

## DISCLAIMER FOR INVOLUNTARY LIEN TRANSFERS AND ABANDONMENT OF PROPERTY TO A LANDLORD

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

MV2881 09/2024 §. 342.18(2), 342.19, and 704.05 Stats.

**Under Wisconsin law, an eligible mechanic, towing company, or self-service storage operator, referred to as lien holder from this point forward, may transfer a vehicle pursuant to the proper enforcement of an involuntary lien. An eligible landlord has the power to dispose of an abandoned vehicle upon the tenant's removal from the leased premises by sale or other appropriate means.**

The applicable law specifies the eligibility, required notification procedures, the associated waiting period, and the means by which an eligible lien holder or landlord may dispose of the vehicle.

A new certificate of title in the name of the transferee as owner as a result of an involuntary lien or abandonment of property to a landlord will receive:

ABANDONMENT OF PROPERTY TO LANDLORD INVOLUNTARY SELF-SERVICE STORAGE LIEN	INVOLUNTARY TRANSFER MECHANIC LIEN INVOLUNTARY TRANSFER TOWING LIEN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If a lien release <b>is not</b> submitted with the application, the transferee <i>will</i> receive a Confirmation of Ownership and the title will be sent to the secured party if the previous owner's lien was listed <b>after</b> July 30, 2012. See <a href="https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/vehicles/title-plates/involuntary-lien-transfers.aspx">https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/vehicles/title-plates/involuntary-lien-transfers.aspx</a> for more information.</li><li>• A title without a secured party listed if there is a lien release submitted with the application.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A title without a secured party listed</li></ul>
<b>Any money collected pursuant to an involuntary lien transfer or from the landlord's right to dispose of property must be distributed pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes and the Uniform Commercial Code.</b>	

The applicant is required to certify his or her eligibility to enforce the lien or dispose of the abandoned property by signing their name on the statement of fact indicating that he or she is an eligible lien holder or landlord, and has complied with the procedures required by Wisconsin State Statutes.

Falsifying information on this form could result in a fine of up to \$10,000 or imprisonment for up to five (5) years or both.

Local Division of Motor Vehicles customer service centers can provide the odometer disclosure statement (MV2488), but cannot answer questions regarding this involuntary lien or abandonment of property to a landlord titling process, nor can they forward the application on your behalf. Online services cannot be used for involuntary lien applications. Inquiries can be made by:

**Email:** [special-plates.dmv@dot.wi.gov](mailto:special-plates.dmv@dot.wi.gov)

- The Special Plate Unit may have to conduct research before replying; please allow two business days for an email response. Do not send a second email.
- If the inquiry involves a specific vehicle, please be sure to provide the vehicle identification number or license plate number in your email.

**Phone:** (608) 264-7447. Calls are answered from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**The Wisconsin Department of Transportation provides the information on this web site as a convenience to eligible lien holders and landlords. Use of this form by the general public or organizations seeking to obtain a title for an abandoned vehicle is prohibited by law. This page and the application form do not constitute professional legal advice by WisDOT or guarantee eligibility, as circumstances will vary.**

**WisDOT is not liable for damages, court action, or denials incurred through the inappropriate or illegal use of the application form. By completing this form, the applicant agrees to hold WisDOT harmless in any related actions.**

**I have read and understand the disclaimer above regarding involuntary lien transfers and the abandonment of property to a landlord. I understand how to properly use and complete the application form.**



# INVOLUNTARY LIEN TRANSFERS AND ABANDONMENT OF PROPERTY TO A LANDLORD

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

**MV2881-1 09/2024** §. 342.18(2), 342.19, and 704.05 Stats.

You must read, check, and sign the appropriate box (**only one may be selected**) certifying your authorization to enforce the lien or abandonment of property to a landlord and therefore dispose of the vehicle in accordance with the Wisconsin State Statutes. Access to the Wisconsin State Statutes may be found online at the following web site: [www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html). A vehicle sold and transferred as a result of any of the involuntary self-service storage lien or abandonment of property to a landlord will receive a new certificate of title in the name of the transferee as owner.

## ☐ SELF SERVICE STORAGE / ABANDONMENT OF PROPERTY TO LANDLORD

The new certificate of title in the name of the transferee as owner as a result of any of the following involuntary liens or abandonment of property to a landlord shall reflect any perfected security interest(s) appearing on the original owner's certificate of title **if a lien release is not provided**. A copy of the signed rental agreement must be submitted with this application to the Department.

### INVOLUNTARY SELF-SERVICE STORAGE LIEN

I am a self-service storage operator who has given notice to the lessee, who is under default of a written rental agreement, at the lessee's last known address stating the daily charges for storage due in order to reclaim the vehicle and notification of the intent to dispose of the vehicle by sale or other appropriate means in accordance with ss. 704.90(3), 704.90(5), 704.90(6), 704.90(8), Stats.

Ref. s. 704.90, Stats.                     X                      
(Authorized Signature) (Date – m/d/yy)

## ☐ ABANDONMENT OF PROPERTY TO A LANDLORD

I am a landlord who has given written notice to the tenant at the time the tenant entered into a rental agreement that I will not store any personal property including a vehicle that the tenant leaves behind or otherwise abandons when they vacate the premises.

If I have not given such written notice, I have complied with s. 704.05, 2009 Stats., with respect to the vehicle abandoned by the tenant when that tenant moves. Further, I have given notice of my intent to dispose of the vehicle by sale or other appropriate means to the tenant and any secured parties recorded on the vehicle title of which I have actual notice, personally or by regular or certified mail addressed to their last known address.

Ref. s. 704.05, Stats.                     X                      
(Authorized Signature) (Date – m/d/yy)

## TO OBTAIN A WISCONSIN TITLE

The purchaser must submit this form completed by the lien enforcer or landlord and an MV1 – Wisconsin Title and License Plate Application along with the appropriate fees.

- If the vehicle is model year 2011 or newer, you are required to submit a completed MV2488 Vehicle Transfer and Odometer Mileage Statement. This form may be obtained from a Division of Motor Vehicles customer service center or by contacting the Research & Information Unit. Photocopies of form MV2488 are not acceptable. s. 342.155(1), Stats.
- You may obtain the MV1, MV2881, and MV2896 forms online using the following web site: <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/global-footer/formdocs/default.aspx>

## ☐ MECHANIC LIEN / TOWING LIEN

The new certificate of title shall be issued free of the secured parties who terminated the original owner's interest and of all secured parties subordinate under s. 342.19 Stats. to such secured party. A copy of the signed work order or towing notice must be submitted with this application to the Department.

### INVOLUNTARY TRANSFER MECHANIC LIEN

I am a mechanic who has prepared a written repair order that clearly and legibly describes the repairs authorized by the customer, and who has given the vehicle owner notice of the charges for storing the vehicle on a signed service order. I have given each owner, all other person(s) responsible for the debt and lien holder(s) on record at the Department of Transportation notification of the charges due in order to reclaim the vehicle, and notification of the time and place of the sale in accordance with ss. 409.611(3), 409.613, and 409.614, Stats.

Ref. ATCP 132.03(1), ss. 779.41, 779.48(2), ch. 409, Stats.                     X                      
(Authorized Signature) (Date – m/d/yy)

## ☐ INVOLUNTARY TRANSFER TOWING LIEN

I am a motor carrier holding a permit to perform towing services, a licensed motor vehicle salvage dealer or a licensed motor vehicle dealer who performs vehicle towing services and who has given the vehicle owner notice of the charges for storing the vehicle on a signed service order or has a sign posted in a conspicuous place in the garage easily readable at a distance of fifteen feet. I have given each owner, all other person(s) responsible for the debt and lien holder(s) on record at the Department of Transportation notification of the charges due in order to reclaim the vehicle, and notification of the time and place of the sale in accordance with ss. 409.611(3), 409.613 and 409.614, Stats. If the value of the vehicle exceeds \$750, the lien may be enforced under s. 779.48(2), Stats. If the value of the vehicle does not exceed \$750, the lien may be enforced by sale or junking as provided in s. 779.415(2), Stats.

Ref. ss. 779.415, 779.43(3), 779.48(2), ch. 409, Stats.                     X                      
(Authorized Signature) (Date – m/d/yy)

## TO JUNK A VEHICLE

- Submit this form completed by you indicating on the other side that your intent is to junk the vehicle.

## MAIL COMPLETE APPLICATION TO:

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Special Plates Unit  
P.O. Box 7911  
Madison, WI 53707-7911



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MV2881

**CHECKLIST**

Use the checklist below to verify a full and complete application for a Involuntary lien transfer is being submitted.

- ☐ **MV2881 Application for Involuntary Lien transfer**
  - Page 2 – contains which Involuntary Lien transfer you are selecting
  - Page 3 – all areas completed with:
    - Was this sold or junked—appropriate box is checked
    - Full Vin and accurate state the vehicle was last titled in
    - Accurate previous owner(s)
    - Accurate current lien holder(s)
    - Full name of business or seller(s)
    - Sale Price of Vehicle
    - Certified tracking number for certified mail sent to previous owner and/or Lienholder.
    - Purchaser's full name, address, and driver's license number if applicable
    - Type of sale (Public or Private)
      - sale price and date
      - Public sale: please include proof of public sale posting
- ☐ **Rental agreement signed by the landlord and tenant if vehicle was landlord abandoned (if storage or landlord involuntary lien transfer)**
  - **Please note:** if you have an MV2419 Abandoned//unregistered Vehicle Transfer Certificate, you **MAY NOT** use the MV2881 Involuntary lien transfer application.
- ☐ **Work order or bill signed by the vehicle owner (if tow or mechanical involuntary lien transfer)**
  - Must be addressed to owner and show VIN and amount due.
- ☐ **Copy of the towing notice with accumulated charges sent to the vehicle owner**
- ☐ **Certified letter to the vehicle owner(s) and Lien holder(s)**
  - This should explain your intent to sell if the vehicle owner does not the remit the owed fees or claim the vehicle after 30 days from date of mailed certified letter.
- ☐ **MV2488 if Vehicle is model year 2011 or newer with odometer statement.**
- ☐ **MV1 title application if applicable**
- ☐ **Check or money order made payable to Registration Fee Trust for the total due listed on the MV1.**

**Keep copies of all application items.**

Submit the completed application to:  
Special Plate Unit  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 7911  
Madison, WI 53707-7911