

Trapped and Stranded

Keep Access Aisle Clear



Sedan on left is blocking the access aisle. The minivan with left side ramp on right is blocked out of vehicle.

The Polio Outreach of Connecticut is in solidarity with the United Spinal Association in a campaign to teach non-mobility impaired drivers to cease illegal parking that traps and strands drivers with disabilities.

Accessible parking spaces & adjoining access aisles are the law of the land.

We know how very important those blue diagonal-lined areas adjacent to accessible parking spaces are for drivers with disabilities. They are there for a number of important reasons. United Spinal Association, a national membership organization for individuals with spinal cord injuries and spinal cord disorders such as post polio, urges summer vacation travelers to steer clear of these "access aisles" because parking unlawfully in them can compromise safe use of accessible parking spaces.

Since enactment of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, accessible parking spaces must have access aisles, and two accessible parking spaces can share a common access aisle. In many cases, the access aisle is 60 inches wide mini-

The 96-inch access aisles accommodate vans with side-loading lifts.

mum—not nearly enough space to squeeze in an additional vehicle. However, the Americans with Disabilities Act added a provision that one in every eight accessible spaces, but not less than one, must be served by an access aisle that is 96 inches wide minimum, so that drivers with disabilities using vans or minivans equipped with side-loading lifts or ramps would have enough space to exit/enter their vehicle safely. These 96-inch wide access aisles have become more the norm since 1990. Although parking in a 96-inch wide access aisle is illegal, it is used all too often as just another parking space.



Jerome Kleckley exits his van easily to an access aisle.

In addition, a blocked access aisle of any size can make it unsafe for a wheelchair user, a scooter user, or anyone with impaired mobility to transfer to and from their vehicle.

The parking access aisle is also part of the disabled driver's accessible "path of travel" to the building or facility served by the parking area; block the access aisle illegally with your vehicle, and you prevent the driver with a disability from living their life to the fullest.

(continued on next page)