



**Deaf or
hard of
hearing**



**Medical
Condition**



**Developmental
Disability**



DISABILITY AND MEDICAL ALERT DESIGNATIONS FOR DRIVER LICENSES AND ID CARDS

The Department of Licensing has been working with stakeholders on [**Senate Bill 6429**](#), a bill that passed the Legislature in 2020 and takes effect January 1, 2022. The bill allows individuals in Washington to add a designation to their driver license or ID card when they:

- Have a developmental disability.
- Are Deaf or hard of hearing.
- Have a medical condition that could affect their communication or account for a medical emergency.

The bill ensures first responders, such as law enforcement and emergency medical service providers, have the information they need at traffic stops and in medical emergencies on roadways.

Throughout the conversations and discussions with stakeholders, we received feedback on how to design the designations in ways that helped first responders understand them while affirming customers' individual identities. Stakeholders wanted to ensure this process was inclusive and accommodating to all who could use these designations.





All feedback was essential to inform decisions regarding the design and placement of the designations. These choices were also guided by criteria the Department of Licensing is required to operate on, as established by the bill and other policies. The decisions made are:

1. The symbols for the designations to be used are a “DD” within a circle for developmental disability, an ear with a slash through it for Deaf or hard of hearing, and the “Star of Life” symbol for a medical condition. These icons are featured on the previous page. The designations will be in the bottom right corner on the front of the card as seen here.
2. An individual will be able to have any combination of the designations.
3. An individual will be able to have any combination of the designations “hidden” from the front of their card, allowing the information to be accessible in the system while not visible on the front of the card. This may limit the effectiveness of the designations, as it will reduce the chances of them being visible to law enforcement and medical first responders; however, it will help to address the privacy concerns brought forth by some stakeholders.
4. There will be no fee to have a new card issued if the customer wants to add or remove designation(s) from their card unless the customer is conducting other transaction business at the same time (such as renewing a license, adding an endorsement, or updating personal information such as changing a name or address).

