DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE TITLES AND REGISTRATION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78779-0001 • (512) 465-7611

June 8, 1992

CONTACT: D12-200

MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION CIRCULAR NO. 19-92

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF NEW DISABLED PERSON PLACARDS

AND LICENSE PLATES

TO: ALL COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTORS

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The purpose of this Circular is to provide information on the implementation of the new program for disabled persons, supplemental to that provided in Motor Vehicle Information Circulars Number 39-91 and 3-92.

## Disabled Person Placards

Your offices will be receiving new Disabled Person Placards designed to hang from a vehicle's rearview mirror on or about July 1, 1992. If the vehicle in which the placard is to be displayed does not have a rearview mirror, the placard should be displayed on the center portion of the dashboard, in a manner that is clearly visible through the windshield. You are asked to explain to individuals purchasing the placards to display the placard only when the vehicle is parked. The fee for the permanent or temporary placard is \$5.00.

The placard for permanently disabled persons will have white letters on a blue background. These placards will expire five years from the month of issuance. They must be validated by punching out the month and year of expiration with a hole punch. For example, if a placard is issued during the month of September, 1992, then the placard should have the "8" (for August) and "97" punched out. More than one month or year punched on the placard will render it invalid, and the item should be "voided."

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The placard for temporarily disabled persons will have white letters on a red background. These placards will expire six months from the month of issuance. They also must be validated by hole-punching the month and year of expiration. For example, if a placard is issued during September, 1992, then the placard should have the "2" (for February) and "93" punched out. Again, more than one month or year punched on the placard will render it invalid; and the item should be "voided."

The Department will provide one hole punch per county. Additional hole punches, if needed, should be purchased by the county. Additional hole punches may be any shape...round, square, etc., but should punch a 1/8th inch wide hole.

Persons who are currently utilizing the Permanently Disabled Person Identification Card should be allowed to exchange their card for a windshield placard at "no charge." No more than two cards may be exchanged. The new Disabled Person Placards issued as "no charges" should be listed as "voids" on line 40 of the Tax Assessor-Collector's Monday Registration Report, Form 158. Exchanges should also be shown as "voids" on the Recap and Year to Date Report of Registration Items, Form D12-113. The Permanently Disabled Person Identification Cards turned in should have the control number of the newly issued placard written across the face of the card. These cards are to be sent to the Department with the Tax Assessor-Collector's Weekly Detailed Report, Form D12-157. Exchanges should take place no later than December 31, 1992, if registrants wish to continue to avail themselves of disabled person parking privileges after that date. This does not, however, preclude them from exchanging their identification card for a placard at "no charge" after this date.

Persons issued the Temporarily Disabled Person Identification Cards will <u>not</u> exchange their cards for placards but will use the existing card until it expires.

## Disabled Person Motorcycle License Plates

Disabled Person License Plates for motorcycles are being manufactured and should be received by your office at a later date.

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These may be issued only "...for motorcycles with side cars that have been specifically modified by the manufacturer to be operated by disabled persons...." This is not a change in statute, however, it does provide for a Disabled Person Motorcycle License Plate.

### Validation Stickers

Please remember, in Motor Vehicle Information Circular Number 39-91, you were instructed that Disabled Person License Plates issued and renewed this year (for 1993 expirations) shall receive the Disabled Person Validation Sticker at no additional fee. These validation stickers were already manufactured when this new law became effective. Disabled Person License Plates (including those for motorcycles) that are renewed for 1994 expirations will be issued Universal Validation Stickers.

#### New Limits

As provided for in Section 2(b) of V.A.T.S., Article 6675a-5e.l, an applicant who is permanently disabled may receive any one of the following combinations:

- \* two (2) Permanently Disabled Person Placards
- \* one (1) Permanently Disabled Person Placard and/or one (1) set of Disabled Person License Plates

A temporarily disabled applicant may receive:

\* one (1) or two (2) Temporarily Disabled Person Placards

NOTE: Exempt agencies which regularly transport disabled persons may make application for the needed amount of removable windshield placards. The application must show the name of the exempt agency, but does not need the "Disability Statement" completed. Applications received from exempt agencies may be issued one Permanently Disabled Person Placard at "no charge" for each Texas Vehicle Registration Receipt, Form 39, with block 15 marked "EXEMPT" submitted with the Form D12-214.

# Revised/Combined Application Form

The Application for Disabled Person Special Identifying Registration Insignia, Form D12-316, and Application for Disabled Person Identification, Form D12-214, have been combined into the new Application for Disabled Person Identification Placard and/or Disabled Person License Plate, Form D12-214. Your

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office will receive the new forms upon your next reorder of the Form D12-214 or Form D12-316.

The original (white) copy of the application should be retained by the applicant in order to verify physician's or optometrist's approval if replacement placards or license plates are needed in the future. The second (yellow) copy should be retained by your office in order to verify physician's or optometrist's approval if replacement placards or license plates are needed in the future and to verify the number of placards held by the applicant. Indicate the placard control number on the pink copy; and forward it to the Division of Motor Vehicle Titles and Registration, Registration Auditing Section, with the Tax Assessor-Collector's Weekly Registration Detailed Report, Form D12-157.

Both of the current Forms D12-214 and D12-316 are still valid and can be accepted. A photocopy of the completed form may be used to substitute for the pink copy of the new Form D12-214 for reporting purposes.

If you have any questions regarding the matters contained in this Circular, please call your local Division of Motor Vehicle Titles and Registration Regional Office.

Sincerely,

Jerry I. Dike, Director Division of Motor Vehicle Titles and Registration

JLD/JD/jc