



## Abandoned Vessel

The Motor Vehicle Bureau 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 vessel, outboard motor, and/or trailer that was abandoned on your property. Submit all completed forms, documents and applicable fees to:

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

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

The appropriate title application must be completed and signed by the landowner showing the abandoned property location. The title must be checked as "Original" "Salvage" or "Junking" A law enforcement inspection will determine the proper type of title to apply for (see title definitions):

- An *Application for Missouri Boat/Vessel or Outboard Motor Title and Registration* ([Form 93](#)) for a boat or outboard motor; **OR**
- Application for Missouri Title and License* ([Form 108](#)) for a boat trailer.
- The top portion of the *Boat/Vessel or Outboard Motor Affidavit of Ownership and Inspection* ([Form 798](#)) must be completed **prior** to obtaining the required inspection from the Missouri State Water Patrol (MSWP). For boat trailers an *Application for Vehicle/Trailer Identification Number Plate or Verification* ([Form 5062](#)) or *Boat, Vessel, or Outboard Motor Affidavit of Ownership and Inspection* ([Form 798](#)) may be completed by a law enforcement officer in lieu of [Form 551](#) unless the purpose is for a new or replacement VIN in which case an authorized agent of the MSHP or St. Louis City/County Auto Theft Unit must complete the inspection. In addition, a written statement **MUST** contain the following information either on or attached to [Form 798](#):

- The real estate owner's name;
- The real estate owner's property address where the abandoned unit is located, including street, city, state, and zip code;
- A description of the abandoned property including the year, make, mode, hull identification number (HIN), and any decal which may be affixed to the boat/vessel, outboard motor, and/or boat/vessel trailer;
- A statement explaining the circumstances as to how the real estate owner came into possession of the abandoned property; and
- The retail/fair market value of the abandoned property assigned by real estate owner.

The inspection portion of [Form 798](#) must be completed and signed by the MSWP or other authorized law enforcement agency:

- MSWP completes inspections on [Form 798](#) on boats/vessels, outboard motors, or boat/vessel trailers at **no cost**.
  - Each inspection indicates if the abandoned property was reported stolen.
  - MSWP provides the name and address of the last registered owner(s) and/or lienholder(s) of record in Missouri.
  - The MSWP must indicate the condition of the boat/vessel, outboard motor or boat/vessel trailer on the inspection form.
  - For additional information regarding inspections or to schedule an appointment, contact the nearest Missouri State Water Patrol office. You may contact MSWP by phone at (573) 751-3333 or inquire online at [www.mswp.dps.mo.gov](http://www.mswp.dps.mo.gov).
- A copy of the notice(s) sent and signed certified mail receipt(s) to the last registered owner(s) and/or lienholder(s).
- The owner of the real estate property **must** send a notice by certified mail to the last registered owner(s) and lienholder(s), if applicable, to provide an opportunity for them to protect their interest in the abandoned property.



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- 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 notice as required by law. If the certified mail notice is returned, submit a copy of the return stamped "No Forwarding Address" or "Addressee Unknown" with the application for title.

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

- Boats/Vessels - \$7.50 title fee, plus \$6 processing fee;
- Outboard Motors - \$5 title fee, plus \$6 processing fee;
- Boat/Vessel Trailer - \$8.50 title fee, plus \$6 processing fee;
- Junking Certificate Applications are exempt from title fees and taxes and require only a \$6 processing fee.

State and local sales tax, if applicable.

- 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 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 our [Motor Vehicle/Boat/Vessel Sales Tax Calculator](#) located on our website: [www.dor.mo.gov](http://www.dor.mo.gov) or call (573) 526-3669 for assistance.

Upon receipt of the application and supporting documents, the Department will search their 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 he/she 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, the Department will issue one of the following documents as determined by the completed [Form-798](#):

- An **original certificate of title** if the inspection indicates that the unit was not previously in a salvaged condition or rebuilt;
- A **salvage certificate of title** designated with the words "Salvage/Abandoned Property" if the inspection indicates the unit is in a salvaged condition; or
- A **junking certificate** if the inspection indicates that the unit is junk, which is defined as a unit incapable of operation or use upon the waterways and has no resale value except as a source of parts or scrap, and will not be titled or registered.

Please submit written inquiries, completed forms/documents and applicable fees to:

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



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Direct questions regarding the inspection of abandoned boats/vessels, outboard motors or boat/vessel trailers on real estate to the Missouri State Water Patrol Office.

For additional information, contact the Department by telephone at (573) 526-3669 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.