



Florida
**Department of Highway
Safety and Motor Vehicles**
Division of Motorist Services

PROCEDURE RS-17	SUBJECT: DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATES
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DESCRIPTION:

This procedure provides information and instructions to guide employees and agents of the department for the issuance of disabled veteran license plates.

PROVISIONS OF LAW:

This procedure is governed by:

- [Section 316.1955\(1\), Florida Statutes](#)
- [Section 316.1964, Florida Statutes](#)
- [Section 320.04, Florida Statutes](#)
- [Section 320.06\(3\)\(b\), Florida Statutes](#)
- [Section 320.084, Florida Statutes](#)
- [Section 320.0848, Florida Statutes](#)
- [Section 320.0842\(2\)\(b\), Florida Statutes](#)
- [Section 222.17\(1\), \(2\), and \(3\), Florida Statutes](#)

Revision(s) to this procedure: Added Sections 316.1964(7) and (8), Florida Statutes, exempting some parking fees for disabled veterans, removed statute information no longer valid, and reformatted procedure.

EFFECTIVE DATE July 1, 2016	REVISION DATE 06/17/16
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DOCUMENTATION AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

The procedures listed below are used in the transactions described in this procedure:

[Procedure RS-18](#) Disabled Veteran Wheelchair License Plate

[Procedure RS-36](#) Insurance Verification

FORMS:

The forms listed below are used in the transactions described in this procedure:

Form HSMV 82041 Florida Title Receipt

Form [HSMV 83140](#) License Plate Rate Chart

Form [HSMV 83146](#) Application for Replacement License Plate, Validation Decal or Parking Permit

FEE CHART:

The fee chart listed below is used in the transactions described in this procedure

[Motor Vehicle/Mobile Home Registration Fees and Flat Taxes Distribution Chart](#)

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DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATES

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. Only one tax-free Disabled Veteran (or Disabled Veteran Wheelchair license plate, see [Procedure RS-18](#)) license plate can be issued to each disabled veteran with a 100% service connected disability. Additional Disabled Veteran (DV) license plates may be issued by charging the regular registration tax and applicable fees.
- B. The disabled veteran must have received an honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces.
- C. The DV license plate must be issued in the disabled veteran's name as owner, co-owner, or lessee.
- D. When one of the following situations occurs, an alternate license plate for which the customer is eligible must be purchased in a county tax collector office or license plate agency and the DV license plate returned to a county tax collector office or license plate agency for cancellation:
 - 1. Death of the disabled veteran (co-owner(s) must purchase a new license plate).
 - 2. The disability of the veteran is reduced below 100%.
 - 3. The veteran no longer owns a motor vehicle.
 - 4. The veteran is no longer a resident of the state of Florida.

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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

DV license plates may be issued in any county tax collector office or license plate agency. These license plates can be issued on all vehicles except mobile homes, commercial vehicles, and trucks over 26,000 GVW. The following must be submitted for processing:

A. PROOF OF FLORIDA RESIDENCY (one of the following):

1. An affidavit stating the customer has been a resident of the state of Florida continuously for the preceding five years.
2. A photocopy of the customer's Declaration of Domicile, which has been properly filed with the Clerk of the Court.
3. A copy of the customer's Florida Voter Registration Card.
4. A Florida Driver License.

B. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY:

A letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Administration Office in St. Petersburg, Florida, or a "Summary of Benefits" letter from any other state and city stating the veteran has a service-connected disability evaluated at 100%, accompanied by proof that:

1. A vehicle was initially acquired through financial assistance by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor specifically for the purchase of an automobile;
- or,
2. The customer has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a service-connected 100% disability rating for compensation;
- or,
3. The customer has been determined to have a service-connected disability rating of 100% and is in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States Armed Forces.

Summary of benefits letters are provided to all veterans annually and are issued by various VA regional offices nationally. Therefore, many benefit letters may contain an address other than that of the VA regional office in St. Petersburg, Florida.

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C. FEES:

1. The first DV license plate is tax-free and not subject to the annual use tax. However, the following fees are applicable: Reflectorization, Decal on Demand, Service fee, and branch fee, if applying through a county tax collector office or license plate agency. Refer to the [Motor Vehicle/Mobile Home Registration Fees and Flat Taxes Distribution Chart](#) for all applicable fees. For military, enter 'MI' in the REG USE field.
2. For an additional DV license plate(s) (Example: license plate issued to an additional vehicle owned by the disabled veteran), submit the annual use tax shown in the Tax Due and Credit Manual using the appropriate class codes, Original License Plate fee, Decal on Demand fee, Service fee, and branch fee, when applicable. Refer to the [Motor Vehicle/Mobile Home Registration Fees and Flat Taxes Distribution Chart](#) and the License Plate Rate Chart ([HSMV 83140](#)) for all applicable taxes and fees.

D. PROOF OF OWNERSHIP:

Proof of ownership of the vehicle may be shown by submitting one of the following:

1. Copy of the current Florida Vehicle Registration.
2. Copy of the Florida Certificate of Title.
3. Copy of a title application receipt (form HSMV 82041), showing that a Florida title has been applied for.

E. PROOF OF INSURANCE:

Proof of Florida Insurance is required. Refer to [Procedure RS-36](#) for insurance requirements.

If the vehicle is leased, a copy of the lease agreement is required.

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RENEWALS AND TRANSFERS OF DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATES:

Renewals and transfers may be processed by any county tax collector office or license plate agency.

- A. On renewals, a verbal or written statement certifying continued eligibility must be obtained.
- B. Transfers must be processed in the disabled veteran's name as owner, co-owner, or lessee.

REPLACEMENT LICENSE PLATES:

Replacement license plates may be issued by any county tax collector office or license plate agency.

- A. For replacement of lost license plates, submit the following:
 - 1. Form [HSMV 83146](#), Application For Replacement License Plate, Validation Decal or Parking Permit, accurately completed.
 - 2. Fees: Reflectorization fee, Decal on Demand fee, Service fee, and branch fee, when applicable. Refer to the [Motor Vehicle/Mobile Home Registration Fees and Flat Taxes Distribution Chart](#) for all applicable fees.

If replacing an additional DV license plate that was lost (Example: license plate issued to an additional vehicle owned by the disabled veteran), submit all applicable replacement fees and branch fee, when required. Refer to the [Motor Vehicle/Mobile Home Registration Fees and Flat Taxes Distribution Chart](#) for all applicable fees.
- B. For replacement of stolen license plates, submit the following:

Form [HSMV 83146](#), Application For Replacement License Plate, Decal or Parking Permit, accurately completed.

When a customer reports a license plate or decal as stolen to a law enforcement agency and attests that the license plate or decal has been reported as stolen on form [HSMV 83146](#), no fee will be charged for the replacement license plate or decal.
- C. The first tax-free DV license plate must be replaced every 10 years. The disabled veteran is not charged the advanced license plate replacement fee. If a DV license plate is defaced, faded, or damaged, help the disabled veteran follow the steps below to obtain a replacement license plate:
 - 1. The customer must turn in the defaced, faded, or damaged license plate to the local county tax collector office or license plate agency for cancellation.
 - 2. The customer must accurately complete and submit form [HSMV 83146](#), Application For Replacement License Plate, Decal or Parking Permit, with appropriate fees.
- D. If the customer wants an additional DV license plate(s), the regular registration tax, fees, and the advanced license plate replacement fee for the 10-year license plate replacement program are applicable.

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MISCELLANEOUS:

A legal opinion was issued in 1999 by the Florida Attorney General's office concerning metered parking for disabled veteran license plates. That legal opinion is located at:

[Florida Office of the Attorney General's Advisory Legal Opinion - AGO 99-67](#)

EXHIBIT A

(Please note that under section 2, Proof of Florida Residency, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles also accepts a Florida Driver License. Additionally, the remittance fee shown as number 5 has increased to \$9.50)



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Regional Office
P.O. Box 1437
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-1437

July 28, 2010

In Reply Refer To: 317-

Dear :

This is to certify that the records of the above-named honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States show that he/she has a service connected disability evaluated at 100 percent for purposes of compensation.

S. L. Smith

S. L. Smith
Veterans Service Center Manager

Email us at: stpete.query@vba.va.gov

The Department of Veterans Affairs letter is one of the requirements for your D.V. Tag in Florida. Before submitting your application, the State of Florida Motor Vehicle Division will require that you attach to this letter:

1. Proof of Ownership:
 - a. Copy of the current Florida vehicle registration
 - b. Copy of Florida title
 - c. Copy of title application receipt
2. Proof of Florida residency:
 - a. An affidavit stating the applicant has been a resident of the State of Florida continuously for the preceding five years, or
 - b. A copy of the applicant's Declaration of Domicile which has been properly filed with the Clerk of the Court, or
 - c. Copy of the applicant's Florida voter's registration card.
3. Current proof of insurance (card)
4. Letter of request, which includes the applicant's address and date of birth.
5. Remittance in the amount of \$3.00.

APPLY TO: The local Auto Tag Office in your city or county.

VAFL 27-323
APRIL 1998 (R)

EXHIBIT B



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Regional Office
P.O. Box 1437
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-1437

July 29, 2010

In Reply Refer To: 317-

Dear :

This is to certify that the records of the above-named honorably discharged veteran show that he/she is permanently and totally disabled, due to service connected disability or disabilities.

S. L. Smith

S. L. Smith
Veterans Service Center Manager

Email us at: <https://iris.va.gov>

A veteran seeking real estate tax exemption and/or License Fee Exemption should remember that statements obtained from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs in such matters are simply statements of fact taken from VA records. The determination as to eligibility for the benefit sought rests with the appropriate Municipal, County or State official, not VA.

VAFL 27-333
JUNE 1995 (R)



EXHIBIT C

Department Of Veterans Affairs
5000 Wissahickon Avenue
P.O. Box 8079
Philadelphia, PA 19101

November 13, 2013

In Reply Refer To:

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is a summary of benefits you currently receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We are providing this letter to disabled Veterans to use in applying for benefits such as state or local property or vehicle tax relief, civil service preference, to obtain housing entitlements, free or reduced state park annual memberships, or any other program or entitlement in which verification of VA benefits is required. Please safeguard this important document. This letter is considered an official record of your VA entitlement.

Our records contain the following information:

Personal Claim Information

Your VA claim number is: —
You are the Veteran.

Military Information

The character(s) of discharge and service date(s) of the veteran include:
Honorable, Army, 02/14/1968-10/01/1969
(There may be additional periods of service not listed above)

VA Benefits Information

Service-connected disability: Yes
Your combined service-connected evaluation is: 100%
Are you entitled to a higher level of disability due to being unemployable: No
Are you considered to be totally and permanently disabled due to your service connected disabilities:
Yes
Are you service connected for loss of or "loss of use of a limb, or are you totally blind in or missing at least one eye: No
Have you received a Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) and/or Special Home Adaptation (SHA) grant: No

You should contact your state or local office of veterans' affairs for information on any tax, license, or fee-related benefits for which you may be eligible. State offices of veterans' affairs are available at <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

May 15, 1997

TO: Jack Pelham
Chief, Bureau of Titles and Registration
Division of Motor Vehicles

FROM: Michael J. Alderman *MJA*
Assistant General Counsel

SUBJECT: Parking in Handicapped Parking Spaces with
a Disabled Veteran License Plate
Docket No.: DMV-98-27

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

If a vehicle has a disabled veteran plate issued pursuant to section 320.084, Florida Statutes (1997), and is transporting a disabled person, may it park in a space designated for persons with disabilities as provided in section 316.1955, Florida Statutes (1997), without also displaying a parking permit issued pursuant to section 320.0842, Florida Statutes (1997)?

CONCLUSION:

Yes, in my opinion, a vehicle displaying a disabled veteran plate and transporting a disabled person may park in a space designated for persons with disabilities as provided in section 316.1955, Florida Statutes (1997), without displaying a handicapped parking permit.

DISCUSSION:

Section 316.1955(7), Florida Statutes, provides for the offence of parking in a space reserved for persons having disabilities, as follows:

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 this section, unless the vehicle displays a disabled parking permit issued under s. 316.1958 or s. 320.0848 or a license plate issued under s. 320.084, s. 320.0842, s. 320.0843, or s. 320.0845, and the vehicle is transporting the person to whom the

EXHIBIT D (page 2, cont.)

Jack Pelham
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May 15, 1998

displayed permit is issued. The violation may not be dismissed for failure of the markings on the parking space to comply with this section if the space is in general compliance and is clearly distinguishable as a designated space. (Emphasis supplied)

In addition, section 320.0848(2)(b) provides:

License plates issued under sections 320.084, 320.0842, 320.0843, and 320.0845 are valid for the same parking privileges and other privileges provided under sections 316.1955, 316.1964, and 526.141(5)(a).

These statutory provisions make it clear that disabled veteran tags authorize parking in the spaces reserved for persons with disabilities.

In your request, you mentioned section 318.18(6), Florida Statutes. This statute provides the penalty for parking in violation of section 316.1955, Florida Statutes, and also provides for dismissal of a citation upon proof that that the person had at the time of the alleged violation a valid parking permit or a "license plate issued pursuant to s. 316.1958, s. 320.0842, s. 320.0843, s. 320.0845, or s. 320.0848..." You have asked whether this language, which was enacted after the above-quoted portions of sections 316.1955 and 320.0848, Florida Statutes, in effect removed from those sections the authorization for parking in these spaces. In my opinion, section 318.18(6), Florida Statutes, does not have this effect. Section 318.18(6), Florida Statutes, does not define the violation of parking in a designated space, it establishes the penalty and a procedure for disposing of citations. At worst, persons with disabled veteran tags will not be able to take advantage of the dismissal procedure set forth in section 318.18(6), Florida Statutes; it may even be possible to interpret section 318.18(6), Florida Statutes, to allow this, but that is a matter for the clerks of the courts and the county court judges.

You have also mentioned that section 320.084(5)(b), Florida Statutes, may be causing some confusion. This provision deals with the power of local authorities over metered and timed parking places, and thus is not relevant to your question.

Please refer to the above referenced docket number when submitting future inquiries regarding this matter.

MJA:jm

Document2