



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DRIVER AND MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES
1905 LANA AVE NE, SALEM OREGON 97314

Customer Information Sheet Dispute Of Ownership Of A Vehicle – Oregon DMV –

This customer information sheet contains:

- Information about asking advice from DMV;
- General information on options you may wish to consider to help you in resolving the dispute of ownership;
- Information on when DMV will place an administrative notation on a vehicle record to temporarily prevent a title from being transferred;
- Information on situations when DMV **will not** place an administrative notation on a vehicle record;
- Who to contact if your vehicle has been stolen;
- When you can apply for a replacement title if the original has been stolen.

Advice From DMV

DMV is an administrative agency and as such, cannot determine ownership of a vehicle. We cannot assist you in retrieving your vehicle or title, or provide you with any legal advice. This includes advising you on whether you need to seek legal assistance; how to file a court case; or how to obtain a restraining order to withhold issuance of a title.

Possible Options

Options that may be available to you include:

- Resolving the dispute on your own
- Resolving the dispute through a court of law
- Obtaining a court order, specifically restraining DMV from transferring title
- Contacting law enforcement on criminal disputes

When DMV Will Place An Administrative Notation On A Vehicle Record

- 1. Your title has been stolen and you have reason to believe your signature will be forged to release your interest in the vehicle.**

DMV will place an administrative review notation on the vehicle record **ONLY** when provided with a police report that includes a statement that the title has been reported stolen and the owner believes their signature will be forged to release their interest in the vehicle. It must also indicate that law enforcement is conducting an investigation. If it only indicates lost or stolen, it is not acceptable. If you are unable to provide a copy of the police report, we may accept a letter on a police agency's letterhead. It must state the title has been reported stolen and the owner believes their signature will be forged to release their interest in the vehicle. It must also include the case number. Law enforcement may not take a police report if they consider the issue civil. In that case, you may need to consider other options.

Send any police report or letter that meets the above criteria, together with a letter of explanation, providing your name and address, to: DMV, Vehicle Programs, 1905 Lana Ave. NE, Salem OR 97314.

2. Your signature was forged to release your interest in a vehicle and the title has been transferred to another party.

DMV will place an administrative review notation on the vehicle record **ONLY** when provided with a police report that indicates law enforcement is conducting an investigation.

DMV cannot cancel the title issued and transfer title to you **UNLESS** DMV receives a completed and signed *Application for Title and Registration*, Form 226, along with the title fee and one of the following:

- A court order that convicts the party on the title of forging your release of interest or falsely obtaining title;

OR

- A court order that extinguishes the interest of all owners shown on the title and awards the vehicle to you.

3. Restraining Order.

DMV will place an administrative review notation on the vehicle record when we are specifically restrained by a court of law from transferring title. DMV remains bound by the restraining order until provided with a court order awarding ownership of the vehicle or evidence that the restraining order is no longer valid or has been lifted.

We cannot advise you on how to obtain a restraining order. You may wish to seek legal assistance for advice on whether a restraining order is necessary, or if other legal remedies are available to you.

Some Examples Of When DMV Will NOT Add Or Maintain An Administrative Review Notation On A Vehicle Record

These are some examples, but there may be others.

- Bankruptcy (even when papers indicate no transfers allowed)
- Divorce or domestic separation
- Estate distribution
- Friend or relative borrowed vehicle and never returned vehicle to owner
- Pending court litigation
- Possessory lien
- Registered owner not making payments to security interest holder
- Restraining order against other person
- Sold - insufficient bank funds
- Sold - seller never perfected security interest by transferring title to reflect their lien
- Stolen vehicle or stolen title and police won't take a police report because they consider the dispute civil rather than criminal

Stolen Vehicles

Notify your local law enforcement agency and your insurance company if your vehicle has been stolen. All title transactions, when processed, are compared against NCIC (National Crime Information Center) and/or LEDS (Law Enforcement Data System) to verify whether a vehicle has been listed as stolen. Any vehicle that is determined to be a match, is set up as an administrative case file at DMV headquarters and law enforcement is contacted.

Stolen Title

A replacement title can only be issued if the title is lost, destroyed, or mutilated **AND** someone is available to attest to the disposition of the title. **Stolen titles are only considered lost if an unknown party with no possible ownership interest stole the title. You cannot apply for a replacement title when you know, or believe you know, who stole the title.**