

Plate with Owner

When I sell my vehicle am I required to keep my license plate(s)?

Yes. Vehicle owners must remove the license plate(s) from their vehicle whenever the vehicle is sold or transferred. The vehicle will be considered unlicensed, and subject to a full year license fee when re-titled.

How do I apply the credit I have left on my license plate(s)?

The owner of a vehicle, who has removed their license plate(s) from a vehicle at the time it was sold, is allowed a credit towards the registration fee due on the replacement vehicle.

How much credit do I receive when I transfer my license plate(s) to a replacement vehicle?

The credit is based on the number of unused months left on the registration (license plate) when the replacement vehicle is acquired. The available credit will expire if not used by the expiration date on the plate(s). Credit is determined starting from the month after the plate(s) are transferred. The credit will not be available unless the license plate(s) is transferred to the replacement vehicle. An additional \$5 fee is due on each registration and title application that involves a credit. Transferred plate(s) can not be displayed on the replacement vehicle until the vehicle has been registered with the Motor Vehicle Division, and a new registration card has been received.

If my credit exceeds my registration fee what happens to the remaining credit?

Available credit can be used towards only one replacement vehicle. If the available credit exceeds the registration fee due on the replacement vehicle, the credit balance will be lost. The credit balance can not be used to offset any other fees that are due (ex: title fee and taxes). There are no refunds available in this situation.

Can I legally operate an acquired vehicle without displaying any visible registration?

Yes. The buyer of a vehicle may operate the vehicle for a maximum of five (5) days from the date of acquisition without displaying any registration. However, you must have a dated evidence of ownership in the vehicle during those five (5) days. Dated evidence of ownership can be either a dated bill of sale, dated copy of the certificate of title or back of that vehicles current registration card.

What if I can not make it to the DMV within five (5) days to transfer the title on a newly acquired vehicle? How can I legally operate that vehicle?

A self-issuing temporary registration permit SFN51429, similar to a notary certificate, can be used on vehicles for 30 days from the date of acquisition. The permit can be acquired from the Motor Vehicle Division, dealers, branch office locations, and law enforcement agencies. There is no charge for the permit and the supplier of the permit has no responsibility to determine whether the permit is being properly used. These permits are not intended to replace the notary certificate. During this time, the buyer must obtain proper registration and title for the vehicle.

Can I receive license fee credit from one vehicle to another, regardless of what that vehicle is?

The Plate With Owner law in North Dakota applies to all classes of vehicles except Snowmobiles, All-terrain, Antiques, Collector, DAV (Disabled American Veterans), POW (former Prisoner of War), and Official vehicles. To receive the credit, the law requires that vehicle to be sold, traded, or otherwise transferred prior to acquiring the replacement vehicle.

How do I receive license fee credit if I have lost the plate(s)?

If the plates(s) are lost, you may apply for duplicate plates. A \$5 duplicate plate fee is due, and may be deducted from the available credit.

Can an immediate family member use my plate(s) and credit?

Yes. If you sold, traded, or otherwise transferred a vehicle and will not be replacing the vehicle; it is allowable for an immediate family member to use the plate(s) and credit on their purchase.

What if my vehicle is repossessed and I am unable to recover the license plate(s); can I still get my remaining credit if I replace the vehicle?

Yes. The remaining credit can still be used towards a replacement vehicle. A duplicate plate fee of \$5 will be due, additional to the registration fee, and may be deducted from the available credit.

I am leasing a vehicle and am considering turning it back in. Can I keep the license plate(s) and apply remaining credit to a replacement vehicle that will be titled in my personal name?

Yes. A lease contract typically makes the lessee responsible for all fees relating to tax and license. Therefore, the plate(s) must be removed from the leased vehicle and transferred to the replacement vehicle. All remaining credit can be applied to the registration fee due on the replacement vehicle.

I requested a distinctive license plate(s) on my vehicle. I am required to pay an additional fee for that plate(s) each year it is renewed. Will that additional fee be credited when transferring that plate(s) to a replacement vehicle?

Yes. Only license fees are transferable. The additional fee you pay is part of your license fee. Other special fees collected at the time of registration, such as Public Transportation, Abandon Vehicle fee, Motorcycle Safety Education fee, and Unsatisfied Judgment fee, are not transferable.

How do I obtain new plates on a replacement vehicle if I chose not to transfer my existing plate(s)?

The owner must use the license plates previously removed from another vehicle regardless of whether there is credit remaining. If the plates are lost, mutilated or illegible the purchaser is required to purchase duplicate plates for \$5.00.