

# My wife asked for it.”

Senator Suzi Oppenheimer’s husband has a habit of illegally parking in parking spaces reserved for the disabled. So she got him a handicapped parking pass.

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# SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR SENATOR

Not only did Suzi Oppenheimer secure a handicapped parking medallion for her husband to use (while he played tennis at a “posh Mamaroneck club”), he also used his state-issued Senate license plates. This is a trend – five years ago, he was caught parking his Mazda Miata in a handicapped spot at his gym – at least four times.

According to the *New York Post*, “Martin Oppenheimer, a Manhattan lawyer, admitted that he had parked in the blue-striped zone when no other spots were available in the parking lot, but said he was unaware that those areas were illegal.”



*The illicit parking pass hanging from the mirror of Suzi's husband's car*



Dear Friend,  
 Our state is home to many beautiful roadways, including the Hudson River, the Catskill Mountains, and the Adirondacks. The beauty of New York's scenic drives, and clearly responsible people look up their car stickers for a few hours on the open road.

**Rules of the Road**  
 Here's a sampling of motor vehicle laws that all New York drivers should know about

**Drive 65 -- Here and There:**  
 New York law (Article 121) requires to drive 45 miles per hour, instead of 55, on parts of the state.

with the position and pleasure of traffic -- for your own safety, the safety of others, and the safety of the road.  
 If you're a little extra, I've provided information on the State's Motor Vehicle Administration website about the recent law regarding and other useful information about the law and completion of a citation so if I can be of any assistance to contact me.

**School Buses and**



**Penalties for Passing a Stopped School Bus**

By Conviction	Minimum Fine	Maximum Fine	Possible Imprisonment
1 <sup>st</sup> Conviction	\$250.00	\$400.00	Up to 30 days
2 <sup>nd</sup> Conviction (within 3 years)	\$400.00	\$700.00	Up to 120 days
3 <sup>rd</sup> or Subsequent Conviction (within 3 years)	\$750.00	\$1000.00	Up to 180 days



**Don't...** Park in a spot reserved for the disabled when you aren't eligible to use it — not even for a minute. Illegally using a spot designated as parking for the disabled is cruel, and could subject you to a hefty fine (up to \$75 for a first offense).

**Straight from Suzi's newsletter**

**NEW YORK POST**

October 4, 2008

**'HANDI' ADVICE FROM THE PARKING-FLAP POL**

**Suzi: Do as I say, not as I do**

Amazingly, advice about this very subject came from Suzi, herself. In a newsletter Suzi mailed to constituents a few years ago — at taxpayer expense — she advised drivers on this very topic.

**Different Rules - Different Drivers:**

A multi-year program for motor vehicle insurance driver insurers to offer a series of different rates, based on motorist's past on their driving records. This is expected to offer greater options for motorists, permit only participating insurers to provide coverage for both good drivers and those with spotty records who might otherwise be forced to seek insurance in the marketplace through not insurers.

**Carjacking Penalties Steep:**

To provide their purchases for crime in which motor vehicles are forcibly taken often with violence while a driver is behind the wheel, a state law permits specific penalties for so-called "carjacking" offenses. A first conviction for carjacking is a second-degree felony, a class "C" felony carrying a maximum sentence of up to 15 years in prison.

**NEW YORK POST**

# 'DOUBLE FAULT' HUBBY

By **MAGGIE HABERMAN**

September 29, 2008

What a racket.

The husband of a Westchester County state senator acknowledged he had a handicapped parking permit in his car that he didn't need after he was spotted vigorously playing tennis at a posh Mamaroneck club.

And it's not the first time Martin Oppenheimer has had an issue over handicapped parking.

He caused a headache for his wife, Democratic State Sen. Suzi Oppenheimer, five years ago, when he was caught parking in handicapped spots with no permit at his gym. He later said he hadn't realized what the parking spaces' "stripes" meant.

Oppenheimer — a lawyer who rarely practices but spent years at a major firm — Proskauer Rose — was seen recently playing a tennis game at the Beach Point Club, even as the four-year handicapped permit that he said his wife got him for a knee-replacement surgery last April dangled in his car.

A knee replacement typically qualifies only for a temporary

permit of six months or less, according to Department of Motor Vehicle rules.

"I should take it out, and I will," Oppenheimer said of the permit on his car, which bore a plate reading "NY Senate 18."

Such plates are usually used by the office holders themselves. "I've got all kinds of outdated things in the window," he said.

But he grew angry as a *Post* reporter asked about it, and he refused to put his wife — who was calling out instructions to him on the phone, saying, "She has nothing to do with this... You're just trying to get a luscious story."

Her aides did not return repeated calls for comment.

Asked why he had a four-year permit, Oppenheimer said: "I don't know what that was about, either. I did not get it, actually. My wife asked for it because I was in the hospital having my knee replaced."

Oppenheimer insisted that he had "never abused it" and had stopped using it months ago to park "as a practical matter" because he's "fine."

Then he added: "Frankly, I don't even know when I did use it... I'm not suggesting I didn't, but it's not something I'd use on a

daily basis or a frequent basis."

He called a *Post* reporter back to say his wife told him that he couldn't have misused the permit at his club because "there's no handicapped parking there." Officials at the club said that was not the case.

The secretary to the police chief, who issued the permit, said she couldn't immediately locate the application for it.

