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Q If a parking space is marked with a “van accessible” sign, is it legal for any vehicle with a handicap parking permit to park in that space?

A Yes. Drivers with a handicap parking placard or plate may park in any stall designated with a handicap sign, according to Madison Parking Enforcement Supervisor Stephanie Niesen.

“As long as they have a valid disabled permit or license plate, we don’t ticket them,” Niesen said.

There’s no city or state statute prohibiting cars from parking in van accessible parking spaces. Van accessible spaces, which have an access aisle adjacent to the stall, are required by the American Disabilities Act for vehicles equipped with a wheelchair lift, Niesen said.

“The only problem we come across often is vehicles parked in the diagonally striped access aisle. Those parts are off limits to all people. If they’re any portion into the access aisle, it makes it impossible for that lift to come down,” Niesen said.

— Jeff Glaze

