

For Immediate Release

(Date)

(Contact Person)

State law requires private sale vehicle buyers to title in 30 days or face financial penalties

Not transferring a vehicle in 30 days can cost (YOUR COUNTY) residents big money.

A new state law requires those who purchase vehicles in a private sale, whether it's in or out of state, to obtain a new title within 30 calendar days or face financial penalties.

"In some counties people are finding they owe hundreds of dollars in title penalties for failing to title within a month of purchasing their new car or truck," said (YOUR NAME), the tax assessor-collector for (YOUR COUNTY). "Please don't let this happen to you," (YOUR LAST NAME) added.

Failure to title within the 30 days results in an automatic \$25 penalty, plus another \$25 for each month the title is late. There are no waivers for these penalties, which means the (YOUR COUNTY) county tax office and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles cannot reduce or forgive what you may owe.

The law does grant an additional 30 days to active-duty military personnel, which gives them 60 days to transfer the title before facing late title penalties.

While the penalties may seem harsh, it's important to remember this helps to protect you when you go to sell a vehicle. "When vehicle buyers don't put the title in their name when you sell them a car or truck, anything they may do with that vehicle is going to trace to your name," (YOUR LAST NAME) explained.

Sellers don't have to rely solely on the buyer to do the right thing.

Whenever you sell a vehicle yourself or even trade one in to a dealer, it is important to file the free Vehicle Transfer Notification on the TxDMV website, www.TxDmv.gov. “Sellers must file the Vehicle Transfer Notification within 30 days to receive the state-guaranteed protection from liability,” (YOUR LAST NAME) said. “This way you cannot be held responsible for anything the buyer does with your old vehicle.”

Buyers need to realize that titling the vehicle in their name also offers protection. “When a vehicle is titled in your name it gives you proof of ownership,” (YOUR LAST NAME) said.

(YOUR LAST NAME) offers these tips for people planning to buy or sell a vehicle.

Texas Buyers

- For your protection, never buy a vehicle in a private sale without receiving the title.
- Be sure the seller gives you the title. If the title is from Texas, you can go to Title Check at www.TxDmv.gov to see if it's a clean title.
- The seller must sign, date and enter the odometer reading on the title back.
- Be sure the seller signs, dates and enters the sales price on Form 130-U. If you are purchasing the vehicle out of state, have the seller download the form from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles website, www.TxDmv.gov.
- Go to your local county tax office **within 30 days** to title the vehicle in your name.

Texas Sellers

- Sign, date and enter the odometer reading on the back of the title.
- Fill out your section of the mandatory Form 130-U. The buyer needs this to title the vehicle out of your name.
- Take off the license plates and transfer them for free to the new vehicle you buy. (That plate number ties directly to your name.)
- File the Vehicle Transfer Notification online at www.TxDmv.gov to remove your liability for the vehicle in the event the buyer does not transfer the title. You only have 30 days to file the Vehicle Transfer Notification to receive this state-guaranteed removal of liability.

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