What is needed to obtain a Georgia title and/or license plate for an abandoned motor vehicle?

**Important:** This state's abandoned motor vehicle laws require an abandoned motor vehicle to be sold at a public sale. See the definition of a public sale* below.

Click here to view a chart showing the Abandoned Motor Vehicle Process.
- A Georgia title will not be issued for an abandoned vehicle when the vehicle does not require a Georgia title, 1963-1985 year models, etc.
- Click here to view a list of vehicles that do and do not require a Georgia title.
- A Georgia title cannot be obtained for an abandoned motor vehicle on the basis of a surety bond.

**Where to Apply**
To apply for a Georgia title and license plate (tag), submit the following to the Tax Commissioner's office in the county in Georgia where you, the vehicle owner(s), reside.
For business owned and operated vehicles, apply at the Tax Commissioner's office in the county where your business is located.
For commercial vehicles that travel in Georgia as well as other states and/or jurisdictions, the vehicle should be registered under the International Registration Plan (IRP) with this Department's IRP Unit. After obtaining a Georgia title (when one is required), contact this Department's IRP Unit of the Motor Vehicle Division for what is needed to register your vehicle in this state under the International Registration Plan (IRP).

**What is Needed to Apply**
- A completed [MV-1 tag and/or title application] - Typed or printed in blue or black ink, except for the signature(s), electronically or legibly by-hand in the vehicle owner(s)' full legal name(s) and signed, if jointly owned, each owner must sign. For natural persons, enter each owner's valid Georgia driver's license number or Georgia identification card number in the spaces provided. A natural person's full legal name would be his or her complete name as it appears on his or her valid Georgia driver's license or Georgia identification card. Click here to read this Department's policy regarding identification and applications for tags and/or titles.
- If all owners go in person to their County Tax Commissioner's office with their valid Georgia driver's license or Georgia identification card, the required documents and applicable fees and taxes, this application can be completed on-line and printed for your signature(s) and processing.
- A certified copy of the Court Order authorizing the sale of this vehicle. Certified copies of court documents must contain the Clerk of the Court's signature and his or her seal or stamp.
- A completed and signed bill of sale (form T-7) from the person authorized by the Court to sell this vehicle conveying ownership to the applicant(s) using the applicant(s) full legal name(s).
- A completed T-22B Certification of Inspection from. This form must be typed or printed in blue or black ink, except for the signature, electronically or legibly by-hand and signed. A Georgia law enforcement officer or a Georgia County Tax Commissioner or his or her designee must sign this completed form after making a visual inspection of the vehicle's identification number (VIN) plate (a/k/a serial plate).

**Important:** Incomplete forms or forms containing alterations will not be accepted!
- The VIN on all documents must match the VIN as shown on your vehicle’s VIN plate (a/k/a serial plate).
- A copy of the newspaper advertisement or advertisement posted at the county courthouse must be submitted when the person authorized by the Court to sell the vehicle and the purchaser are the same person. Click here to read the duties of a person removing and/or storing a motor vehicle.
- A signed and notarized affidavit must be submitted stating a public sale was held and the purchaser made the highest bid when the person authorized to sell the vehicle and the purchaser are the same person.
- **$18.00** title fee.
- **$10.00** title penalty is due if the purchaser(s) have failed to apply for a Georgia title (when a title is required) in his and/or her name(s) within ninety-days (90) of the date he and/or she purchased the vehicle.
• $10.00 additional title penalty is due if the purchaser(s) previously applied for a Georgia title in his and/or her
name(s) for this vehicle and their application was returned requesting additional action before title issuance and
compliance has not been made within sixty-days (60) of the accompanying letter's date.
Pay all fee and taxes due with cash, check or money order payable to the Office of the Tax Commissioner. Some
counties accept credit cards.
A Georgia tag will not be issued for a vehicle requiring a Georgia title unless a Georgia title has already been issued for
the vehicle in the applicant's name(s) or a title is applied for at the time of registration.
If you are applying for a Georgia title and tag at the same time through your County Tax Commissioner's office, you
must also comply with all of the requirements of vehicle registration. Click here to view what is required to register and
obtain a tag for the vehicle.
When a vehicle is no longer an abandoned vehicle, an MV-603R Notice of Abandoned Vehicle Release form must be
completed and forwarded to: Attention: Stop File, Motor Vehicle Division, P. O. Box 740384, Atlanta, Georgia 30374-
0384.
Final Disposition of an Abandoned Motor Vehicle
Upon the final disposition of an abandoned motor vehicle, the applicable form listed below should be completed and
submitted to the Court of competent jurisdiction. Click on the applicable form number and/or form name below to
complete the form on-line for printing, signing and submission.
MV-603A Abandoned Vehicle Affidavit (Towing Company or Individual)
MV-603I Abandoned Vehicle Affidavit From Insurance Company or Company Storing Vehicle for Insurance Company
MV-603RF Abandoned Vehicle Affidavit From Repair Facility Storing Vehicle
Definitions
"Abandoned motor vehicle," means a motor vehicle or trailer:
(A) Which has been left by the owner or some person acting for the owner with an automobile dealer, repairman, or
wrecker service for repair or for some other reason and has not been called for by such owner or other person within a
period of thirty-days (30) after the time agreed upon; or within thirty-days (30) after such vehicle is turned over to such
dealer, repairman, or wrecker service when no time is agreed upon; or within thirty-days (30) after the completion of the
necessary repairs;
(B) Which is left unattended on a public street, road, or highway or other public property for a period of at least five-days
(5) or when it reasonably appears to a law enforcement officer that the individual who left such motor vehicle
unattended does not intend to return and remove such motor vehicle. However, on the state highway system, any law
enforcement officer or employee of the Department of Revenue to whom enforcement authority has been designated
pursuant to 53-5-2 of the O.C.G.A. may authorize the immediate removal of vehicles posing a threat to public health or
safety or to mitigate congestion;
(C) Which has been lawfully towed onto the property of another at the request of a law enforcement officer and left there
for a period of not less than thirty-days (30) without anyone having paid all reasonable current charges for such towing
and storage,
(D) Which has been lawfully towed onto the property of another at the request of a property owner on whose property
the vehicle was abandoned and left there for a period of not less than thirty-days (30) without anyone having paid all
reasonable current charges for such towing and storage; or
(E) Which has been left unattended on private property for a period of not less than thirty-days (30).
"Motor vehicle" or vehicle means a motor vehicle or trailer.
Ow ner or owners means the registered owner, the owner as recorded on the title, lessor, lessee, security interest
holders, and all lien holders as shown on this Department's tag and/or title records.
Public sale means a sale:
1. Held at a place reasonably available to persons who might desire to attend and submit bids; and
2. At which those attending shall be given the opportunity to bid on a competitive basis; and
3. At which the sale, if made, shall be made to the highest bidder; and
4. Except as otherwise provided by law for advertising or dispensing with the advertising of public sales, of which notice
is given by advertisement once a week for two (2) weeks in the newspaper in which the sheriff's advertisements are
published in the county where the sale is to be held, and which notice shall state the day and hour, between 10:00 a.m.
and 4:00 p.m., and the place of sale and shall briefly identify the goods to be sold.

Useful Links
- Local County Tax Commissioner's Office
- Contacting Motor Vehicle Division

Disclaimer: Links from this website to other websites are intended for reference only and do not represent an endorsement of any
product or service that may be mentioned in the linked-to pages. They are not a part of the Department of Revenue's website and the
Department of Revenue has no control over their content or availability.
Is a Georgia Title Required for My Vehicle?

Vehicle Title Required

- 1986 & newer year model motor vehicles
- 1986 & newer travel trailers
- 1986 & newer car/tow dollies weighing 2,001 lbs., or more
- 1986 & newer motorcycles
- 1986 & newer campers
- 1963 & newer mobile homes
- 1963 & newer manufactured homes

Vehicle Title Optional

- You can title a 1963-1985 year model vehicle if you have a title issued in your name.
- You can title a 1963-1985 year model vehicle if the owner on the front of the title has assigned the title to you.
- You can title a 1963-1985 year model vehicle if the owner on the front of the title has assigned the title to a dealer and the dealer has assigned the title to you.
- A title will not be issued for a 1963-1985 year model vehicle if the vehicle has been registered in someone else's name(s) other than the owner(s) shown on the face of the Georgia title.

Vehicle Title Not Required/Not Issued

- 1962 and older year model vehicles
- Agricultural, horticultural or livestock raising vehicles that are not required to be registered
- Airplanes, aircraft
- All terrain vehicles, off-road vehicles
- Boat trailers
- Boats, watercraft
- Buses owned and operated by an urban transit
- Cable cars, trolleys
- Crane
- Driver education vehicles used in public or private
- Fifth wheel
- Homemade car/tow dollies
- Homemade trailers
- Invalid tricycles
- Moped
- Nonresidents' vehicles (vehicles owned by persons not having a Georgia address)*
- Pole trailers
- Self-propelled wheelchairs
- Tow dollies (car) weighing 2,000 lbs. or less
- Trailers weighing 2,000 lbs. or less
- Vehicles not manufactured for highway use

*A title may be issued to an out-of-state resident in cases of inheritance or repossession when the vehicle is currently titled. Also, if you have moved out-of-state and your Georgia title is lost, stolen, or mutilated, a replacement title can be issued a your out-of-state address.

Useful Links

- Local County Tax Commissioner's Office
- Contacting Motor Vehicle Division

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http://www.dmvs.ga.gov/motor/titles/required.asp

7/14/2005
October 22, 2004

Dear Towing Company/Repair Facility Manager:

As you may know, it is a violation of State law to sell a vehicle intended for registration in the 13 county metro Atlanta area without the seller providing a valid passing emission certificate before the sale is complete. The law (O.C.G.A. 12-9-54) does not exempt towing companies or mechanics that are selling abandoned vehicles through court-mandated auctions. We have a solution to assist in the sale of these vehicles through these court-mandated auctions/sales.

The emission testing requirements do NOT apply to vehicles that are classified as “not intended for highway use”. We require the addition of the verbiage below to the Bill of Sale for any vehicle sold by a towing company through a “court-mandated auction” that does not have a passing emission certificate at the time of sale. Once the sale is complete, the vehicle must be towed off the property where it was sold. If the vehicle has a passing emission certificate, it is not necessary to add this verbiage to the Bill of Sale.

To check the emissions status of a vehicle, you can visit one of the Waiver Centers operated by Georgia’s Clean Air Force. You can find a list of their locations at the web site: www.cleanairforce.com. GCAF personnel there can check for emission certificates on one to five vehicles at a time. Any more that five typically can be handled within two business days.

With regard to these auctions/sales by towing companies and mechanics, any vehicle sold without a valid passing emission certificate and allowed to be driven (not towed) off the property is a violation of State law. Any such violation will be investigated and could result in criminal prosecution of the seller with possible fines up to $1000 per sale.

If anyone has a question about this issue, he/she can call our office at 404-363-7028 between 8:00am and 4:30pm weekdays.

Sincerely,

Elysia Greenlee
Captain Elysia Greenlee
Criminal Investigator
Environmental Protection Division
FOR THE SALE OF VEHICLES IN THE METRO ATLANTA AREA THROUGH COURT MANDATED AUCTIONS/SALES, stamp or pre-print the following on the Bill of Sale:

THROUGH THE AUTHORITY OF A COURT-MANDATED AUCTION OR SALE, THIS VEHICLE IS SOLD AS "NOT FOR HIGHWAY USE". IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR THIS VEHICLE TO BE DRIVEN ON ANY PUBLIC ROAD. VEHICLE IS TO BE TOWED OFF PROPERTY AFTER SALE. IF THE VEHICLE IS EVER INTENDED FOR HIGHWAY USE, IT WILL BE THE OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO GET VEHICLE IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE EMISSIONS LAWS.

BUYER SIGNATURE ____________________________ DATE
# ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PROCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPONSIBILITY</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>TIME PERIOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wrecker Service (If owner unknown)</td>
<td>Requests name and addresses of owners from law enforcement ordering removal</td>
<td>Within 3 business days after removal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrecker Service (If owner unknown)</td>
<td>Notifies (in writing) local law enforcement that vehicle removed from private property</td>
<td>Within 3 business days after removal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement (If vehicle stolen)</td>
<td>Notifies Georgia Crime Information Center, GCIC</td>
<td>Within 72 hours after receiving notice of vehicle being stolen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Wrecker Service (If owner unknown)   | If vehicle **not** stolen, notifies owners and any security interest or lien holders. 
Note: Notification to include location, fees, & that the vehicle will be abandoned in 30 days. 
Sent by certified or registered mail or statutory overnight delivery. | Within 7 calendar days after vehicle’s removal or one (1) business day after information is furnished. |
| Law Enforcement (If vehicle **not** stolen) | Provides names & addresses of owners to wrecker service if information available. 
If owner information is **not** available, advises wrecker service. | Within 3 business days of request.                                           |
| Wrecker Service (If owner does not redeem or vehicle being repaired or being stored by insurance company becomes abandoned) | Notifies DMVS or County Tag Agent on form MV-603 with $2.00 fee. | Within 7 calendar days of the date the vehicle becomes abandoned. |
## ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PROCESS
(Continued)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Motor Vehicle Safety or County Tag Agent</td>
<td>Provides a printout of both tag &amp; title information for VIN recorded on form if form properly completed &amp; fees paid. Provides MV-603A &amp; notice to be mailed to the owner(s). Places hold on VIN recorded on MV-603 form.</td>
<td>Every effort will be made to complete request within 7 days of receipt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrecker service (Once information received from DMVS or County Tag Agent)</td>
<td>Notifies owner(s), lessor, lessees, security interest and lien holders by certified/registered mail or statutory overnight delivery of vehicle's location, &amp; that vehicle is abandoned &amp; will be disposed of if not redeemed.</td>
<td>Within 5 calendar days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrecker Service (If DMVS records have no information regarding owner.)</td>
<td>Advertise in paper of general circulation in county where vehicle obtained OR If no paper at county courthouse.</td>
<td>1 time a week for 2 consecutive weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMVS (Notice of abandonment)</td>
<td>Provides information regarding abandoned vehicle to National Crime Information Center</td>
<td>2 consecutive weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrecker Service (After final disposition of vehicle)</td>
<td>Notifies DMVS or County Tag Office by sending applicable copy of MV-603 form</td>
<td>Within 7 days after final disposition of vehicle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Motor Vehicle Safety or County Tag Agent</td>
<td>Removes hold from VIN when disposition copy of MV-603 is received.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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