

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR HANDICAPPED PARKING?

Florida Statute (F.S.) 553.5041, entitled “Parking spaces for persons who have disabilities”, is the State standard for parking spaces provided for disabled persons. Section 553.5041(4) states “The number of accessible parking spaces must comply with the requirements in ADAAG’s 4.1.” The ADAAG is the “Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.” These Guidelines present the minimum number of accessible parking spaces as shown below:

<u>Total Parking Spaces in Lot</u>	<u>Req’d. Handicapped Parking Spaces</u>	<u>Total Parking Spaces in Lot</u>	<u>Req’d. Handicapped Parking Spaces</u>
1 to 25	1	201 to 300	7
26 to 50	2	301 to 400	8
51 to 75	3	401 to 500	9
76 to 100	4	501 to 1,000	2 percent of total
101 to 150	5	1,001 and over	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1,000
151 to 200	6		

F.S. 553.5041(5)(c)1 states: “Each parking space must be no less than 12 feet wide. Parking access aisles must be part of an accessible route to the building of facility entrance. In accordance with ADAAG s. 4.6.3, access aisles must be placed adjacent to accessible parking spaces; however, two accessible parking spaces may share a common access aisle. The access aisle must be striped diagonally to designate it as a no-parking zone.”

The Florida statutes can be viewed at web site: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Statutes/>

F.S. 553.5041(6) states: “Each such parking space must be prominently outlined in blue paint and must be repainted when necessary, to be clearly distinguishable as a parking space designated for persons who have disabilities and must be posted with a permanent above-grade sign of a color and design approved by the Department of Transportation which is placed on or at a distance of 84 inches above the ground to the bottom of the sign and which bears the international symbol of accessibility meeting the requirements of ADAAG s. 4.30.7 and the caption 'PARKING BY DISABLED PERMIT ONLY'.”

An approved Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) sign is 12 inches wide by 18 inches high, designated FTO-25 in accordance with FDOT Design Standards 17355 sheet 3. Design requirements for this reflective sign are: 1 inch Series "C" letters on blue background with white legend and border on top, and a bottom portion of white background with black opaque legend and border.

FDOT standards require the blue outline to be a 6 inch wide blue stripe to be 2 inches inside of the standard 6 inch white stripe as shown in FDOT Design Standard 17346 sheet 10. This standard states “Use of pavement symbol in accessible parking spaces is optional, when used the symbol shall be 3 feet or 5 feet high and white in color.” Blue pavement markings shall be tinted to match shade 15180 of Federal Standard 595a.

F.S. 316.1955 entitled “Enforcement of parking requirements for persons who have disabilities” states: “It is unlawful for any person to stop, stand, or park a vehicle within, any such specially designated and marked parking space provided in accordance with s. 553.5041, unless such vehicle displays a parking permit issued under s. 316.1958 or s. 320.0848, or a license plate issued under ...”

F.S. 316.1959 entitled “Handicapped parking enforcement” states: “The provisions of handicapped parking shall be enforced by state, county, and municipal authorities in their respective jurisdictions whether on public or private property in the same manner as is used to enforce other parking laws and ordinances by said agencies.” F.S. 316.008(4) provides for a fine up to \$250.00 for drivers who illegally park in designated handicapped parking spaces.

An “Application for Disabled Person Parking Permit” (Form HSMV 83039) may be obtained through the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Division of Motor Vehicles, Neil Kirkman Building, 2900 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0620, or at a local tag office.