

Abandoned Vehicles

Per Georgia law, a business removing an abandoned or unclaimed motor vehicle from public rights of way or private or public property must go through a process to ensure the rights of the vehicle owners, lienholders, and security interest holders are protected. A certificate of title cannot be obtained for an abandoned vehicle on the basis of a surety bond, nor can a title be issued on a vehicle that is not required to be titled in Georgia (including 1985 or older year models).

Information on Handling Abandoned Vehicles

Towing and storage firms in Georgia are required by law to notify vehicle owners, lienholders, and security interest holders when a motor vehicle has been towed and impounded.

Authorized Businesses that want to foreclose on a lien are also required to notify vehicle owners, lienholders, and security interest holders.

- **Information on the Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act ([O.C.G.A. § 40-11-11 et seq.](#))**
The Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act (O.C.G.A. § 40-11-11 et seq.) provides that only towing and storage firms are authorized to remove vehicles from public and private property at the request of law enforcement officers or private property owners.
It also provides that towing and storage firms, repair facilities, and salvage dealers (Authorized Businesses) may obtain liens on abandoned or unclaimed motor vehicles by following a detailed process of notification to all owners, lienholders, and security interest holders.
- **In-Person Requests**
For in-person applications, complete and submit a [Form MV-603](#) to your local county tag office or to the Motor Vehicle Division at 4125 Welcome All Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30349. There is a \$2 fee to request the owner information.
- **Online Requests**
For online requests for contact information, use [Auto Data Direct](#). If you obtain the necessary contact information from Auto Data Direct, you will not be required to submit the Form MV-603 to the local county tag office or to the Motor Vehicle Division.
- **Law Enforcement Requests**
As an alternative to requesting owner contact information from [Auto Data Direct](#), you may also request owner and lienholder information from your local law enforcement agency.

Related Forms & Links

- [MV-603](#) - Notice of an Abandoned Vehicle and Request for Information
- [MV-603R](#) - Notice of Abandoned Vehicle Release
- [MV-603D](#) - Disposition Notice/ Derelict Vehicle Sale Only
- Visit the [Council of Magistrate Court Judges for forms](#)
- Apply for a Title and Tag for an [abandoned vehicle after a court order](#)
- All authorized businesses must [remit proceeds of public sale to the Department of Revenue](#)