

THE BLUE BADGE SCHEME

The Blue Badge Scheme (**parking badges for disabled people**) provides parking concessions both nationally and in Europe, for people with a permanent and substantial disability, whether that person is the driver or a passenger.

For current Blue Badge Holders whose badge expires on or after **1st January 2012**, you will need to follow a new process. That new process means that you will need to renew up to **two weeks before your badge expires** because new Blue Badges will not be handed **out on the day of application anymore**. They are produced centrally and posted to the applicant's home address.

The cost of the new style Blue Badge has increased to **£10**, but is still valid for three years.

Contact or visit your Local Hub / Customer Service Centre for Forms / Advice.

You automatically qualify for the blue badge if:

- You are registered blind.
- You are receiving the **High Rate Mobility Component of DLA**.
- You receive a **War Pensioner's Mobility supplement**.
- You receive a Government grant towards your own vehicle.

You may qualify for blue badge if you meet all of the following criteria:

- If your disability is permanent.
- If your disability is substantial and means you are unable to walk or you experience very considerable difficulty in walking.
- If you cannot walk more than 50 metres without severe discomfort, stopping or receiving support from another person.
- If you have a severe disability in both upper limbs and regularly drive a motor vehicle, but cannot turn the steering wheel by hand even if the wheel is fitted with a turning knob.

Children under the age of 3 years old may be eligible for a Blue Badge if they fall within either of the following two descriptions:

- A child who, on account of a condition, must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around with the child without great difficulty.
- A child, who on account of a condition, must always be kept near a motor vehicle so that, if necessary, treatment for that condition can be given in the vehicle or the child can be taken quickly in the vehicle to a place where such treatment can be given.

You need to use the form called: **“Blue Badge Application Form for a Child under the age of 3”**

You will not qualify for a blue badge if:

- You do not meet any of the above criteria. You have a temporary disability.
- You experience a psychological disorder that does not cause you severe discomfort.
- You only experience walking problems when carrying objects, such as shopping.
- Your condition does not **continuously severely** limit your ability to walk.

in Connect Wyre Forest
10-12 Blackwell Street
Kidderminster
DY10 2DP

Telephone: 01562 60241 (Business Line)
Telephone: 0800 970 7202 (Helpline)
Fax & Minicom: 01562 68248
Email: info@nwdial.org.uk
Website: www.nwdial.org.uk



Registered Charity No: 1053933

Rules of use:

The blue badge belongs to the person whose name is on it, it can be used in any stationary empty vehicle as long as the holder is using that vehicle, either as a driver or a passenger.

The blue badge must be displayed on top of the dashboard or fascia panel of a vehicle with the front of the badge facing forwards so that the expiry date is visible. The badge should only be displayed when using the parking benefits under the scheme, unless the vehicle is being driven by someone other than the blue badge holder, for the purpose of picking up or dropping off the blue badge holder.

Abuse of the blue badge either by the holder or by others could result in it being withdrawn. It is the responsibility of the badge holder to ensure the badge is used properly. It is a criminal offence for a non-disabled person to use a disabled person's car badge. If caught they are liable to a fine of up to £1000. It is also a criminal offence to drive a vehicle displaying a blue badge unless the vehicle is being driven by someone other than the blue badge holder, for the purpose of picking up or dropping off the blue badge holder.

The Blue Badge is not a license to park anywhere. **You must not park:-**

- Where you could cause an obstruction.
- At school entrances, bus stops.
- On a bend or near the brow of a hill.
- Where it would make it difficult for others to see clearly.
- Where emergency vehicles go in or out.
- Where the kerb has been lowered.
- On a pavement.
- Where there are double white lines in the centre of the road.
- In parking places reserved for specific users i.e. taxis, cycles.
- On or near pedestrian crossings.
- During the time a ban on loading is in force. (**Denoted by two or one yellow marks on the pavement**).

Street parking enforcement officers (**police, parking attendants etc.**) **now** have the authority to inspect **Blue Badges**. If any of these officers ask to see your badge, you should hand it to them. **Refusal is breaking the law.**

We cannot be held responsible for the level of service provided by the organisations included in this publication.

All details correct at time of publication, if you find that this info is inaccurate please call us.

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