

State of Colorado
Checklist: Law Enforcement
Public Tow Requirements
C.R.S. 42-4-1801

A motor vehicle is considered abandoned when: A) left unattended on public property for a period of 48 hours or longer; B) or a period longer than any limit prescribed by any local ordinance; C) any motor vehicle stored in an impound lot at the request of a law enforcement agency and not removed from the impound lot within 72 hours after the time the law enforcement agency notifies the owner or agent that the vehicle is available for release upon payment of any applicable charges or fees; D) Any motor vehicle fitted with an immobilization device that is on public property and deemed to be abandoned pursuant to C.R.S. 42-4-1105 (7)(c); E) Any motor vehicle left unattended at a regional transportation district parking facility as defined in C.R.S. 32-9-119.9 (6), that is deemed abandoned pursuant to C.R.S. 32-9-119-9 (4)(b).

Tow operator is required to be registered with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Law enforcement and the tow operator must also be registered with the Department of Revenue, Division of Motor Vehicles (Vehicle Services Section) to complete this process. Forms can be found online at DMV.Colorado.gov/forms-and-publications

Step	What You Need To Do	Forms Needed		
1	Upon having an abandoned motor vehicle towed, the responsible law enforcement agency shall ascertain, if possible, whether or not the motor vehicle has been reported stolen, and if so reported, such agency shall recover and secure the motor vehicle and notify its rightful owner and terminate the abandonment proceedings.			
2	<p>Record Search</p> <p>Law Enforcement — As soon as possible, but no later than ten (10) business days after the vehicle has been towed, the responsible law enforcement agency must submit a record search request to the Colorado Department of Revenue, DMV Vehicle Services Section by online portal OR by completion of form DR 2008 Public Tow Vehicle Information Request by first class, certified mail or by personal delivery.</p> <p>Tow Operator — Not less than two (2) calendar days but no more than ten (10) calendar days after the vehicle has been towed, the tow operator must submit a record-search request to the Colorado Department of Revenue, DMV Vehicle Services by online portal OR by submission of the DR 2489A Motor Vehicle Requestor Release Affidavit of Intended Use AND a copy of the written authorization provided by the law enforcement agency to tow the vehicle or a copy of the completed DR 2008 Public Tow Vehicle Information Request sent by first class, certified mail or by personal delivery.</p>	<p>DR 2008</p> <p>DR 2489A</p>		
3	<p>Notice by Certified Mail</p> <p>Law Enforcement — Within ten (10) business days after the receipt of the completed record search from the Department, including completion of the National Database search process if no Colorado record is found, the responsible law enforcement agency must notify the owner(s) and any lienholder(s) of record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the responsible law enforcement agency DOES NOT use an operator to store the motor vehicle, the responsible law enforcement agency must notify the owner(s) and any lienholder(s) by certified mail, return receipt requested. • If the responsible law enforcement agency DOES use an operator to store the motor vehicle, the responsible law enforcement agency must notify the owner(s) and any lienholder(s) by first-class mail. <p>Tow Operator- Notice to the owner(s) and any lienholder(s) must be sent within five (5) calendar days after the receipt of the completed record search from the Department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tow operator shall retain proof of notification on file for three (3) years. • Notices sent by a tow operator must be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Notification must include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact information for the responsible law enforcement agency • Tow operator's name • PUC permit number • Address • Storage Address • Phone Number • Date of tow • Location vehicle towed from • Vehicle information including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Year ◦ Make ◦ Model ◦ Color ◦ VIN ◦ License plate number ◦ State of Issue </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Notification must also advise the owner(s) and lienholder(s) (if applicable) of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles not claimed within 30 calendar days of the postmark of the notice will be disposed of • They have a right to a hearing to determine the legality of the towing of the vehicle and that such a request must be made to the responsible law enforcement agency in writing and be made within ten (10) calendar days of the postmark of the notice. • Information about the vehicle can only be obtained by the responsible law enforcement agency and/or tow operator. </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Notification must include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact information for the responsible law enforcement agency • Tow operator's name • PUC permit number • Address • Storage Address • Phone Number • Date of tow • Location vehicle towed from • Vehicle information including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Year ◦ Make ◦ Model ◦ Color ◦ VIN ◦ License plate number ◦ State of Issue 	<p>Notification must also advise the owner(s) and lienholder(s) (if applicable) of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles not claimed within 30 calendar days of the postmark of the notice will be disposed of • They have a right to a hearing to determine the legality of the towing of the vehicle and that such a request must be made to the responsible law enforcement agency in writing and be made within ten (10) calendar days of the postmark of the notice. • Information about the vehicle can only be obtained by the responsible law enforcement agency and/or tow operator. 	
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4	<p>Vehicles not retrieved shall be sold or disposed of not less than 30 calendar days nor more than 60 calendar day from either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The postmark date of the notification <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the vehicle search results on a 'no Colorado record found,' the date that the record search was completed. 	
5	<p>Vehicles with an appraised value of \$350 or less must be sold as parts only, or junk. No Colorado title can be issued. These vehicles should be sold using a DR 2173 Motor Vehicle Bill of Sale, which must clearly indicate either "JUNK," "PARTS ONLY," or "NO TITLE." A copy of the DR 2173 must be sent to the Department of Revenue, DMV, Vehicle Services Section so the record may be purged.</p>	DR 2173
6	<p>The following documents are required for the issuance of a Colorado certificate of title:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original DR 2008 Public Tow Vehicle Information Request Original DR 2173 Motor Vehicle Bill of Sale — appraisal must be complete and exceed \$350. When a bond is required the appraisal is valid for 45 days. DR 2395 Application for Title and/or Registration Original DR 2698 Verification of VIN — valid for 1 year. Original DR 2704 Certified VIN Inspection — for vehicles with a model year of less than 5 years when no Colorado record is found. Valid for 1 year, provided by law enforcement. Bond — buyer must provide a surety bond for vehicles with a model year of less than 5 years when no Colorado record is found. Surety bond must be for twice the appraised value as shown on the appraisal. Minimum bond accepted is \$700. <p>*NOTE— The Driver's Privacy Protection Act prohibits the release of owner(s) and lienholder(s) information to the purchaser. This includes record search results, notification letters or certified mail information; law enforcement and the tow operator must retain this information for their records.</p> <p>Purchaser must make application for title at the motor vehicle office in the county in which they reside. Secure and verifiable identification is required to obtain a title and/or registration in the State of Colorado.</p>	DR 2008 DR 2173 DR 2395 DR 2704 DR 2698 (as required). Bond Title fee—\$7.20 pursuant to C.R.S. 42-6- 138 (a)(a). Please see DR 2841 for acceptable identification documents.
7	<p>Upon receiving the record search information from the Department, if the record indicates that the vehicle is salvage, the law enforcement agency must designate the vehicle as "Salvage" on the DR 2173 Motor Vehicle Bill of Sale. If the vehicle appears to be roadworthy the law enforcement agency shall provide the buyer with a DR 2444 Statement of Fact indicating the vehicle was purchased as an abandoned vehicle and no repairs were made by the law enforcement agency.</p> <p>If the vehicle is in salvage condition and appraised for more than \$350 the law enforcement agency shall have a DR 2704 Certified VIN Inspection completed to determine if the vehicle is roadworthy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the vehicle is determined to be ROADWORTHY, the buyer may apply for title by following the DR 2415 Title Established by Salvage Title Checklist. The buyer will complete the DR 2424 Salvage Title Statement of Fact stating that the vehicle was purchased from the law enforcement agency as an abandoned vehicle and that no repairs were needed. If the vehicle is determined to be NOT ROADWORTHY: The buyer may apply for a salvage title using the DR 2410 Application for Salvage Title OR the buyer may apply for Title by repairing the vehicle and following the DR 2415 Title Established by Salvage Title Checklist. After making repairs a new DR 2704 Certified VIN Inspection will be required. All subsequent applications will indicate "Other—purchased as an abandoned vehicle" on the DR 2710 Rebuilt from Salvage Disclosure. <p>If the record search obtained from the Department indicates that the vehicle was "Previous Salvage" (Rebuilt from Salvage), the law enforcement agency shall request a salvage history through CCIC/NCIC using their ORI Number to determine the cause of the salvage designation. Once the reason for salvage has been determined, the law enforcement agency will complete a DR 2710 Rebuilt from Salvage Disclosure to provide the salvage information. If the reason for salvage is indeterminate, the law enforcement agency will complete the DR 2710 by marking the "Other" box and stating "Purchased as an abandoned vehicle, unable to obtain a salvage history, reason for salvage unknown".</p>	DR 2410 DR 2424 DR 2444 DR 2704 or DR 2710
8	<p>When the purchase price of the vehicle exceeds the limits set forth by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission the law enforcement agency must submit 2 copies of the DR 2173. Balance from proceeds should be mailed (USPS regular OR express mail) within 30 days of date of sale to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">State of Colorado Department of Revenue PO Box 173350, Room 147 Denver, CO 80217-3550</p>	DR 2173