

# The Do's and Don'ts

**DON'T PARK IN OR BLOCK AN ACCESS AISLE.** Whether you have a placard or not, parking in a hp access aisle is a finable offense and is subject to a \$200 fine. Access aisles are not to be blocked by any vehicle because it provides adequate space for a person in a wheelchair to enter or exit their vehicle.



**TAKE IT DOWN.** When parking in a handicap parking space hang your placard on the rear view mirror inside your vehicle. **DO NOT** place on the dashboard. When leaving the hp space remember to remove your placard from the window. It creates an obstructed view and it's against the law to leave it hanging.



**IT'S NOT A CONVENIENCE.** Taking someone with a disability to do some errands? Remember, when parking in a handicap parking space the disability placard or plate holder must exit the vehicle. Parking in a handicap parking space and leaving the placard holder in the vehicle while you run some errands is illegal. Even though the placard holder is in the vehicle it is a \$200 finable offense.



**YOUR PLACARD MIGHT BE OUTDATED.** If you are using the older version of the placard that was issued many years ago, the big squares ones we use to place on the dashboard, you need to know that they are no longer to be used. The new placards issued are those that hang from the inside rear view mirrors. If you are still using the older ones you must have a new one issued to you. Contact the RMV Medical Affairs Office for more information.



**DO NOT** let anyone use your disabled placard parking privileges. This abuse of your disabled placard is punishable by a \$500 fine, loss of your disabled parking privileges, and 30-day suspension of your operators license.



**AVOID THE FINES.** Do Not use your disabled placard after its expiration date. You may be fined.

**DO NOT** use your disabled placard in a vehicle weighing 10,000 lbs or more

For business compliance rules and regulations visit our website for more information.  
For correspondence mail to: Methuen Commission on Disabilities, 41 Pleasant Street, Room 306, Methuen, MA 01844. Tel: 978-983-8506

For more information visit [www.methuendisabilities.com](http://www.methuendisabilities.com).



# City of Methuen's HANDICAP PARKING Guide Book



## Handicap Parking The Do's... and the Don'ts



A Community Service Guidebook  
Provided by the Methuen  
Commission on Disabilities

# Handicap Parking Facts

## Eligibility Standards

To obtain Disability Plates, a Placard or a Disability Veteran Plate you must be a Massachusetts resident. In addition, a Massachusetts registered and licensed physician, chiropractor or nurse practitioner must certify that you meet one of the following conditions:

- Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest.
- Cannot walk without the assistance of another person, prosthetic aid or other assistive device.
- Are restricted by lung disease to such a degree that your forced (respiratory) expiratory volume (FEV) in one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one (1) liter.
- Use portable oxygen.
- Have a Class III cardiac condition according to the standards set by the American Heart Association.
- Have a Class IV cardiac condition according to the standards set by the American Heart Association. An applicant in this condition must surrender his or her license.
- Have Class III or Class IV functional arthritis according to the standards set by the American College of Rheumatology.
- Have Stage III or Stage IV anatomic arthritis according to the standards set by the American College of Rheumatology.
- Have been declared legally blind (please attach copy of certification). An applicant in this classification must surrender his or her license.
- Have lost one or more limbs or permanently lost the use of one or more limbs.

To be eligible for a Temporary Placard, the medical professional must certify that the disability is predicted to last at least two (2) months.

## How To Apply

Applications for Disabled Parking are available at all branch locations; at the Medical Affairs office, 25 Newport Ave EXT, Quincy MA; and on the RMV website <http://www.mass.gov/rmv/forms/medaff.htm>. All Disabled parking applications are processed at the Medical Affairs office in Quincy. Walk-ins are welcome.



## Misuse of a Disability Placard or Plate

The use of a Disability Placard, or the special privileges associated with a Disability Plate, is restricted to the person to whom the Placard or Plate is issued.

Misuse of a Disability Placard or Plate may result in suspension or revocation of the Placard or Plate. In addition, the Registrar shall suspend for 30 days the license or right to operate of a person who misuses a Disability Placard or Plate. Anyone who wrongfully displays a Disability Placard is subject to a fine of \$500 to \$1000.

## Wrongful Use of a Handicap Parking Space.

### Even if you have one you should read this.....!

Anyone who parks in a handicap parking space that does not have a HP license plate or a placard is subject to a fine. The fine for parking illegally in a HP space in Methuen is currently \$200.

Anyone who parks in a cross-hatch area (zebra stripe) adjacent to a HP space. This area allows individuals who park in a HP space with adequate space to maneuver out of their vehicle. Blocking this aisle is fineable with or without a placard.

Anyone who uses the space as a convenience when transporting a person with a disability with a placard. Example: Daughter taking mom to the doctors and decides to go to the store first. Mom has a placard so daughter parks in space while mom stays in vehicle and daughter runs into store. NO!!! Handicap parking spaces are designed to accommodate people with disabilities. The person with the placard must exit the vehicle as well. This is a misuse of a disability Placard or Plate and is subject to a fine.

## Did You Know!

Massachusetts's law also allows vehicles with proper Disabled Parking authority to disregard most - but not all - public meter fees. Note, however, Massachusetts Port Authority does not exempt meters fees for Disabled Parking.