

Prince George's County Vehicle Show Cause Hearing Request Form

- Private Tow Company Impound
- P.G. Co. Police Dept. Impound
- P.G. Co. Vehicle Audit Impound

Tracking #: _____

For Office Use Only

***NOTE:** Completing this form for a show cause hearing does not preclude you from paying impound/storage fees incurred at the time you reclaim your vehicle. Please be advised that storage/impound fees accumulate daily. Per Section 26-142.12 of the Prince George's County Code, an owner must reclaim the impounded vehicle within 21 days of the impound. As of the 22nd day, the owner has waived all rights, title and interest in that vehicle, and has consented for vehicle sale at a public auction. If you believe the impoundment of your vehicle was illegal, please complete this form. Keep the pink copy for your records and forward the remaining form to the address noted at the bottom of this form.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Impound Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #'s: (home) _____ (work) _____

Impound Information:

_____	_____	_____
Year	Make	Model
_____	_____	_____
Vehicle Tag #	State	Serial (VIN) #

Location of Impound: _____

Towing Company: _____ Phone #: _____

Please provide a brief explanation of why you feel the vehicle should not have been impounded. Attach additional sheets as needed.

I certify that the information provided above is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and is provided in good faith. I understand that completing and signing this form initiates a hearing request to determine probable cause for the towing of my vehicle as prescribed under Subtitle 26-142.10 or 26-169 of the Prince George's County Code. I fully realize that if I am not the registered owner of the vehicle, I carry the burden of establishing my right to possession of said vehicle. I further understand the Hearing Officer's decision is final and in no way affects any criminal proceeding in connection with the impoundment in question.

Signature of the Person Requesting Hearing

Date

THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO:
THE VEHICLE AUDIT UNIT
4920 RITCHIE-MARLBORO ROAD
UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND 20772
WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE IMPOUND NOTIFICATION LETTER.

P.G.C. FORM
5100 (10/03)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Show Cause Hearings

- ⇒ Show Cause Hearings are to determine whether a vehicle was properly towed and impounded under the provision of Subtitle Divisions 10 and 18 of the County Code.
- ⇒ This form entitles you to request a show cause hearing into the impoundment of your vehicle.
- ⇒ If you elect to contest the impoundment, you will be required to appear and present testimony at the hearing.

Reclaiming your vehicle

- ⇒ If your vehicle has been impounded, please make every effort to retrieve it from storage as soon as possible. Impound/storage fees are incurred daily. Keep in mind, you may reclaim your vehicle at any time.
- ⇒ By retrieving your vehicle, you do not forfeit your right to the hearing should you so request it and you may save yourself the additional assessment of storage fees and possibly other expenses if it is found that the tow/impoundment was legal.
- ⇒ Not reclaiming your vehicle within 21 days after the impound notice being mailed, waives all the owners "right, title and interest in the vehicle". (Sec. 26-142.12)

The Hearing Officer

- ⇒ The Hearing Officer is only empowered to rule on whether or not the vehicle was legally towed and impounded. (Sec. 26-142.10(c) and Sec. 26-169(c)).
- ⇒ Should the Hearing Officer rule that your vehicle was towed without probable cause (illegally) you may be entitled to receive reimbursement for towing and storage fees already paid or a fraction thereof.
- ⇒ Should the Hearing Officer determine there was probable cause (legally) for your vehicle being impounded, impound/storage fees paid will be upheld, and therefore forfeited.
- ⇒ The decision of the Hearing Officer is final. That decision is in no way connected to any claims filed via Civil Court.

Probable Cause for Vehicular Impoundment

- ⇒ Abandoned vehicles are prohibited
 - A vehicle is classified as abandoned if it is inoperable and left unattended on public property; illegally on public property; displaying invalid registration plates; or displaying registration plates of another vehicle for more than 48 hours.
 - A vehicle is classified as abandoned if it has remained on private property for more than 48 hours and is inoperable; displaying invalid registration plates; displaying registration plates of another vehicle; or partially dismantled, wrecked or junked.
- ⇒ Impoundment without prior notice to the owner.
Vehicles can be impounded without prior notice to the owner if it is impeding traffic flow (vehicular/pedestrian traffic flows); illegally parked; imposes an immediate danger to public safety; when a police officer believes vehicle may be stolen; when a police officer believes vehicle constitutes evidence of a crime; when the operator of vehicle has been taken into custody; parked in a reserved parking space in violation of Sec. 26-129 or parked on private property in violation of Sec. 26-142.01; or when a vehicle is classified abandoned.

Please let us (**The Office of Boards and Commissions / 301-883-5955**) know how we can best meet your needs as we will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making "reasonable accommodations" to promote and encourage your participation.

The Office of Boards and Commissions, 9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 520, Largo, Maryland 20774