



# SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

## Military Plates Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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### 1. Who is eligible to apply for a military license plate?

- Military license plates are available to qualified active or prior service members who submit the correct official military documentation to the SCDMV via mail. For a complete list of requirements for each type of plate, visit [the Military License Plate section of the SCDMV website.](#)

### 2. I am moving from out of state. Can I purchase a military license plate?

- Yes, if you are a qualified active or prior service member and submit the correct official military documentation to the SCDMV via mail (Customers are encouraged to send their mail with a tracking number.). You will be issued a special permit until your military plate comes to you in the mail.

### 3. What are the privileges of military license plates?

- Select military plates have free parking at metered or timed spaces in SC and no registration fee. Some military plates have no special plate fee. For a complete list of plates that offer these benefits, visit the [Military License Plate Section of the SCDMV Website.](#) For quick reference, here are the list of plates that offer free parking at metered or timed spaces:

1. Bronze Star (with Valor)
2. Distinguished Service Cross (Army, Navy, and Air Force)
3. Distinguished Flying Cross
4. Distinguished Service Medal (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard)
5. Gold Star Family (personalized)
6. Legion of Merit
7. Medal of Honor (Army, Navy, and Air Force)
8. Palmetto Cross
9. Prisoner of War
10. Purple Heart
11. Purple Heart (wheelchair)
12. Silver Star
13. Soldier's Medal
14. South Carolina Medal of Valor

### 4. Can I purchase a military license plate in a SCDMV branch or online?

- No, you cannot purchase military plates in person or online. Qualified customers must mail the completed [Application for Military License Plate \(Form MV-37\)](#), a copy of applicable official military documentation, and any other required paperwork, with applicable fees to:  
**SC Department of Motor Vehicles**  
**Specialty Plates**  
**P.O. Box 1498**  
**Blythewood, SC 29016-0038**
- Implementing a mail-in process has proven beneficial in simplifying the military plate application process. This approach minimizes the potential for clerical errors and grants SCDMV staff additional time for in-depth research, resulting in a more efficient and accurate experience for all involved.



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### 5. How many military license plates can I have?

- Qualifying service members may receive at most three military plates per type. As long as you meet the requirements for a military plate, you can obtain three of that type. For example, if you have four vehicles in your name and qualify for two types of plates, you may have three vehicles with one type of license plate and the other license plate type on the fourth vehicle.

### 6. Do I need to provide a paid county vehicle tax receipt or other documents showing no taxes are due, when ordering their military plate?

- Yes, military plates must have registration decals each year. You must provide either a paid tax receipt or documentation from the county showing you owe no taxes or county fees for first-time issuance. When renewing your plate, each county has different processes in place. Contact your county tax office to get more information on its specific processes and property tax exemptions.
- ***For information on obtaining a tax exemption letter or any concerns about existing property exemptions, please refer to the SCDOR website. Please note, existing property exemptions will not change. Additionally, if you have lost a tax exemption letter, you will need to request a copy of the letter online.***

### 7. I have a permanent military plate. Will it be taken away?

- No, SCDMV will grandfather current permanent plate holders unless a change is made. Permanent plate holders are not required to surrender their current plate until you attempt to transfer the plate, or the plate needs to be replaced. If you buy a new car, you may temporarily transfer your permanent plate, but the SCDMV will replace it with a new, non-permanent plate after staff confirms you are eligible for the plate. You must contact the South Carolina [Department of Revenue \(SCDOR\)](#) and your county tax office to ensure your vehicle is correctly processed and to get information on tax exemptions.

### 8. What if I purchase a new car? Can I transfer my permanent military plate?

- Yes, you may request a **temporary** transfer of your permanent military plate to another vehicle to allow you to operate the new vehicle while the replacement plate exchange is being processed. The old permanent plate will be exchanged for a new, non-permanent plate in the mail upon a review by SCDMV staff. Once the plate has been exchanged with the new, non-permanent plate, the old permanent plate will no longer be valid for use on any vehicle. You must contact the SCDOR and follow its requirements for the new vehicle as it relates to property tax exemptions.

### 9. How do I replace my lost or stolen permanent military license plate?

- The SCDMV will transition lost or stolen military plates to the new plate designs. There is a \$6 replacement fee for lost or stolen plates. You must ensure that all required military documentation is submitted to SCDMV for the plate you are trying to replace.

### 10. I am a disabled veteran. Do I automatically get a handicap plate?

- No. To receive a plate with handicap parking privileges, a licensed Physician, an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), or a Physician Assistant (PA) must complete section four and indicate the disability and length of disability, in addition to, certifying that you are



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permanently handicapped on the [Disabled License Plate and Placard Application \(Form RG-007A\)](#).

### 11. Will the surviving spouse be eligible for Disabled Veteran plates?

- If the surviving spouse obtained their Disabled Veteran plate before May 6, 2022, they will be eligible for the revised Disabled Veteran plate if they have not remarried. The surviving spouse should contact SCDOR for eligibility requirements. If the surviving spouse does not have a Disabled Veteran plate registered in their name before May 6, 2022, they may not obtain a Disabled Veteran plate.

### 12. What military plates may a surviving spouse qualify as of May 6, 2022?

- Bronze Star (with Valor)
- Distinguished Service Cross (Army, Navy, and Air Force)
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Distinguished Service Medal (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard)
- Gold Star Family (Personalized)
- Legion of Merit
- Medal of Honor (Army, Navy, and Air Force)
- Palmetto Cross
- Prisoner of War
- Silver Star
- Soldier's Medal
- South Carolina Medal of Valor