

## **Information regarding live parking in designated handicapped spaces.**

Persons using these spaces must have a valid handicapped plate or placard issued by the RMV. If a person using the spaces does not have one of these, they are subject to fines and/or penalties. Even brief idling in the spaces are for authorized plate or placard holders. Please see the highlighted portion in the summary below.

A summary of the law is as follows:

**Massachusetts Handicapped Plate and Placard Law M.G.L. c. 90, §2:** HP plates and placards are issued through the Registry of Motor Vehicles to eligible people with disabilities. As discussed under the parking laws above, they entitle holders: to park in designated HP spaces, to park longer than usual time limits, to park at parking meters free of charge, and to make use of the gas station law. The rights, responsibilities and privileges of plate holders and placard holders are the same. The Registry's Bureau of Medical Affairs determines eligibility according to physician's documentation. Only people who meet the disability definition and who are the registered owner of the vehicle and who are licensed drivers may receive plates. Anyone who meets the disability eligibility requirements can get a placard. The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles also issues temporary placards in some circumstances. An individual who uses an HP placard without proper authorization is the individual who will be penalized, as opposed to the individual with a disability to whom the placard was issued. **A driver picking up or dropping off the authorized placard user may not idle in an accessible parking space for more than ten minutes.** The fines for unauthorized utilization of an HP placard are five hundred dollars (\$500) for the first offense and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for subsequent offenses. License suspension for violation of this law run from 30 Days for a first offense to one year for a third or subsequent offense. The fines and penalties in this section are in addition to those specified in Chapter 266, Section 37E for the fraudulent use of another's identity. If a plate or placard user voluntarily allows someone else to use his or her placard or plate, it can result in revocation of the placard or plate.

You can find more information on the Massachusetts Office on Disability website in the Disability Law Booklet here: <http://www.mass.gov/anf/docs/mod/disability-law-booklet.pdf>.