



WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU SOLD A CAR BUT THE BUYER DIDN'T TRANSFER THE TITLE **FACT SHEET**

Reporting a sale of a car is not the same thing as transferring the title to the car. The **seller** of a car is required to **report the sale**, and the **buyer** is required to **transfer the title**.

What is reporting a sale of a car?

Within 10 days of selling a car, the seller is required to report the sale to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Driver and Vehicle Services ("DVS") Division. This can be done online, through the mail, or in person.

Report a Sale Online

- Enter the required information online at:
<https://mnlars.dvs.dps.mn.gov/online/#/reportOfSale>

Report a Sale by Mail

- Complete the "Notice of Sale" form that can be detached from the car's title.
- Provide the name, address, and driver's license number of the buyer and the date of sale.
- Mail the "Notice of Sale" form to DVS at:
Driver and Vehicle Services
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 168
Saint Paul, MN 55101-5168

Report a Sale in Person

- Complete the "Notice of Sale" form that can be detached from the car's title.
- Provide the name, address, and driver's license number of the buyer and the date of sale.
- Go to your local DVS office to turn in the "Notice of Sale" form in person. To find an office location call (651) 297-2005.

What is transferring title to a car?

Within 10 days of buying a car, the buyer is required to sign the application for a new certificate of title on the space provided on the title, then mail or deliver in person the title to DVS. If the buyer does not sign the title and mail or give it to DVS, then the seller's name stays on the title of the car. If the buyer doesn't transfer the title within 10 days, the car's registration is suspended.

What should I do if I sold a car but didn't report the sale?

You should report the sale to DVS immediately. If you didn't report the sale to DVS and the buyer of the car didn't transfer the title, then DVS will not know that you sold the car and any unpaid parking or

failure to display tabs tickets the car gets will be sent to you.

What should I do if I sold a car and the buyer didn't transfer the title?

If you have the seller's name and contact information, contact the seller immediately and ask them to meet you at their local DVS location so you can watch them transfer the title in person. Explain to the buyer that the buyer won't be able to register, insure, or sell the car unless the title is properly transferred. Hopefully, the buyer will be reasonable and cooperate with you.

If the buyer says that he or she can't afford to pay the sales tax or fees for the sale of the vehicle, consider offering to pay those expenses for them if they meet you at a DVS office. The potential financial costs to you could be much more than the cost of sales tax and transfer fees.

If you have the buyer's name but don't have the buyer's contact information, try to get it. You may be able to buy a background check report from a private company online for a fee. You can also try to find someone's information online for free by using search engines or searching for their social media profiles. Talk to a lawyer for additional suggestions about how to find someone.

If you don't have the buyer's name and don't have the buyer's contact information, you should talk to a lawyer immediately for suggestions about how to find someone. The police will likely not take a report from you if you try to report the car as stolen and will likely tell you that this problem is a "civil matter" that you can try to fix by going to court. Talk to a lawyer about what you would need to do to ask a court to get your name off of the title.

What bad things can happen to me if I sell a car and the buyer didn't transfer the title?

If you sell the car and the buyer doesn't transfer the title, you could end up with a host of legal problems. Any parking tickets or expired registration or expired tabs tickets will be sent to you. You can try to fight these tickets but there is no guarantee the fines will be dropped. Also, if the car gets in an accident, you might be sued because you are still listed as the vehicle's owner. If you get a ticket or get sued, talk to a lawyer right away to find out what your options are.

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