

Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release

Nov. 28, 2001

Don't Forget—Update Disability Parking Access Privileges for 2002

Montgomery—The Alabama Department of Revenue reminds individuals who currently hold five-year handicap parking placards and/or handicap license plates to renew their placards and license plates during their designated renewal month beginning in 2002.

Expiration dates are shown on the bottom of the removable windshield placard and on the month and year decals on the license plate.

State Revenue Commissioner Cynthia Underwood reminds individuals that before a new license plate or placard may be issued, individuals first must renew their disability parking access privileges.

“To do this, the individual will complete the *Application for Disability Access Parking Privileges* form. A physician’s re-certification is not required for holders of the five-year parking placards and/or handicap license plate. **Individuals may self-certify their disability parking credentials based upon their physician’s prior determination.** The application, however, must be completed before a new placard and/or license plate can be issued. Applications for self-certification are available at all county license plate offices,” advises Commissioner Underwood.

Individuals seeking handicap parking privileges for the first time must obtain the signature of a licensed physician verifying that the individual qualifies for the parking credentials prior to receiving them. **The *Application for Disability Access Parking Privileges* form must be completed by a licensed physician before a handicap placard and/or handicap license plate is issued for first-time applicants.**

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The new five-year removable windshield placard is issued free-of-charge and will expire at the end of the individual's registration renewal month in 2007.

The registration fee for the handicap license plate is the same as that of a standard license plate—\$23 annually, plus a county issuance fee. The license plate is renewed annually and will be replaced by a new five-year series in 2007.

Commissioner Underwood advises that federal guidelines do not require any vehicle ownership rights to obtain a handicap placard, but do require vehicle ownership rights to obtain a handicap license plate.

“A person with disabilities may obtain a maximum of two handicap windshield placards; however, if an individual wishes to obtain a handicap placard and a handicap license plate, only one placard may be issued. Note, there are no limits placed upon the number of handicap license plates that may be issued to an individual with disabilities, provided vehicle ownership qualifications are met. To obtain a handicap license plate, the person with disabilities must have an ownership interest in the vehicle,” explained Commissioner Underwood.

For more information concerning disability parking access privileges, contact the Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division at (334) 242-9000 or visit the department's Web site at www.ador.state.al.us.

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