Louisiana Department of Public Safety
Office of Motor Vehicles

Policy 14.03 Free Handicapped License Plates for Vans/Private Bus Equipped with Special Lift Devices

Section: 5. Motor Vehicle License Plate Classification and Requirements

Effective Date: 10/15/1984

Revised Date: 07/01/2010

Authority:
R.S. 47:463.5 (C)
To view Louisiana Statutes: http://www.legis.state.la.us/

General: This law provides for the issuance of free handicapped license plates to specially equipped minimum-use vans or buses with devices which are necessary for raising or lowering wheelchairs.

Eligibility:

- To qualify for a free handicapped license plate for a van or private bus, the vehicle must be equipped with a special device for raising and lowering wheelchairs and be used solely by or for the benefit of mobility impaired persons; that is, such vehicle may be operated by either a mobility impaired person or by a person who is not mobility impaired but is utilizing the vehicle for the benefit of a mobility impaired person.
- The term "mobility impaired person" will include any person who is impaired because of any of the following conditions:
    - Cannot walk two hundred feet without stopping to rest.
    - Cannot walk without the assistance of another person, walker, cane crutches, braces, prosthetic device, or wheelchair. This includes individuals who are blind or have such a visual impairment that the assistance of another person is necessary to walk.
    - Is restricted by a lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty mm/hg on room air at rest.
    - Uses portable oxygen.
    - Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association.
    - Has a diagnosed disease or disorder, including a severe arthritic, neurological or orthopedic impairment, which creates a severe mobility limitation.
    - A free handicapped license plate may be transferred from one vehicle to another vehicle providing that the new vehicle is also specially equipped with a device necessary for raising or lowering wheelchairs and is registered in the mobility impaired person's name or in the name of a person designated by the mobility impaired person.

Requirements:

- An affidavit of physical inspection. A physical inspection must be performed by a full-time Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) certified law enforcement officer who has been certified by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police, to inspect motor vehicles must be submitted indicating that the vehicle is equipped with a special device for raising and lowering wheelchairs, or a departmental employee may visually inspect the vehicle for the device.
- Each initial application must be accompanied by a currently dated medical examiner's statement (DPSMV 1966) form certifying that the applicant is mobility impaired. "Medical examiner" is defined as a person licensed to practice medicine by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, a person licensed to practice chiropractic by the Louisiana State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, a person licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, or an advanced practice registered nurse. The certification must be completely filled out and must indicated the type of impairment as follows:
    - PERMANENTLY IMPAIRED - Condition certified as total or lifelong.
    - Medical Examiner's certification required on initial application only.
    - Re-certification WILL NOT be required upon renewal.
- An applicant whose medical examiner's certification is marked TEMPORARILY IMPAIRED is NOT eligible to receive a handicapped license plate. A temporarily impaired individual can only qualify for a hang tag. See Section V, Policy14.07 for procedures.
- If the vehicle is not registered in the applicant's name, proper title documentation and fees must also be submitted. See Section IV Policy 2 for proper documentation.
- If the mobility impaired individual is NOT the owner of the vehicle on which the handicapped plate will be placed, a "Designation of Mobility Impaired License Plate" (DPSMV 4222) form must be completed and signed by the mobility impaired person (designee) and the vehicle owner or lessee. See attached sample.
- The "Office Use Only" section on the medical examiner's certification must be completed by the employee.

Fees

- There is no fee for the issuance of handicapped plates for vans or buses equipped with devices necessary for raising or lowering wheelchairs.
- The license transfer fee is $3.00.
- An $8.00 handling fee is due on all transactions except renewals.

Notes:

- Applications for these free handicapped plates can be processed at any Motor Vehicle or Public Tag Agent office.
- If the individual who is applying for the handicapped plate has a current plate on the vehicle, this current plate must be submitted for cancellation. Since the handicapped plate is free, no credit or refund of the unused fees on the regular license plate will be allowed.

Related Policies:

Section 4, Policy 2.00 Basic Requirements For Obtaining A Certificate Of Title
Section 5, Policy 14.00 Mobility Impaired License Plates
Section 5, Policy 14.07 Hang Tags For Mobility Impaired Individuals