



## Frequently Asked Questions (and the Answers)

[www.KidsPlates.org](http://www.KidsPlates.org) – Kids' Plates website

### **What is a Kids' Plate?**

A Kids' Plate is a unique California license plate that uses any one of four (4) symbols: a heart ♥, a star ★, a hand 🖐, or plus sign +. License plate sales generate funds for the prevention of child injury and abuse, as well as childcare health and safety programs in communities throughout California. There are a total of 7 spaces, (6 numbers/letters plus the symbol). A Kids' Plate MUST contain one of the 4 symbols above.

### **How do I buy a Kids' Plate?**

Kids' Plates can be ordered at any DMV or auto club office, by mail, online at [www.KidsPlates.org](http://www.KidsPlates.org) or [www.dmv.ca.gov/ipp2/welcome.do?localeName=en](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/ipp2/welcome.do?localeName=en)

**How can I check to see if my message is available?** You may check for message availability by visiting the [www.KidsPlates.org](http://www.KidsPlates.org) web site and clicking the "Order Plate" button at the top left of the page, or visit your local DMV or Auto Club office.

### **How much does a Kids' Plate cost?**

A personalized Kids' Plate (one with a message that you create) costs only \$50 to order and \$40 per yearly renewal. Sequential plates that place a symbol of your choice at the beginning of a random series of numbers and letters are also available for \$20 and \$15 per yearly renewal. Kids' Plates are a great value.

### **Where does the money go after I purchase a Kids' Plate?**

Proceeds go into a special Children's Health and Safety Fund. Proceeds are then distributed to child injury prevention (25¢ of every dollar), child abuse prevention (25¢ of every dollar), and child care health and safety programs (50¢ of every dollar).

### **On what kinds of vehicles can Kids' Plates be placed?**

A Kids' Plate can be purchased for cars, trucks, 18-wheelers, trailers, and motorcycles\*. (A Motorcycle Kids' Plate places the symbol you choose as a decal in the first slot of the plate message or number.)

### **Can Kids' Plates be put on fleet vehicles such as delivery vans and trucks?**

Yes. Any vehicle registered in California is eligible to carry a Kids' Plate.

**Does a motorcycle plate cost the same as an automobile plate?**

Yes, a motorcycle plate costs the same as automobile plate. Kids' Plates are the only specialty plates where *100% of the renewal fee goes directly to child health and safety programs.*

**What if I already have a license plate with 7 letters/numbers? Do I have to get a whole new sequence when I order a non-personalized plate?**

No. If you're purchasing a sequential Kids' Plate, the DMV takes your current license plate and replaces the first character in your license plate with the Kids' Plate symbol that you choose.

**I want to buy a Kids' Plate for someone as a gift. How do I do that? Once purchased, do I get the registration bill every year from then on?**

When ordering the plate, simply fill out the "Gift Statement" portion on the application. After the Kids' Plate has been given as a gift, the new owner must submit a copy of the registration for the vehicle that they wish it to be placed on to the DMV. The plate displayer gets the choice of renewing afterwards. Be sure to visit [www.KidsPlates.org](http://www.KidsPlates.org) to order the plate and to create a unique gift card to give to the plate recipient.

**I registered my car a couple of months ago and have now decided I would like a Kids' Plate. Do I have to wait until next year's registration renewal to order one?**

No, you do not have to wait. A Kids' Plate can be purchased at anytime. Please visit [www.KidsPlates.org](http://www.KidsPlates.org) and click on "Order Plate".

**I received the DMV insert with all of the specialty plates available in California. How do I order a Kids' Plate from that insert?**

Ordering instructions are printed on the reverse side of the DMV insert. The best and fastest way to check to see if your message is available and to actually order the plate is to visit [www.KidsPlates.org](http://www.KidsPlates.org) and click on "Order Plate".

**When and how will I receive the plates?**

Please allow about 12 weeks to receive your specialty license plates once the order is placed. As soon as the plates are ready, sequential plates will be mailed to applicants. If you order a personalized Kids' Plate, you will receive a notice to pick them up at your local DMV office.

**What do I do if I don't hear back from DMV?**

If you have applied for a plate and after 12 weeks you have not heard from the DMV, please contact the DMV Special Processing Unit weekdays between 8am and 5pm, at **916-657-8035** or the DMV main line at **1-800-777-0133**. *You may get a busy signal, so try several times.*

**I like the flowers at the bottom. Can I get a Kids' Plate with no symbol?**

No. The California Poppy background is exclusive only to Kids' Plates and incorporates one of the Kids' Plates unique symbols.

**Can I get more than one symbol on my Kids' Plate?**

Only one symbol per plate is allowed.

**I want to change my personalized license plate from a Kids' Plate with a star to a Kids' Plate with a hand. Can I do that?** Yes. But it is a new custom configuration and will cost \$50 for the original issuance and \$40 for the annual renewal.

**Can I use Kids' Plates symbols with other specialty plates?**

No. Kids' Plate symbols cannot be used in tandem with other specialty plates. For Disabled Persons or Veterans, Department policy allows Special Interest License Plates in lieu of DP or DV plates, however, a parking placard must be displayed in the vehicle to receive the parking privileges.

**Can I change my current personalized plate into a Kids' Plate?**

Yes. A personalized plate can be transferred to a Kids' Plate, but the plate must use one of the Kids' Plates four unique symbols: ♥, ★, ✎, or †.

**What kind of prevention programs do Kids' Plates proceeds support?**

Programs supported by the purchase of Kids' Plates include:

- Bicycle Safety, Falls Prevention, Firearm Safety, Motor Vehicle Safety, Poison Prevention, Drowning Prevention, Fire Safety / Burn Prevention, Pedestrian Safety, and SIDS / Safe Sleeping Habits
- Child abuse prevention efforts; and
- Child care safety inspections throughout California.

**How long have Kids' Plates been around?**

Kids' Plates were created in 1992 by state legislation authored by then-Assemblymember Jacqueline Speier (AB 3087; Chapter 1316, Statutes of 1992).

**How many Kids' Plates have been purchased?**

About one million Kids' Plates have been sold.

**How much money have Kids' Plates raised?**

The sales of Kids' Plates have raised more than \$37 million for child health and safety programs in communities across California.

**What happens if I don't want to renew my Kids' Plate?**

Take the Kids Plates and vehicle registration to the local DMV office to cancel and return the plates. At that time, the DMV will order a set of generic plates, at no charge, for the vehicle. The new plates will be sent in the mail to the recipient.