

## **Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 22-16**

### ***2022 Legislation – Statements of Disability for Persons with Disabilities Parking Permits***

**DATE:** June 16, 2022

**FROM:** MVD Policy & Compliance Team

**TO:** All Motor Vehicle Division staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurer's staff

#### **SUBJECT**

This informational memo explains legislation enacted during the 2022 legislative session which expands the types of medical professionals authorized to provide a statement of disability for a person applying for a persons with disabilities (PWD) parking permit. This memo is most applicable to staff that process applications for PWD parking permits.

#### **SUMMARY**

House File 2259 adds licensed occupational therapists and physical therapists to the list of medical professionals authorized under Iowa Code to provide a statement of disability for a person applying for a PWD parking permit. The legislation also allows a qualifying and licensed medical professional in any state to prepare the statement of disability. As in current law, the statement of disability must be on the medical professional's stationery.

Prior to the legislation, occupational therapists and physical therapists were not authorized under the law to provide statements of disability for PWD applicants and only qualifying medical professionals licensed in Iowa or a state contiguous to Iowa were allowed to provide the statement of disability. This law change will make it easier for customers to obtain a PWD parking permit, especially if their primary health care provider or specialist is licensed in a state that is several states away from Iowa.

**The legislation is effective July 1, 2022.**

#### **LINK TO LEGISLATION**

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/89/HF2259.pdf>

#### **CURRENT**

Currently, only a physician, physician's assistant, chiropractor, or nurse practitioner licensed in Iowa or a state contiguous to Iowa can provide the statement of disability for a PWD applicant.

#### **NEW**

As of July 1, 2022, licensed occupational therapists and physical therapists will be added to the list of health care providers eligible to provide a statement of disability for a PWD applicant. Also, a physician, physician's assistant, chiropractor, nurse practitioner, occupational therapist, or physical therapist licensed in any U.S. state may provide the statement of disability.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT**

Staff who process PWD applications will be able to accept a statement of disability from a physician, physician's assistant, chiropractor, nurse practitioner, occupational therapist, or physical therapist licensed in any U.S. state. We will also be updating our website and internal manuals accordingly.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

The following questions and answers provide additional information to you and to customers.

### **CAN WE USE A PWD PARKING PERMIT ISSUED BY ANOTHER STATE TO ISSUE A PWD PARKING PERMIT IN IOWA?**

No. The Iowa Code requires a person applying for a PWD parking permit in Iowa to submit the application and statement of disability from the person's medical provider. Iowa Code does not allow a person to substitute their out of state PWD parking permit to meet these requirements.

### **WHAT IF A CUSTOMER SUBMITS A STATEMENT OF DISABILITY FROM A MEDICAL PROVIDER NOT LOCATED IN IOWA OR A STATE CONTIGUOUS TO IOWA PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2022?**

The new law change doesn't take effect until July 1, 2022, so until that time, we must follow Iowa Code section 321L.2 as written. Therefore, if a customer submits a statement of disability from a medical provider not located in Iowa or a state contiguous to Iowa prior to July 1, 2022, there are two options:

- 1) The customer may obtain a statement of disability from a medical provider in Iowa or a state contiguous to Iowa.
- 2) The customer can wait and resubmit their application on or after July 1, 2022.

### **WHAT IF A CUSTOMER SUBMITS A STATEMENT OF DISABILITY FROM A PHYSICAL THERAPIST OR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2022?**

The new law change doesn't take effect until July 1, 2022, so until that time, we must follow Iowa Code section 321L.2 as written. Therefore, if a customer submits a statement of disability from a physical therapist or occupational therapist prior to July 1, 2022, there are two options:

- 1) The customer may obtain a statement of disability from a physician, physician's assistant, chiropractor, or nurse practitioner licensed in Iowa or a state contiguous to Iowa.
- 2) The customer can wait and resubmit their application on or after July 1, 2022.