payment of on-street parking meter fees and time limitations: Permanent Placards (blue); Temporary Placards (red); Organization Placards (green); and Persons with Disabilities and Disabled Veteran plates (**UNLESS** the yellow-and-gray-striped Meter-Exempt Placard also is displayed).

■ Police have clear authority to enforce the provisions of the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities on private property, such as at a mall, grocery or retail store.

■ Vehicles parked in a space reserved for persons with disabilities without properly displaying disability license plates and/or a parking placard may be fined a minimum of \$250 [625 ILCS 5/11-1301.3]. It is unlawful to display a parking placard on the rearview mirror while the vehicle is in motion. The driver may be ticketed for this offense [625 ILCS 5/12-503(c)].

■ Upon request of a police officer, a parking program user must present photo identification to verify he or she is the authorized holder of the disability plates or parking placard. (Questioning the nature or validity of the user's disability is not a law enforcement function; not all disabilities are apparent.)

■ Placards **ARE NOT** transferable. The authorized holder of dis-

■ Parking is **not** allowed in an access aisle of a parking space. Police may ticket any vehicle parked in the access aisle whether or not it is displaying disability plates or a placard [625 ILCS 5/11-1301.3].

■ The following are Class A misdemeanors for a first offense [625 ILCS 5/11-1301.5 and 1301.6] and may result in a fine of up to \$2,500 and a one-year suspension of the violator's driver's license. Violators may be charged with a Class 4 felony for a second offense involving:

- Using a deceased person's disability license plates or parking placard.
- Altering a placard.
- Possessing a fake, fraudulent, lost or stolen placard.
- Duplicating or manufacturing a placard.
- Selling or otherwise distributing a fraudulent placard.

■ All disability plates and placard information may be accessed through LEADS. Police may confiscate any placard if it is being used illegally [625 ILCS 5/11-1301.3]. Follow these procedures for reporting confiscated placards:

- Report immediately all confiscated placards to the Secretary of State Persons with Disabilities License Plates/Placard Unit at 217-524-7884.
- Return all confiscated placards with a copy of the citation and case summary to the above unit at 501 S. Second St., Rm. 541, Springfield, IL 62756.