

PARKING PERMIT FOR DISABLED DRIVER / DISABLED PASSENGER

Disabled Person's Parking Cards (also known as a European Parking Cards) are available for patients with reduced mobility. The parking permit can be displayed on your own car or on the car of the person driving you (e.g. spouse, relative, friend, neighbour). The parking permit entitles a disabled driver or a disabled passenger to free parking in designated disabled parking spaces or free parking in designated parking areas that normally require a pay and display ticket.

An application form is available from:

Irish Wheelchair Association, Parking Card Section, The Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland, Ballindine, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.

Tel: (094) 936 4266 or (094) 936 4054 Email: info@iwa.ie

The application form must be signed by a member of the Gardaí. A postal order or cheque for 25 Euro and a passport photograph of the applicant must be included with the application form. The parking permit is valid for a period of 2 years and then you must re-apply.

MOBILITY ALLOWANCE

The Mobility Allowance is a means tested monthly payment payable by the Health Service Executive (HSE) to people aged between 16 and 66 years who have a disability and are unable to walk or use public transport and who would benefit from a change in surroundings (e.g. by financing the occasional taxi journey). A lower rate is payable to people who are availing of the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme. The decision on whether you meet the medical criteria is made by the HSE Senior Area Medical Officer for your area. Apply to your local health authority office.

MOTORISED TRANSPORT GRANT

The Motorised Transport Grant is a means tested HSE payment for people with disabilities, who need to buy a car. This payment is also for disabled people who need to have a car adapted in order to enable them to drive and, as a result, earn a living. Certain conditions must be met in order to be eligible for the grant. The maximum grant is 4,917.20 Euro (2007 figures). Apply for a Motorised Transport Grant to the Disability Services Manager in your local health authority office.

CAR ADAPTATIONS

Help and advice on car adaptations is available from:

Irish Wheelchair Association, Ballinagappa Road, Clane, Kildare.

Tel: (045) 893094 Website: www.iwa.ie Email: maats@iwa.ie

APPLICATION FOR A DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING BAY OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

Your local council may consider a request for a disabled person's parking bay outside your home, if certain conditions are met. To obtain full written details of the requirements, contact the Traffic Department at your local county council.

The contact details for the Traffic Advisory Group at Dublin City Council are: Roads and Traffic Department, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8.

Tel: (01) 222 2257 E-mail: traffic@dublincity.ie

TAX CONCESSIONS FOR DISABLED DRIVERS & DISABLED PASSENGERS

You are entitled to claim exemption from:

- Value Added Tax (VAT) in respect of a new car.
- Exemption for fuel refunds.
- Repayment of Vehicle Registration Tax.

See section on Tax Relief.