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# Driver and Vehicle Services Update

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This bulletin may be downloaded by visiting the Driver and Vehicle Services  
Web site at [www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us)

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### **BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLE FORMS NOTICE**

PennDOT strives to provide all messenger services, agent services, and related businesses with the most current versions of forms available in a timely and cost effective manner. To ensure that the most current form is always available and consistently used, we will begin transitioning to provide a number of forms on our Web site only.

All forms that are available on our Web site will no longer be provided in a printed format.

The printed supply of these forms may be ordered until January 12, 2007 or until the current printed supply is depleted. Our Web site is [www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us) and click on "Forms and Publications."

### **UPDATED ADDRESS REQUIREMENTS FOR REPOSSESSION TITLE APPLICATIONS**

Effective immediately, out-of-state lienholders who are repossessing a vehicle and requesting a

certificate of title in their name are exempt from following the Pennsylvania address requirements.

These applications will be submitted using either Form MV-217 or MV-217A and do not require an MV-8 form provided the reposessor is requesting a certificate of title in its name. If the application is submitted with the reposessor assigning ownership, the Pennsylvania address requirements must be followed by the purchaser.

### **MANDATORY ELECTRONIC LIEN AND TITLE PROGRAM**

On July 10, 2006, HB 804 was signed into law, mandating participation in Pennsylvania's Electronic Lien and Titling (ELT) Program for most lienholders by July 10, 2008.

Financial institutions that engage in the business or practice of financing vehicles must contract with an approved ELT integrator in order to send and receive electronic title information before the July 10, 2008 deadline. Watch for information in future bulletins regarding the legislation itself, forms and procedure changes, and contractual requirements.

### **NEW RETURN TAG PROCEDURES**

Effective immediately, the following procedures will be in effect concerning the processing, storage and return of surrendered license plates received by the Bureau of Motor Vehicle's Return Tag Unit:

#### **Return/Retention Process**

1. As required by Section 1786 (h) (2) of the Vehicle Code, only Personalized (Vanity), Specialty (including Special Organization), Antique, Classic and Collectible plates will be stored upon surrender to the Bureau.

2. Retention of surrendered and stored Personalized and Specialty plates will be for one (1) year from the registration expiration date on the plate after which they will be destroyed.
3. Antique, Classic and Collectible plates surrendered will be stored for two (2) years from the date of return.
4. All other plate types that are surrendered to the Bureau will be destroyed after they have been recorded as being surrendered.

**Note:** Any license plate may be destroyed when surrendered with a notarized request from the owner.

### Return/Restoration Process

1. Any customer entitled to have a surrendered license plate returned (restoration, voluntary surrender) will receive either:
  - ❖ The same license plate he/she surrendered if it was a Personalized (Vanity) or Specialty (including Special Organization) plate and it is still an active registration or a registration that expired for less than one (1) year, or,
  - ❖ The same Antique, Classic or Collectible plate if a request for return is received within two (2) years of its surrender, or,
  - ❖ A new standard plate (for the vehicle type), Antique, Classic or Collectible plate if the returned plate was destroyed.
2. For restoration following a suspension/revocation, the plate, registration card and sticker (if applicable) will not be mailed back to the customer until all requirements for restoration are recorded and the eligibility date is reached.
3. Upon restoration, if the registration is still valid, PennDOT will return any stored surrendered plate or re-issue a new standard plate, registration card and sticker for those not stored.
4. Upon restoration, if the registration has expired, PennDOT will not mail a returned plate or reissue a new tag unless a renewal application with the appropriate fees is submitted.
5. A customer who visits the Customer Service Center at the ROC or has his/her restoration work processed through the Messenger or Legislative Services areas will also have his/her products returned or reissued as outlined above.

6. A customer who uses an on-line partner to process his/her restoration will not have his/her surrendered and stored plate returned. If the surrendered plate is still valid, a new standard plate will be issued and the replacement fees will be waived. If the registration is expired, the customer must apply for a new registration and pay all applicable fees required.

## NEW GOLD STAR FAMILY REGISTRATION PLATE

In October, a bill was signed into law, which amended Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, providing for a Gold Star Family License Plate. The plate is available to family members of loved ones killed while serving on active duty in the military, provided that the proper documentation and a fee of \$20 is provided to PennDOT.

The idea of a Gold Star Family License Plate was proposed by Ruth Stonesifer, national corresponding secretary for American Gold Star Mothers and president of the Department of Pennsylvania American Gold Star Mothers, whose son, Kristofer, was killed in action Oct. 19, 2001, during Operation Enduring Freedom; this year marks the fifth anniversary of his death.

The purpose of the Gold Star Family License Plate is to help increase awareness of the sacrifices Pennsylvania's sons and daughters are making in the military as well as the sacrifices of their families. Currently, Texas, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, New York and Illinois have Gold Star license plates of some kind.

The Gold Star Family License Plate adds to a number of military plates PennDOT offers to veterans or service members who served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, including plates for veterans of Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.



## WATERCRAFT FORFEITURE

House Bill 1641 was signed into law July 7, 2006 and became Act 79.

Act 79 provides watercraft dealers, registered with the Department and assigned a Dealer Identification Number starting with "92", the right to take title to not only the watercraft but small trailers as well, as part of forfeiture procedures.

Taking title to the small trailer through forfeiture procedures will occur on Form MV-26, "Watercraft Trailer Forfeiture" and Form MV-26D, "Application for Disposal of Watercraft Trailer." These forms are available on our Web site.

## SECURITY OF PRODUCTS REMINDER

The agent services contract requires that "supplies of temporary cards, plates, permits or other products designated by the Department shall not be held or placed at any time on any workstation area within the grasp of the public. Individual temporary cards, plates, permits or other products designated by the Department shall at no time be left unattended on any workstation area within the grasp of the public."

Please be reminded that this includes Forms MV-1, MV-4ST and MV-120.

In addition, agents should at no time, share or provide their supply of these forms to other agents for their use. These are secured forms, and therefore, are required to be kept in a secure location at all times.

## EMAIL ADDRESS REQUIREMENT REMINDER

This is a reminder that all agent service contract holders were required to provide an email address for their contract. Unfortunately, not all of our agents have provided their email addresses. The updates issued by the Department are an important source of information for agents. Therefore, the Department is requiring you, as provided for in your Agent Services, Card Agent Services and Messenger Services Contracts to have and provide the Department with an active email account accessible via the Internet.

It is imperative that all agent services, card agent services and messenger services, who have not previously submitted their email address, provide their email address to [dvsnewsletter@state.pa.us](mailto:dvsnewsletter@state.pa.us). When providing your email address, please list your business name and dealer or agent identification number.

**Please note that [dvsnewsletter@state.pa.us](mailto:dvsnewsletter@state.pa.us) is an email address and not a Web site.**

In addition, if your email address has changed, please submit a notice of this change to [dvsnewsletter@state.pa.us](mailto:dvsnewsletter@state.pa.us). Please include the business name, dealer or agent identification number, old email address and the new email address.

Please be advised that not receiving these updates may result in violations of your contract if audited and the suspension or termination of your contract.