

TxDOT's Vehicle Titles and Registration Division oversees the titling and registration of vehicles in Texas and wants to help you protect yourself when buying and selling a car or truck.

Many sellers simply sign the back of the title and hand it over to a buyer. It's convenient, but we want you to be aware this convenience comes with certain risks. Unfortunately, too many buyers fail to re-title the vehicle, leaving the seller as the recorded owner. Should the buyer engage in criminal activity or run up parking fines, the seller is still the official owner of record and responsible for paying the fines (even if the vehicle was sold years earlier).

Remember:

- 🇹🇽 The only way the state, including law enforcement, can know who owns a vehicle is if you tell us. Simply signing the back of the title in a driveway does not change the record of ownership for the vehicle.
- 🇹🇽 Sellers need to submit a Vehicle Transfer Notification (Form VTR-346) to make sure the state record shows the car or truck was sold. You must have the name and address of the buyer to complete the form.
Submitting this form is important even if you sold or traded your vehicle to a dealer.

Buyers also need to be careful. Unless you buy a new car or truck, you may not know whether the title that was signed over to you has any legal or salvage issues.

The best advice we can give both buyers and sellers is to go into the local county tax office together to transfer ownership of the vehicle. Otherwise, make sure you, the seller, file the Vehicle Transfer Notification. The little extra time it takes can provide you with a whole lot of protection.

Texas law requires buyers to title the vehicle within 20 working days of the date of sale.



You're En-titled

Protect yourself when selling and buying a car or truck

Here are some consumer tips to help keep you safe:

In a private sale, BOTH the seller and buyer should go to the county tax office to transfer the vehicle title. Why?

- 🇹🇽 **Seller:** Accompany the buyer to the county tax office to protect your good name and vehicle record. The vehicle remains in your name until a new title is applied for and processed by the county tax office. If the buyer fails to transfer the title, you may still be charged for parking fines and toll violations issued against the vehicle.
- 🇹🇽 **Buyer:** Avoid unwanted surprises about your purchase by having the seller accompany you to the county tax office. The county tax office representative can tell you whether the title being signed over to you is correct or if it has legal or salvage issues.

Whenever you trade in a vehicle or do not accompany the buyer to the tax office, ALWAYS fill out a Vehicle Transfer Notification (Form VTR-346).

- 🇹🇽 **Seller:** By sending the transfer notification form to the Vehicle Titles and Registration Division, you are making sure the title record shows the date you sold the vehicle. When you do this, the buyer becomes the presumed owner of the vehicle.

Double-check the REQUIRED paperwork, especially the Application for Texas Certificate of Title, and make copies of all documents.

- 🇹🇽 **Buyer/Seller:** *Carefully* fill out and complete the Application for Texas Certificate of Title (VTR Form 130-U). Buyer will fill out most of the form but Seller MUST fill in the vehicle sales price and sign the form.
- 🇹🇽 **Seller:** You must provide the buyer with a properly signed title, which includes filling in the date of the sale and odometer reading. Keep a written record that includes the name and address of the buyer, date of sale, and full vehicle information (including VIN).
- 🇹🇽 **Buyer:** Besides the title, ask the seller to provide you with the vehicle's Texas registration receipt, and any other supporting documents related to the vehicle, such as a release of lien or power of attorney. Keep a written record that includes the name and address of the seller, date of sale, and full vehicle information (including VIN).

FORMS AVAILABLE AT www.txdot.gov

*****Texas law requires buyers to title the vehicle within 20 working days of purchase (date of sale)*****

Tiene Derechos
Referente a su título vehicular

Protéjase cuando venda o compre un auto o camioneta

Consejos para el consumidor que le ayudarán a protegerse:

En una venta privada, TANTO el vendedor como el comprador deben ir a la oficina de recaudación de impuestos del condado para transferir el título del vehículo. ¿Porque?

- Vendedor: Acompañe al comprador a la oficina de recaudación de impuestos del condado para proteger su buen nombre y su archivo vehicular. El vehículo permanece en su nombre hasta que se solicite y procese un título nuevo en la oficina de recaudación de impuestos del condado. Si el comprador no solicita un título nuevo, usted puede ser responsable por multas y otras violaciones que se le carguen al vehículo.
- Comprador: Evite sorpresas indeseables con respecto a la compra del vehículo, haciendo que el vendedor lo acompañe a la oficina de recaudación de impuestos del condado. El personal de dicha oficina le puede informar si el título del vehículo que está comprando esta correcto o si tiene problemas legales o de vehículo chocado.

Cuando entrega un vehículo de enganche y no acompaña el comprador a la oficina de impuestos, SIEMPRE complete la Notificación de Transferencia de Vehículo (Forma VTR-346).

- Vendedor: Cuando usted envía la notificación de transferencia a la División de Títulos y Registro de Vehículos, se está asegurando que el archivo titular muestre la fecha que usted vendió el vehículo. Al enviar la notificación, el comprador se convierte en dueño presumido del vehículo.

Verifique la documentación NECESARIA, especialmente la Solicitud del Certificado de Título del estado de Texas, y guarde las copias de toda la documentación.

- Comprador/Vendedor: Llene la documentación cuidadosamente y complete la Solicitud del Certificado de Título del estado de Texas (Forma VTR 130-U). El comprador llenará la mayoría de la forma pero el vendedor DEBE llenar la parte referente al precio de la venta y firmar la forma.
- Vendedor: Debe proporcionarle al comprador el título debidamente firmado, incluyendo la fecha de la venta y el kilometraje del vehículo en el momento de la venta. Documento para sus archivos los datos del comprador (nombre y dirección), fecha de la venta y la descripción del vehículo, incluyendo el número de VIN.
- Comprador: Además del título, solicítele al vendedor que le proporcione un recibo del registro del vehículo del estado de Texas, y cualquier otra documentación relacionada con el vehículo, como el pago de cualquier deuda contra el vehículo, poder legal, etc. Documento para sus archivos los datos del comprador (nombre y dirección), fecha de la venta y la descripción del vehículo, incluyendo el número de VIN.

FORMAS SE ENCUENTRAN EN www.txdot.gov

La Ley en Texas requiere que los compradores registren el vehículo a su nombre dentro de los siguientes 20 días hábiles desde la compra (fecha de venta)



TEXAS MOTOR VEHICLE
TRANSFER NOTIFICATION

ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETE

Under state law, when you submit this completed form to the department, the buyer named is presumed to be the owner and may be subject to criminal and civil liability for the vehicle. For this reason, complete information, particularly the name and address of the buyer, is important.

- Legibly print or type all information
- Keep a copy of this form for your records
- Processing takes approximately two weeks from date of receipt by the department

SELLER INFORMATION

NAME OF SELLER(S)/TRANSFEROR(S)

Last Name First Name Initial

CURRENT ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

VEHICLE INFORMATION (The department does not maintain files by owner name.)

Form with fields for TITLE/DOCUMENT NUMBER, VEHICLE MAKE, PLATE NUMBER, VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (V.I.N.), YEAR MODEL, and BODY STYLE.

BUYER / TRANSFEREE INFORMATION

If any of the requested information is unavailable or unknown, write "unknown" in the applicable spaces.

Form with fields for NAME OF BUYER/TRANSFEREE, DATE VEHICLE DELIVERED TO BUYER/TRANSFEREE, Last Name, First Name, Initial, CURRENT ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, and ZIP.

I/we hereby request that the department mark its motor vehicle records to indicate that I/we have transferred the vehicle described above under the provisions of the Transportation Code, §520.023, which addresses secondhand vehicle transfers. I/we understand that the motor vehicle record will remain in my/our name(s) until a new Texas Certificate of Title is applied for and issued, recording the name of the new owner.

SIGNATURE OF SELLER(S) / TRANSFEROR(S) DATE SIGNED (mm/dd/yyyy)

MAIL TO:

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - VEHICLE TITLES AND REGISTRATION DIVISION
AUSTIN TX 78779-0001

WARNING: Transportation Code, §501.155, provides that falsifying information on any required statement or application is a third-degree felony offense punishable by not more than ten (10) years in prison or not more than one (1) year in a community correctional facility. In addition to imprisonment, a fine of up to \$10,000 may also be imposed.

NOTICE

With a few exceptions, you are entitled to be informed about the information TxDOT collects about you. Texas Government Code, §§552.021, 552.023 and 559.004 further entitles you to receive and review the information on request, and to request the department correct any information about you that is deemed incorrect. Please contact the TxDOT Vehicle Titles and Registration Division at (512) 465-7611 for further details.

