

Driving in Illinois for Persons with Disabilities



The Illinois Vehicle Code 625 ILCS 5/1 is the statute governing the many different aspects of motor vehicle operation. It serves to insure that persons with disabilities are able to operate a vehicle safely and also park their vehicle to allow easy access.

The Secretary of State is Illinois' agency for obtaining or renewing a driver's license. The Secretary of State's office reserves the right to deny or restrict a license in any way. Illinois requires disclosure of a physical or mental condition which in any way impairs the person's ability to operate a motor vehicle. Failure to disclose a condition affecting your ability to drive can result in your license being revoked.

A medical report may be required in order to get a driver's license or to determine what restrictions should apply. The report is completed by the doctor of your choice, at your expense. If there is any doubt as to your ability

to drive safely, a Medical Advisory Board will review the medical information received and any driving records to decide whether to grant or deny privileges.

Restrictions placed on privileges may include wearing prescription lenses, using prosthetics or adaptive devices, or driving an adapted vehicle. Illinois may require a "medical agreement" be signed that notes the person will remain under a doctor's care and follow the treatment plan. People who are disabled and have an appointed legal guardian to manage their affairs are not eligible for a license. Those incompetent to stand trial are also excluded. Any person for whom the state requires a medical report and the physician cannot certify their ability to drive safely is also not eligible for licensure.

Evaluations, Resources, Funding:

[Behind the wheel evaluations](#) to determine the need for adaptive devices and driver's training are provided by rehabilitation specialists. Click on the link to see a list of specialists/facilities located in Illinois.

The [Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago's LIFE Center](#) also has information on adapting motor vehicles, driving, and disease specific information on their website

Visit the [Infinitec](#) website for information on driving assessments, car modifications, equipment dealers and funding for car modifications.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) may help with vehicle modifications for those in a vocational program. If a vehicle is

necessary for you to obtain vocational rehabilitation services or to accomplish your employment goal, then the program will provide adaptive equipment and pay for its installation necessary to allow you to safely operate your vehicle. DRS may also fund a driver's evaluation and training under these same conditions. Visit [DRS](#) on line to find an office in your area or call (800) 843-6154.

The school district may provide adaptations to the school owned vehicle (and in rare cases, the family vehicle) when required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). DSCC has supported installation of hand controls in the family vehicle on a case-by-case basis when necessary to enable the youth/young adult to access medical services and no other funding source is available.

Illinois Assistive Technology Program offers the [TechConnect](#) Low Interest Loan program. The loan enables disabled persons and their families to apply for cash to buy services, adaptive equipment, and home modifications. To see if you qualify or apply, visit their website or call (800) 852-5110.

Parking:

Persons with disabilities can obtain a special license plate/placard which allows special parking privileges. An additional set of plates may be issued for a relative who drives you. The plates/placard entitles you to park in any designated handicapped spot. The vehicle is also exempt from paying parking meters. The Secretary of State's office requires a physician's certification or an Illinois Disabled Persons Identification Card along with the necessary application form before a plate/placard will be issued.

Identification Card:

Illinois Disabled Persons Identification Card is a special state card that is proof of disability. It bears the person's photograph and is used for identification. The card may be used to access certain services, programs, or activities. No additional medical documentation is required when a Disabled Person's Identification Card is presented. This card is free of charge and valid for a 5 year period.

For more information on driving privileges, visit the [Secretary of State](#) on line or call (217) 782-2709. [Illinois Legal Aid](#) is another valuable resource for driving information for persons with disabilities in Illinois.

