

**Complaint and Proposed Form of Order  
for Action Seeking Title to Motor Vehicle**

These forms are to be used only when a person seeking to obtain title to a motor vehicle has been instructed by the legal department at the Motor Vehicle Commission that a court order is necessary. Most requests for title can be handled through the agency procedures at the MVC. The number of the legal department is (609) 777-1407.

**Plaintiff or Filing Attorney Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

NJ Attorney ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address (street) \_\_\_\_\_

(city, state, zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**I/M/O OWNERSHIP OF**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year, Make, Model

\_\_\_\_\_  
VIN Number of Vehicle

Superior Court of New Jersey

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division \_\_\_\_\_ County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Part

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Verified Complaint for Declaration of  
Ownership of Motor Vehicle**

Plaintiff, (your name) \_\_\_\_\_, residing at  
(street address) \_\_\_\_\_,  
(city, county, state, zip code) \_\_\_\_\_, SAYS:

1. I have been in continuous possession of (described vehicle: make, model, year) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) \_\_\_\_\_) vehicle for the past \_\_\_\_\_  
(Enter length of time the Vehicle has been in your possession) \_\_\_\_\_. During that time the  
vehicle was not in use.
2. I acquired possession of the above described vehicle in the following manner:  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. I cannot obtain a title from the previous owner of the vehicle or the New Jersey Motor Vehicle because:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. I made a diligent effort to locate the owner of the vehicle including initiating a Department of Motor  
Vehicle search to locate the owner of the vehicle. This effort (check one)  failed to locate the former owner  
 located the former owner. I have attached the results of that search to my verified complaint.
5. I have checked with the local/State police who have confirmed that the above-referenced  
vehicle has not been reported as stolen. Attached is a copy of the report received from the  
(name of police dept.) \_\_\_\_\_ Police / State Police.
6. I want to restore the vehicle to running condition and to register and insure it for operation on the road.
7. I have been instructed by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to obtain a court order declaring me  
the owner of this vehicle so that title may be issued to me.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff asks the Court to consider the evidence presented and declare ownership of the vehicle in my name.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

**VERIFYING CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are false, I am subject to punishment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

**Attachments:**

1. Certification of Inquiry effort to locate the owner
2. Negative stolen vehicle report

**Plaintiff or Filing Attorney Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

NJ Attorney ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**I/M/O OWNERSHIP OF**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year, Make, Model

\_\_\_\_\_  
VIN Number of Vehicle

Superior Court of New Jersey

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division \_\_\_\_\_ County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Part

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

**CIVIL ACTION**

**Judgment Directing Title to Issue**

**THIS MATTER** having been brought before the court on the application by  
(your name) \_\_\_\_\_, to be declared the owner of  
(year, make, model, VIN of vehicle) \_\_\_\_\_, vehicle  
and the court having considered the testimony and evidence submitted and being satisfied that a  
diligent searches for the true owner and the title have been made, and being further satisfied that,  
if a lien has been found, Plaintiff has been unable to obtain a lien satisfaction, and having  
considered the absence of objection to the relief requested by any party claiming a superior  
interest and being satisfied that Plaintiff is entitled to have title to the above-described vehicle  
issued directly to him/her:

It is **ORDERED**, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ that:

1. (your full name) \_\_\_\_\_, to be declared the owner of  
(year, make, model, VIN of vehicle) \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The declared owner shall pay to New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission all  
appropriate statutory fees.

\_\_\_\_\_  
J.S.C.

**Plaintiff or Filing Attorney Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

NJ Attorney ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**I/M/O OWNERSHIP OF**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year, Make, Model

\_\_\_\_\_  
VIN Number of Vehicle

Superior Court of New Jersey  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Division \_\_\_\_\_ County  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Part  
Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

**CIVIL ACTION  
Order to Show Cause**

**THIS MATTER** having been opened to the Court by  
(your name) \_\_\_\_\_, appearing pro se, on notice to the  
Motor Vehicle Commission, the Attorney General’s Office, and  
(former owner, if known) \_\_\_\_\_, and the Court having reviewed the pleadings  
submitted by Plaintiff in support of the Order to Show Cause, and the Court having considered the  
equities and relief request by Plaintiff(s), and for good cause shown:

It is on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, **ORDERED** that:

1. The Motor Vehicle Commission, the Attorney General’s Office,  
(former owner, if known) \_\_\_\_\_, and any other person or entity claiming title to  
or an interest in a motor vehicle described as:

Make: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

VIN#: \_\_\_\_\_

show cause before the Superior Court, \_\_\_\_\_ Division, at the \_\_\_\_\_  
County Civil Courthouse at (address) \_\_\_\_\_

on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o’clock in the \_\_\_\_\_ noon

why an order should not be entered in favor of the Plaintiff declaring the Plaintiff as the owner of  
the aforementioned motor vehicle and directing the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to

issue title therefor.

2. A copy of this Order to Show Cause and the Verified Complaint be served upon the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, the Attorney General's Office, and any other party who may claim title to or have an interest in the aforementioned vehicle within \_\_\_\_ days of the date hereof. Said service to be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail, or by personal service.

3. If the Plaintiff is unable to serve by personal or substituted service then the Plaintiff shall cause a Notice to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which Plaintiff lives once per week for three consecutive weeks within \_\_\_\_ days of the date hereof.

4. A person or entity claiming title to or an interest in the aforementioned vehicle shall serve and file an Answer, answering affidavit or motion within \_\_\_\_ days of the date of service by the Plaintiff of the aforesaid papers; and

5. If a person or entity claiming title to or an interest in the aforementioned vehicle fails to serve and file an Answer, within the time set forth herein, judgment by default may be entered against him or her for the relief sought in the Verified Complaint.

6. The Plaintiff must file with the court his/her/its proof of service of the pleadings on the defendant(s) no later than three (3) days before the return date.

7. Take notice that the Plaintiff has filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court of New Jersey seeking title to a motor vehicle. The verified complaint attached to this order to show cause states the basis of the lawsuit. If you dispute this complaint, you, or your attorney, must file a written answer, an answering affidavit or a motion returnable on the return date to the order to show cause and proof of service before the return date of the order to show cause.

These documents must be filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court in the county listed above. A directory of these offices is available in the Civil Division Management Office in the county listed above and online at [njcourts.com/prose/11237\\_directory\\_civil\\_ofcs.pdf](http://njcourts.com/prose/11237_directory_civil_ofcs.pdf). Include a \$\_\_\_\_ filing fee payable to the *Treasurer State of New Jersey*. You must also send a copy of your answer, answering affidavit or motion to the Plaintiff's attorney whose name and address appear above, or to the Plaintiff, if no attorney is named above. A telephone call will not protect

your rights; you must file and serve your answer, answering affidavit or motion with the fee or judgment may be entered against you by default.

8. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may call the Legal Services office in the county in which you live or the Legal Services of New Jersey Statewide Hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529). If you do not have an attorney and are not eligible for free legal assistance you may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling one of the Lawyer Referral Services. A directory with contact information for local Legal Services Offices and Lawyer Referral Services is available in the Civil Division Management Office in the county listed above and online at [njcourts.com/prose/10153\\_deptyclerklawref.pdf](http://njcourts.com/prose/10153_deptyclerklawref.pdf).

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/J.S.C..

**Plaintiff or Filing Attorney Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

NJ Attorney ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**I/M/O OWNERSHIP OF**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year, Make, Model

\_\_\_\_\_  
VIN Number of Vehicle

Superior Court of New Jersey

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division \_\_\_\_\_ County

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**CIVIL ACTION**

**Certification of Service**

On (date) \_\_\_\_\_, I served copies of the Order to Show Cause and Verified Complaint on:

**FORMER OWNER**

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(street) \_\_\_\_\_

(city, state, zip) \_\_\_\_\_

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

R.J. Hughes Justice Complex

25 W. Market Street, P.O. Box 80

Trenton, NJ 08625

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission

Special Title Unit

P.O. Box 017

Trenton, NJ 08666

**LIEN HOLDER (if any)**

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(street) \_\_\_\_\_

(city, state, zip) \_\_\_\_\_

by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. I also published a notice once for three consecutive weeks on (dates) \_\_\_\_\_ in (newspaper) \_\_\_\_\_

as evidenced by the attached affidavit of publication.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are false, I am subject to punishment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name



**NEWSPAPER NOTICE**

(Use if personal or substituted service cannot be made on the putative/former owner)

(newspaper name) \_\_\_\_\_

(street address) \_\_\_\_\_

(city, state, zip) \_\_\_\_\_

**Re: I/M/O OWNERSHIP OF**

(year, make, model) \_\_\_\_\_

(VIN of vehicle) \_\_\_\_\_

Please take notice that the Court has established (date) \_\_\_\_\_, as the return date of hearing for an Order to Show Cause, sought by Plaintiff, (your name) \_\_\_\_\_, wherein \_\_\_\_\_, I am seeking an Order directing the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to issue Certificate of Title to the above described vehicle in my name.

Objection to this application must be sent to the Court at the following address:

Court name \_\_\_\_\_

Court address \_\_\_\_\_

City, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your address \_\_\_\_\_

City, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_