

Disabled person's pass – basic information

In Germany people who have a disability can apply for a disabled person's pass known as a Schwerbehindertenausweis. Together with the official notification letter, known as the Bescheid, it gives information about the degree of disability and whether there are any particular indications or codes.

With the pass, a person can prove to an employer or authority that they are disabled. This is necessary in order to be able to take advantage of certain rights that the German law gives to people with a disability.

Children with a disability also have certain rights too: for example, school support assistance, important aids or care allowance.

Who can apply for a disabled person's pass?

- Anyone who lives and/or works in Germany, and who wants to stay here

Which special rights do people with a disability have?

- Support assistance in working life and/or at school
- Reduced entry fee for many institutions such as public swimming pools or museums (sometimes an accompanying person is admitted free-of-charge)
- Often free or cheaper usage of public transport (sometimes also for an accompanying person)
- Possible to attend institutions to prepare you for work known as Berufsvorbereitende Einrichtungen (BVE)
- Tax advantages (e.g. income tax allowance)
- Right to a separate parking permit

Other rights not included in this list. The special rights depend on how high the degree of disability is and whether any codes are marked on the pass.

How and where do I send the application?

You send the application to the Landratsamt that is responsible for you.

The application must be made in writing.

The application should be filled in as completely and clearly as possible.

Send any medical diagnoses and reports directly with your application; e.g.:

- Detailed medical reports
- Reports from a medical specialist
- Reports from a hospital
- Reports from a rehabilitation centre (reha)
- Reports from speech therapists/ergo-therapists

If you are filling in the report for your school-aged child and you need help filling in the documents, you can ask for such help at your child's school

The responsible government agency will assess the medical documents you present and, if required, also ask for further reports from the doctors treating the child, or from the school. However, this only applies if you have signed a release from medical confidentiality form (known as the Einverständniserklärung in the application form). After the assessment, the Landratsamt will send you an official notification of assessment known as a Feststellungsbescheid – independent of the assessed degree of disability.

The Feststellungsbescheid contains

- the type of disability/disabilities
- the degree of disability (GdB) and
- possible health indications (codes).

If the assessed degree of disability amounts to 50 or more, you receive a disabled person's pass. This contains details about the degree of disability and possible codes. If the disabled person's pass is orange and green, you can apply for a token known as a Wertmarke to use the public transport free-of-charge. You/your child can use the bus, S-Bahn and regional trains either more cheaply or free-of-charge. You also apply for the Wertmarke from the Landratsamt.

An overview of the Merkzeichen (codes) and their meaning:

G	Significantly limited in mobility, i.e. the disabled person is significantly limited in their ability to travel in road traffic
aG	Very impaired mobility, i.e. the disabled person can only move outside of their car with external help or great effort
H	Helplessness, i.e. the disabled person is continually reliant on external help or a continual readiness to offer help is necessary
Bl	Blindness, i.e. the disabled person is blind or extremely visually impaired
Gl	Deaf, i.e. the disabled person is deaf or has a hearing impairment that borders on deafness, that includes severe speech impairment (difficult to understand, minimal vocabulary)
TBl	Deaf-blind, i.e. the disabled person has at least a degree of disability of 70 owing to a hearing impairment and a degree of disability of 100 owing to a visual impairment
B	Accompanying person, i.e. the disabled person is entitled to take an accompanying person with them
RF	Radio / television, i.e. a reduction of the radio and telephone fee is possible

If the code aG is indicated in the disabled person's pass, a separate parking permit can be applied for from the relevant road traffic authority. With it, the disabled person (or their parents) can park on the special parking spaces reserved for disabled persons (wheelchair image drawn on ground)

You can find further information and templates for the application at www.einfach-teilhabe.de.

Information about disability in English

Valid until (e.g. indefinitely)

Entitlement to take an accompanying person

Codes

Name of holder

Issuing authority and reference no.

Name of holder

Agency reference no.

Indication in braille

Degree of disability

Space for other notes

Validity date (valid from)