



Frequently Asked Questions

Parking Placards for Persons with Disabilities

<http://www.servicealberta.ca/parking-for-people-with-disabilities.cfm>

1. **What is the current policy?**

An individual must be unable to walk 50 metres (164 feet) in order to qualify for a parking placard.

In Alberta, physicians, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, surgeons, physical therapists, podiatrists, nurse practitioners, and chiropractors are authorized to approve application forms for temporary (up to 12 months), 5-year and permanent parking placards.

Organizations in the business of providing transportation services to individuals with disabilities may be issued parking placards equivalent to the number of vehicles registered in the organization's name.

Placards will not be issued to volunteer drivers.

2. **How does an individual apply for a parking placard?**

The application form must be completed by one of the professionals listed above based on their assessment of your need for a parking placard. Once the form has been completed, the individuals must take it to a registry agent office where a parking placard will be issued.

3. **Where can I obtain an application form for a parking placard**

Application forms can be obtained from any Alberta Registry Agent or from Service Alberta's website at <http://www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/Parking-disabilities-how-to-apply.cfm>.

4. **If I am visually impaired, am I eligible for a placard?**

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

5. What is self-declaration?

When an authorized healthcare professional has identified that an individual has a permanent disability and that their disability will **not** improve within the next five years, an individual can self-declare to renew their placard by completing the Self-Declaration section on the application form. They will not have to be re-examined by an authorized healthcare professional for future renewals.

6. If I am a current placard holder now, what are some of the rules I should follow when using it?

Additional information about proper placard use can be found in the “Rules for Individual Parking Placard Holders for Persons with Disabilities” Information Sheet found at <http://www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/proper-placard-use.cfm>.

7. Is there a cost for obtaining a parking placard?

There is no fee charged by the Government of Alberta, however a registry agent service charge will be applied by a registry agent for processing the application. Please see the “Registry Agent Product Catalogue” found at http://www.servicealberta.ca/pdf/Product_Catalogue.pdf for more information about costs.

There may be a fee charged by the healthcare professional that completes the application.

8. How does an organization apply for a parking placard?

To apply, the organization must provide an original letter to a registry agent on the organization’s letterhead and signed by an authorized officer of the organization. The letter must outline the number of placards requested and the intended use, along with the licence plate number(s) of each registered vehicle.

Upon the registry agent confirming the information, the organization may receive one red short term placard per vehicle registered in your organization’s name. These will be valid for one year.

To renew organization parking placards, the organization must resubmit an original signed letter to any registry agent following the steps above.

9. When can an organization use a parking placard?

An organization to which a placard is issued can only use the placard while providing services to an individual who meets the criteria of being unable to walk more than 50 metres (164 feet).

For additional information about the proper use of a parking placard for your organization, please review the “Information for Organization Placard Holders” Information sheet found at <http://www.servicealberta.ca/proper-placard-use.cfm>.

10. If I see a placard being misused, what should I do?

Misuse of a parking placard, or if a non-placard vehicle is parked in a designated stall, should be reported to the traffic bylaw enforcement agency of the municipality where the incident took place.

You may be required to provide details of the incident including the date, time, place, vehicle licence plate number and description, and placard number.

11. What do I do with my temporary or permanent placard when I no longer need it?

Valid placards that are no longer needed must be returned to any registry agent.

12. Can I get designated parking signs installed in front of my house?

Local municipalities are responsible for providing designated parking signs in residential areas. To inquire about having a designated parking sign installed in front of your house, please contact your local municipality.

13. I am visiting Alberta. May I bring my placard?

Visitors with valid parking placards from their home jurisdictions may use their placards while visiting in Alberta. The placard must be valid, clearly displayed, and used in the vehicle that the placard holder is travelling in.

14. I am visiting Alberta, but I did not bring my placard. What should I do?

A visitor in need of a parking placard may request a temporary (red) placard for the duration of their visit. The request can be made by an Albertan known to the visitor or directly by the visitor to any registry agent. The placard must be returned to a registry agent when the visitor leaves Alberta. A list of registry agents can be found on the Service Alberta website at <http://www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/find-a-registry-agent.cfm>.

15. How does the current policy compare to other provinces?

The current policy is consistent with other provinces and territories, including allowing occupational therapists, physiotherapists, nurse practitioners and chiropractors to approve application forms in addition to physicians. It also allows for individuals with permanent disabilities, when renewing their placards, to self-declare that their condition has not changed.

16. Why don't placards contain pictures of the holder to help enforcement

authorities identify when placards are being abused?

Pictures of the holder are not included on placards due to privacy and security issues. One of the common concerns with this was that placard holders could become targets of crime if their picture was included on their parking placard.

17. Where can I get more information?

Please visit <http://www.servicealberta.ca/parking-for-people-with-disabilities.cfm> or call the Service Alberta Contact Centre at (780) 427-7013. If you are outside the Edmonton calling area, call toll-free at 310-0000.