

**WAC 308-96A-545 Gold Star license plate.** (1) **What is a Gold Star license plate?** The Gold Star license plate recognizes the eligible family members of United States armed forces members who have died while in service to their country or as a result of such service.

(2) **Who qualifies as an eligible family member of a member of the United States armed forces?** Eligible family members are listed in RCW 46.18.245. For purposes of this section, a widow or widower includes the surviving member of a registered domestic partnership.

(3) **What is required to purchase a Gold Star plate?** A copy of the certification letter to a qualifying widow, widower, parent, or child provided by the Washington state department of veterans affairs (WDVA) is required. The letter will be used in addition to a special plate application to purchase the plate. No other documentation is required.

(4) **Can a Gold Star plate be transferred to a new owner?** No. The plate may only be transferred to a vehicle owned by the same registered owner who was certified as a qualifying widow, widower, parent, or child by WDVA. The plate cannot be transferred to a different registered owner. If the widow, widower, parent, or child transfers the plate to a new car registered to them, they are required to pay the plate transfer fee.

(5) **What fees are required to purchase the plate?** There is no special plate fee or special plate renewal fee for the Gold Star plate. The registered owner must pay all licensing and filing fees.

(6) **Can a Gold Star plate background be personalized?** Yes. A Gold Star plate background can be personalized; however, the customer is required to pay all fees associated with a personalized plate original purchase or renewal.

(7) **Is a commercial vehicle eligible for a Gold Star plate as long as it is in the name of the qualifying widow, widower, parent, or child and not a business name?** Yes.

(8) **Can a prorated vehicle display a Gold Star plate if the vehicle is under the name of the widow, widower, parent, or child that is eligible for this plate?** No per chapter 46.87 RCW.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.01.110, 46.16A.220. WSR 15-10-005, § 308-96A-545, filed 4/22/15, effective 5/23/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.01.110. WSR 13-23-056, § 308-96A-545, filed 11/15/13, effective 12/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.01.110, 46.16.305 and 46.16.725. WSR 08-22-066, § 308-96A-545, filed 11/4/08, effective 12/5/08.]