



In settling the vehicle and driver's license records of your family member or friend, you may need to address one or more of the issues outlined below. If you need assistance, please contact Driver and Vehicle Services or your local driver's license agent or deputy registrar office.

Web: dvs.dps.mn.gov

Email: Vehicle Services: dvs.motor.vehicles@state.mn.us

Driver Services: dvs.investigations-fines@state.mn.us

Office Locations (651) 297-2005

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

Special Plates (651) 297-3166

Vehicle Title/Registration..... (651) 297-2126

Driver's License (651) 297-3298

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 "or" appears between the names listed.

You may title the vehicle in your name only by submitting:

- 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

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.

LOST TITLE In most cases if the vehicle title has been lost, mutilated, or destroyed a duplicate must be obtained.

LIENS If the vehicle title indicates that there is lien holder, a release of the lien must be submitted with the transfer of ownership.

Probated Estate

When an estate is probated, the court appoints someone to act as executor or administrator of the estate. This person may act in place of the deceased.

The executor must submit

- Vehicle title. The executor completes the title as seller.
- Payment of appropriate fees
- One of the following (*from a MN Court*):
 - Certified Copy of Letters of Administration. If more than one person is appointed as an administrator, all must sign on the title unless the document indicates that the executors/administrators may 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* persons shown in the decree of distribution, an assignment of ownership by the people not titling the vehicle in their name is required.

Estate Not Subject to Probate

When an estate is not subject to probate, a family member or friend taking care of the deceased's property may transfer ownership of the vehicle 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)**, used by surviving spouse if entitled to select the vehicle under [Minnesota Statute 524.2-403](#). The applicant's signature must be notarized or witnessed.
- **Affidavit of No-Probate (PS2071)** 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** 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 Driver and Vehicle Services, but is readily available wherever legal document templates are sold.

Minnesota Driver's License or Identification 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 by mail to the below address or *fax a copy to 651-797-1760*.

Driver and Vehicle Services,
445 Minnesota Street Suite 180
St. Paul, MN 55101-5180

Disability License Plates/Parking Certificates

When the deceased had a disability-parking certificate (hangtag) or disability license plates, DVS asks that relatives and friends of the deceased do the following:

Return parking certificates with a copy of the deceased's death certificate, memorial card or obituary notice to Driver and Vehicle Services, Special Plates – Suite 164, 445 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-5164.

Replace disability license plates by visiting your local deputy registrar office. Usually, this is done in conjunction 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 effect the transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle. However, a will may 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.