

I drive a wheelchair accessible minivan. I regained my driver's license 4-1/2 years ago. This vehicle requires at least 8 feet of space on the passenger side for the ramp that deploys. (Picture 1) So having full access of handicap spaces is vital for me.

I've directly had 27 handicap parking space incidents, which approximately 20 times, I've called the police. (log attached) The incidents involve being blocked from getting in or out of my van. (Picture 2) I've witnessed delivery vehicles Park for at least an hour in the spaces a number of times. I've never witnessed a ticket or even a written warning being issued by the police officers who responded to my calls.

Many disabled people across the country have found that The Federal ADA law is not being adequately enforced. Why is a law that's meant to help disabled people, like I am, result in so much difficulty and effort, for us?

Specifically;

- I end up having to wait for at least half an hour. The person who violates the law is not inconvenienced like this. I guess being disabled, means you don't need to follow a schedule to get to places.

- The police's time is taken up, having to respond to my calls and then look for the car owner. This time probably balances out, with having to write tickets instead.

I feel that because people realize that handicap parking laws are not strongly enforced, they think nothing of violating it. It's like if speeding tickets are never given out on a specific road, drivers realize they can speed.



Picture 1

Parking Violation Log

27 total in 4 -1/2 years - directly impacted me. I've witnessed many more.

SIMSBURY 17 total

Drake Hill Mall. 7 total

3 times blocked by cars with Parking placards displayed parking in striped area and 2 times by cars without.

1 time by a dry cleaners truck.

1 time by car in striped area, whose driver ran into the bank.

I witnessed the dry cleaners truck parked in a handicap space multiple times.

Maple Tree restaurant. 3 total

2 times a car in one of the two spaces and once two autos.

Montana's Hardware store. 1 total. Just as I was pulling into the lot a plumbing supply truck pulled into a handicap parking space right in front of me.

High School. 3 total

Twice I couldn't park, after school got out, as cars were parked illegally picking up their children.

Once for the football homecoming game the three handicap parking spaces, next to the field, where covered by tables selling food. I asked a lady selling food why they were covering the handicap parking spaces and she said the school principal gave them permission.

Bank of America 2 total

there're 2 handicapped parking spaces in the front of the building

1 time a grass cutting service truck parked in a space

1 time a construction truck and trailer parked in a space. When the foreman was questioned, he said, it's alright we're under construction. The bank was still open. The Simsbury police responded to my phone call about this incident, right away. I'm not sure if anything written was issued by the officer.

Latimer Lane elementary school. 1 total

A campaign worker parked in the handicap space, right next to me. He didn't have a placard displayed and placed a campaign sign up for a candidate. In addition to violating the ADA federal law, he could have violated the right for someone to vote, by blocking their access.

Parking Violation Log (Continued)

AVON 2 total

Avon Marketplace 1, 1 2 total

CANTON 4 total

Mall. 2+1, 3 total

One time was by a security guard who parked on the striped area between two handicap spaces. I confronted the guard who thought that by parking on the striped section, she was alright.
Twice by people blocking the striped section of spaces.

Mini shopping center. 1

OTHER 4 total

Manchester Xmass tree shops 1

Hartford Mt Sinai hospital 1

BIAC in Windsor 1

Southern New England University in New Haven 1



Picture 2