You might need to address one or more of the issues outlined below when settling the vehicle and driver’s license records of your family member or friend. Please contact Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) or your local driver’s license agent or deputy registrar office if you need assistance.

Contact Information
Web: dvs.dps.mn.gov
Email: Vehicle Services: dvs.motor.vehicles@state.mn.us
       Driver Services: dvs.investigations-fines@state.mn.us
Special Plates: (651) 297-3166
Vehicle Title/Registration: (651) 297-2126
Driver’s License: (651) 297-3298
Office Locations: (651) 297-2005

Customer Assistance for the Hearing Impaired (TTY/TDD): (651) 282-6555

TRANSFERRING VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

Joint Ownership

You are considered a joint owner with right of survivorship if your name is listed on the vehicle title as one of the vehicle owners and the conjunction “OR” appears on the title.

You are not a joint owner if:
- Your name does not appear on the title.
- If your name is on the title, but there is no conjunction between the names or the conjunction is “and” you do not have right of survivorship.

Joint owners can title the vehicle in their name only by submitting the following:
- Evidence of death (see below).
- Vehicle title.
- Payment of appropriate fees.

Acceptable Evidence/Proof of Death
- Copy of a death certificate.
- Copy of obituary notice.
- Copy of memorial card.

Probated Estate

The court appoints someone to act as executor or administrator of the estate when an estate is probated. That person can act in place of the deceased.

The executor must submit the following to transfer ownership of the vehicle:
- Vehicle title. The executor(s) completes the title as seller, signing for each person listed on the title.
- Payment of appropriate fees.
- One of the following from a Minnesota court:
  - Certified Copy of Letters of Administration. All appointed executors/administrators must sign the title unless the document indicates they can act independently.
  - Certified Copy of Probate Court Order setting aside the property to the surviving spouse.
  - Certified Copy of a Decree of Partial Distribution of the estate specifically awarding the vehicle to the title applicant.
  - Certified copy of the Final Decree of Distribution indicating to whom the property was distributed. If the vehicle is not to be titled in the name of all individuals listed in the decree of distribution, an assignment of ownership by the people not titling the vehicle in their name is required.

LOST TITLE: In most cases, if the vehicle title has been lost, mutilated, or destroyed you must apply for a duplicate.

LIENS: A lien release is required for any liens listed on the vehicle record unless the surviving owner submits a letter from the lender authorizing the transfer to the surviving owner and carrying over the lien to the new title.
Estate Not Subject to Probate

You can transfer ownership of a vehicle when an estate is not subject to probate with evidence of death, assignment of ownership on the certificate of title, payment of appropriate fees, and one of the following:

- **Affidavit of Surviving Spouse (PS2071)** is used by a surviving spouse if entitled to select the vehicle under Minnesota Statutes, section 524.2-403. The applicant’s signature must be notarized or witnessed.

- **Affidavit of No-Probate (PS2071)** is used by one or more heirs at law (adult children, parents, siblings), who affirm they have the authority to represent all heirs and that the estate is not subject to probate. The applicant’s signature must be notarized or witnessed.

- **Affidavit for Collection of Personal Property** is used when there are no legal heirs. This type of transfer is authorized under Minnesota Statute 524.3-1201. The affidavit must be completed in full and the applicant’s signature must be notarized or witnessed. This document is not provided by DVS, but is readily available wherever legal document templates are sold.

Minnesota Driver’s License or ID Card

Taking a moment to notify DVS about the death of a licensed driver or holder of a Minnesota identification card helps to prevent others from using your loved one’s name for fraudulent purposes.

Send a copy of the deceased’s death certificate, obituary notice or memorial card to:

- By fax: 651-797-1760
- In person: Visit your local deputy registrar or driver license office. Go to drive.mn.gov or call 651-297-2005 for office locations and hours.
- By mail: Driver and Vehicle Services 445 Minnesota Street Suite 180 St. Paul, MN 55101-5180

Disability License Plates/Parking Certificates

DVS asks that you do the following if the deceased had a disability parking certificate (hang tag) or disability license plates:

**Return parking certificates** to a local deputy registrar or mail them to DVS, Special Plates – Suite 164, 445 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-5164.

**Replace disability license plates** with regular plates by visiting a deputy registrar office. This is usually done with the title transfer because you will need to provide evidence of death and authorization to act on behalf of the estate.

Wills

A will cannot be used to transfer ownership of a motor vehicle.

A will can be used to show inheritance, exempting the heir from sales tax.

Revocable Trusts

This type of trust is often called a living or family trust. It is created by individuals to manage their assets during their lifetime. The owner of the vehicle (grantor of the trust) appoints a trustee to assist with the distribution of their assets after death.

To be able to use the revocable trust document to transfer ownership of a vehicle, the vehicle must be titled in the name of the trust and the grantors. For example: Jones Trust, John Jones- Grantor

When the grantor is deceased, the appointed trustee signs the title as seller and provides:

- A copy of the trust document showing his or her appointment as trustee
- Evidence of the grantor’s death, such as a copy of the grantor’s death certificate

If the transfer of ownership is to a legal heir, sales tax is not due. A copy of the trust agreement showing beneficiary or a declaration from the trustee stating that the title applicant inherited the vehicle is required.

If the vehicle was not titled in the name of the trust, then one of the other methods outlined on this fact sheet must be used.