

USING LICENSE PLATES AND PARKING PERMITS

- ◆ The plates and permits may be used to park in reserved parking spaces **only when the person with the disability is driving or riding in the vehicle**. People who are not disabled cannot use your parking permit and/or plates to park in a reserved space. Persons parking illegally in these spaces violate Section 1203-c(4) of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law and can be fined \$50 to \$75 for a first offense, and \$75 to \$150 for a second offense within two years. Municipalities can impose higher fines. Any person who abuses any privilege, benefit, precedence or consideration arising from possession of the license plates or permit, may have them revoked.
- ◆ Parking permits should be hung from the rear-view mirror when parked, but should be removed from the mirror when driving.
- ◆ The plates and permits are valid everywhere in New York State where parking spaces are reserved for persons with disabilities (see NYC exception below). However, use of the plates or permit does not exempt you from state or local parking regulations or fees. They are also valid in most other states, territories and foreign countries. If you are traveling outside of New York, check with the police or Motor Vehicles agency where you are traveling, to be sure your permit or plate will be accepted.
- ◆ Parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities must be marked with conspicuous and permanently installed above-grade signs displaying the wheelchair symbol. These signs are positioned at a height of five to seven feet above the parking space surface. Designation of reserved spaces may include the use of blue painted lines or markings. **Do not park in the striped access aisle next to spaces reserved for people with disabilities** even if you have a permit or plates. Access aisles provide room for people with wheelchairs and other specially equipped vehicles to transfer safely to and from their vehicles.
- ◆ Localities designate parking spaces for persons with disabilities by local law or ordinance. If you have a question about parking for the disabled on a particular street, find out if it is a county, city, town, village or state road, and contact the authorities responsible for maintaining the road. If you have a question about reserved parking at any facility with off-street parking, contact the facility manager or the local building inspector.

◆ PARKING IN NEW YORK CITY

New York City does not set aside reserved spaces on its streets for persons with disabilities, and **you cannot use the state parking permit or disabled license plates to park on the streets of NYC**. Such parking is only available **off-street**, in parking lots for shopping centers/malls, office/apartment buildings and college campuses. You can use the state plates and permits to park in designated spaces in those off-street lots.

The NYC Department of Transportation also issues a City permit (a rectangular dashboard permit) that allows persons with severe disabilities to park on NYC streets. City permits are issued to New York City residents and to people who work or attend school in NYC, and who have a permanent disability that so severely affects their ability to walk that they require the use of a private automobile. The New York City parking permit is not valid for parking outside of NYC. To obtain an application for a NYC permit, call (718) 433-3100.