



## Abandoned Motor Vehicle, Trailer, or All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV): Landowner Requirements

The Department of Revenue is pleased to provide you with the instructions, forms, and requirements necessary to comply with Missouri law when applying for a certificate of title on a motor vehicle, trailer, or all-terrain vehicle (ATV) that was abandoned on your property.

### DEFINITIONS:

Missouri statute provides the following definitions:

- A **salvage vehicle** is a motor vehicle, semi-trailer or house trailer which:
  - Was damaged during a year that is no more than six years after the manufacturer's model year designation for such vehicle (model year of less than 7 years) and the cost to repair or reconstruct the unit exceeds eighty percent (80%) of pre-damaged fair market value\*;
    - Repair costs do not include repairing, replacing or reinstalling inflatable safety restraints, tires, sound systems, hail damage, or any sales tax on materials to rebuild or reconstruct. \*The Department of Revenue does not determine the fair market value.
  - Declared salvage by; or
    - Owner, a person, firm, corporation or other legal entity with security interest in it;
    - Insurance company as a result of settlement claim; or
    - Ownership documentation is a salvage title.
- A **junk vehicle** is a vehicle incapable of operation or use upon the roadways and has no resale value except as a source of parts or scrap, and will not be titled or registered.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- A *General Affidavit* ([Form 768](#)) completed *prior to* obtaining the required vehicle inspection. The affidavit *must* contain the following information:
  - The real estate owner's name;
  - The real estate owner's property address where the abandoned unit is located, including the street, city, state, and ZIP code;
  - A description of the abandoned property including the year, make, model, vehicle identification number (VIN), and any decal or license plate which may be affixed to the vehicle, trailer or ATV;
  - A statement explaining the circumstances as to how the real estate owner came into possession of the abandoned property; and
  - The retail or fair market value of the abandoned property assigned by real estate owner. Retail or fair market value may be obtained using the following sources:
    - A statement from a licensed dealer; or
    - The [NADA Price Guide](#) using the price range listed.
- An *Application for Missouri Title and License* ([Form 108](#)), completed and signed by the landowner, showing the abandoned property location.
  - Select "Original", "Salvage", or "Junk" as the title type. A law enforcement inspection will determine the proper type of title to be issued.
- The appropriate inspection form:
  - *If applying for an original title*, a *Vehicle Examination Certificate* ([Form 551](#)) must be completed and signed by an authorized officer of the Missouri State Highway Patrol (or



## Abandoned Motor Vehicle, Trailer, or All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV): Landowner Requirements

Auto Theft Bureau in the city or county of St. Louis). For trailers, an *Application for Vehicle/Trailer Identification Number Plate or Verification* ([Form 5062](#)), may be completed by a law enforcement officer in lieu of [Form 551](#).

- **If applying for a salvage title**, a *Vehicle Examination Certificate* ([Form 551](#)) must be completed by any law enforcement officer. For trailers, an *Application for Vehicle/Trailer Identification Number Plate or Verification* ([Form 5062](#)) may be completed by a law enforcement officer in lieu of [Form 551](#).
- **If applying for a junking certificate**, an *Application for Vehicle/Trailer Identification Number Plate or Verification* ([Form 5062](#)), must be completed by a law enforcement officer in lieu of the [Form 551](#).

**NOTE:** You may obtain the required inspection form as follows:

- The *Vehicle Examination Certificate* ([Form 551](#)), may be obtained at any [Missouri license office](#). **A \$25 form fee is required.**
- The *Application for Vehicle/Trailer Identification Number Plate or Verification* ([Form 5062](#)) may be obtained at any [Missouri license office](#) at no fee.

For Each inspection

- The inspection form will indicate if the abandoned property was reported stolen.
- The law enforcement agency may provide the name and address of the last registered owner(s) or lienholder(s) of record in the State of Missouri to the real estate owner.
- The inspecting officer must indicate the condition of the motor vehicle, trailer, or ATV on the inspection form.

Please contact the [MSHP, Motor Vehicle Inspection Section](#) for information regarding the *inspection process* for abandoned property on real estate.

- A copy of the *Notice to Owner Regarding Abandoned Vehicle, All Terrain Vehicle (ATV), Vessel, Watercraft, Outboard Motor and/or Trailer* ([Form 5227](#)) sent to all registered owner(s) and/or lienholder(s).
  - The owner of the real estate **must** send a notice by certified mail to all owner(s) and lienholder(s), if applicable, to provide an opportunity for them to protect their interest in the abandoned property.
- A copy of the signed certified mail receipt **at least** 30 days old indicating the owner(s) and lienholder(s) of record have been sent and **received** the above notice, as required by law.
  - If the certified mail notice is returned as non-deliverable, submit a copy of the return stamped “No Forwarding Address” or “Addressee Unknown” with the application for title.

**YOU WILL PAY:**

- Title and processing fees.
  - Motor vehicle, trailer, and ATV – \$8.50 title fee, plus \$6 processing fee;
  - Junking Certificate – \$6 processing fee, only (no title fee or taxes).
- State and local sales tax, if applicable.



## Abandoned Motor Vehicle, Trailer, or All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV): Landowner Requirements

- State sales tax is calculated at 4.225 percent, based on the assigned retail/fair market value of the abandoned property, as determined by the real estate owner on the General Affidavit ([Form 768](#)) or real estate owner's statement.
- Local tax is based on the address of the real estate owner's real estate property location. Local tax rates vary from city to city or county to county. Local tax is calculated on the assigned retail price of the abandoned property shown on the real estate owner's statement.

To calculate your state and local taxes, use the [Motor Vehicle/Boat/Vessel Sales Tax Calculator](#) on our website.

**Do not send cash.** Make checks payable to the Missouri Department of Revenue. The Department may electronically resubmit checks returned for insufficient or uncollected funds.

### SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION:

Please submit completed forms, supporting documents, and applicable fees to:

Motor Vehicle Bureau  
PO Box 100  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65105-0100

Upon receipt of the application and supporting documents, and fees, our staff will search the Department's records or initiate an inquiry with another state agency if the evidence presented indicates the abandoned property was registered or titled in another state. If the documentation or our search indicates the latest owner/lienholder was not properly notified, the Department will

inform the real estate owner so they may send the proper notice(s) as required by law.

Any owner or lienholder receiving notification may protest the issuance of title in the name of the real estate owner, by petition, in the associate division of the circuit court or small claims court in the county where the abandoned property is located.

An attorney **must** file the petition to recover the abandoned property **within the 30-day notice period**. The petition must name the owner of the real estate and a copy of the petition must be served on the Director of Revenue. The Director may not be a party to such petition; however, upon receipt of the petition, the issuance of any further titles on the abandoned property will be stopped until the court determines the rights of all parties.

Once all requirements are satisfied, and if the application has not been contested, the Department will issue one of the following documents, as determined by the application documents:

- **An original certificate of title** if the inspection indicates that the unit was **not** previously in a salvage condition or rebuilt;
- **An original certificate of title bearing the words "Prior Salvage"** if the inspection indicates the vehicle was previously in a salvage condition or rebuilt.
- **A salvage certificate of title bearing the words "Salvage/ Abandoned Property"** if the applicant applies for a Salvage title or the Vehicle Examination Certificate indicates the unit is in a salvage condition; or
- **A junking certificate** if the applicant applied for a junking certificate or if the inspection indicates that the unit is junk.



## Abandoned Motor Vehicle, Trailer, or All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV): Landowner Requirements

For additional information about the *title application process*, contact the Department at 573-526-3669 or [mvbmail@dor.mo.gov](mailto:mvbmail@dor.mo.gov).