

How to fill out an Alabama title

Alabama Certificate of Title for a Vehicle · 8 of 12 boxes are the seller's · rules as of 2026-08-23

sellmycarhub.com

/forms/alabama/certificate-of-title/

This sheet is not the title. It is the checklist to keep beside one. Any alteration or erasure voids the assignment - printed as a legal notice on the Department's own correction form, and backed by rule 810-5-75-.39, which refuses any document that has been altered. The Department gives no numbered field guide for the certificate. The order below is the order the block is printed in, top to bottom, as it appears on the MVT 5-7 correction affidavit and the MVT 8-3 reassignment supplement - both of which reproduce the same block in the same words because their whole purpose is to replace it.

Who has to sign

Every owner joined by AND	Rule 810-5-75-.40(1)(b): two owners joined by the conjunction and, or with no conjunction between the names, have tenancy in common ownership rights, and both owners are required to sign the title assignment.
One owner where it says OR	The same rule: two owners joined by the conjunction or or and/or have joint tenancy ownership rights with rights of survivorship and only one owner is required to sign.
The seller, printed as well as signed	The block carries two separate lines - signature of seller(s) and printed name(s) of seller(s) - and the Department reads both.
The buyer, in the same block	Signature and printed name, under the seller's, acknowledging the mileage the seller has just certified.
Nobody in front of a notary	No stamp, no seal, no witness line. Act 2021-171 took the witness requirement out in April 2021 and the notary was never there.
Not a dealer, unless one is actually selling	The reassignment blocks carry a selling dealer's state licence number. A private seller who writes in one has claimed to hold a dealer licence on a document Section 32-8-12 makes a felony to falsify.

Every box, in the order you meet it

#	WHO	BOX	WHAT GOES IN IT
1	YOU	The warranty sentence above the block	Nothing to write - but read it, because signing underneath is agreeing to it. It says: I/we warrant this Title and certify that the vehicle described herein has been transferred to the following. Watch out: Warrant is the operative word. You are not just recording a sale, you are promising the title is good. That is why a lien printed on the front and not released on the front stops everything here.
2	YOU	Buyer(s)	The buyer's full legal name, printed, in your handwriting rather than theirs. Watch out: It has to match what goes on the application afterwards, down to the suffix. The Department's own answer: the owner name(s) on the title application must be identical to the owner name(s) in the assignment of the MSO, title or any other supporting document. This includes suffixes (Jr., III, etc.).
3	YOU	Address	The buyer's address on the same line, taken off their driving licence rather than off a text message. Watch out: A physical Alabama address is what the application will need. A buyer whose only address is a post office box has a problem coming, and it is easier to find that out now than at the counter.
4	YOU	Odometer reading, no tenths	Whole miles, read off the dashboard. The certification printed above it says the reading is the actual mileage unless one of the two boxes beside it is ticked. Watch out: This figure is checked twice. The face of the certificate carries the reading the Department recorded last time, and the application the buyer signs has to agree exactly with what you write here - the Department's words are that the mileage on the application must agree exactly with the mileage listed in the title assignment.
5	YOU	The two exception boxes	Box 1 is that the mileage stated is in excess of its mechanical limits. Box 2 is that the odometer reading is not the actual mileage, and the form prints WARNING - ODOMETER DISCREPANCY under it. Watch out: Ticking nothing is the affirmative answer, not an omission. Tick box 2 and the discrepancy follows the vehicle onto every certificate it is issued afterwards, so it is not a box to use to be helpful about a broken cable.
6	YOU	Date of sale	The day the car actually changed hands, in the three-part date field beside the mileage. Watch out: This is the day the buyer's twenty calendar days start running. Backdating it to be kind shortens their clock and hands them a \$15.00 penalty.
7	YOU	Signature(s) of seller(s)	Signed in ink, in the name printed on the front of the certificate. If two owners are named and joined by AND, both signatures go here. Watch out: No notary and no witness. What there is instead is a designated agent who will identify the person signing the application and verify the signature - so a signature that does not resemble the name on the front is a conversation, not a formality.

#	WHO	BOX	WHAT GOES IN IT
8	YOU	Printed name(s) of seller(s)	Printed beside the signature, on its own line. The block asks for both and the Department reads both. Watch out: Print it exactly as the front of the certificate has it. A variance between the two needs an affidavit attesting to the variance in the name, which is a form and a return trip.
9	BUYER	Signature(s) of buyer(s)	The buyer signs, acknowledging the mileage certification you have just made. Watch out: They are signing your figure, not their own. That is the reason the reading goes in before the pen ever reaches this line.
10	BUYER	Printed name(s) of buyer(s)	Printed beside the buyer's signature, closing the block. Watch out: Two buyers means two signatures and two printed names, and the conjunction they choose on the application - AND or OR - decides how many signatures the next sale will need.
11	BUYER	Lienholder to be recorded and shown on new title	The buyer's lender, if they are financing it. The printed instruction is explicit: if none, state NONE. Watch out: This is the buyer's lender, never yours. Yours is on the front and has to be released there. And an empty line is not the same as NONE - the Department's answer is that the lienholder information is not required in the assignment, but if it is provided it must agree exactly with the application.
12	DEALER	The reassignment blocks underneath	More blocks in the same shape, each opening with RE-ASSIGNMENT BY LICENSED DEALER and a line for the selling dealer's state licence number. Watch out: Not yours, at any price. When a dealer runs out of them they continue on the MVT 8-3, which states in its own second sentence that individuals or non-licensed dealers cannot use this form to re-assign a certificate of title.

Six habits for the block on the back

- **Nothing may be tidied up afterwards** — No white-out, no strike-through, no initialled correction. The repair is an MVT 5-7 attached to the application, and only for the assignment - an error on the face of the certificate needs a whole new one.
- **Read the front before you write on the back** — The conjunction between two owners' names decides whether one signature transfers the car or two are needed, and the lienholder block decides whether it can be sold at all today.
- **Write the mileage off the dashboard** — The Department already holds the last reading and prints it on the face. The application will be compared against what you write, exactly, not approximately.
- **Write NONE on the lienholder line** — The block says to. A blank line invites somebody else to fill it in later, and the buyer's lender is the only name that belongs there.
- **Make a bill of sale even though the title is signed** — Rule 810-5-1-.246 lists eleven things one has to carry, the licensing official will want it for the tax, and it is the document that proves the date you stopped owning the car.
- **Take the plate off before they leave** — It is yours. It is also still registered to you, which is what makes the insurance notice arrive months later.

THE BACK OF AN ALABAMA CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

the assignment of title by registered owner — every line a private seller writes

ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THE ASSIGNMENT and all assignments that follow.

There is no correcting fluid answer and no crossed-out answer. Rule 810-5-75-.39 refuses any document that has been altered, and names certificates of title and assignments of title in the list. A spoiled block is repaired with an MVT 5-7 affidavit or not at all.

FEDERAL and State Law requires that you state the mileage in connection with transfer of ownership. Failure to complete ODOMETER STATEMENT or providing a FALSE STATEMENT may result in fines and/or imprisonment.

1 I/WE WARRANT THIS TITLE AND CERTIFY THAT THE VEHICLE DESCRIBED HEREIN HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING: YOU Printed above the block rather than beside it, and it is a warranty rather than a receipt. Signing underneath promises the title is good - which is why a lien still showing on the front stops everything here.	
2 BUYER(S): YOU <i>Alicia M. Bordelon</i> Full legal name, printed, in your handwriting. It has to be identical to the name that then goes on the application, suffixes included.	3 ADDRESS: YOU <i>908 Quintard Row, Anniston, AL 36201</i> Taken off the buyer's driving licence. A physical Alabama address is what the title application will need.
I certify to the best of my knowledge that the ODOMETER READING is the ACTUAL MILEAGE of the vehicle unless one of the following statements is checked:	
4 ODOMETER READING YOU NO TENTHS <i>71528</i> Whole miles, read off the dashboard. The face of the certificate already carries the last reading the Department recorded, and the buyer's application has to agree with this figure exactly.	5 THE TWO EXCEPTION BOXES YOU ☐ 1. THE MILEAGE STATED IS IN EXCESS OF ITS MECHANICAL LIMITS. ☐ 2. THE ODOMETER READING IS NOT THE ACTUAL MILEAGE. — WARNING — ODOMETER DISCREPANCY Both left empty is the affirmative answer. Box 2 brands the vehicle for good, and CAUTION — READ CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU CHECK BLOCK is printed between the reading and the boxes.
6 DATE OF SALE YOU <i>08 / 14 / 26</i> The day the car actually changed hands. It starts the buyer's twenty calendar days.	HOW MANY OWNERS SIGN Decided by one word on the front. AND, or no conjunction at all: tenancy in common, and both owners sign. OR, or AND/OR: joint tenancy with right of survivorship, and one signature is enough. Rule 810-5-75-.40(1)(b).
7 SIGNATURE(S) OF SELLER(S): X YOU <i>Darnell Pettway</i> In ink, in the name printed on the front. No notary and no witness - Act 2021-171 removed the witness requirement in April 2021.	8 PRINTED NAME(S) OF SELLER(S): YOU <i>Darnell R. Pettway</i> Its own separate line, and the Department reads both. A variance from the front of the certificate needs an affidavit.
9 SIGNATURE(S) OF BUYER(S): X <i>Alicia Bordelon</i> The buyer is acknowledging the mileage you certified, which is why the reading goes in before the pen reaches this line.	10 PRINTED NAME(S) OF BUYER(S): X <i>Alicia M. Bordelon</i> Two buyers means two of each, and the conjunction they choose on the application decides how many signatures the next sale needs.
11 LIENHOLDER TO BE RECORDED AND SHOWN ON NEW TITLE (IF NONE, STATE "NONE") NAME OF 1ST LIENHOLDER _____ ADDRESS OF 1ST LIENHOLDER _____ <i>NONE</i> The buyer's lender, never yours - yours is on the front and has to be released there. The Department's answer is that lienholder information is not required in the assignment, but if it is provided it must agree exactly with the application.	
12 • RE-ASSIGNMENT BY LICENSED DEALER • SELLING DEALER'S STATE LICENSE NO. _____ More blocks in the same shape underneath, each opening with that line. A private seller has nothing to write on any of them, and Section 32-8-12 makes forging an assignment on a certificate of title or on a form the department prescribes a Class C felony. When a dealer runs out of them they continue on the MVT 8-3, which states in its own second sentence that individuals or non-licensed dealers cannot use it.	

You write it, in pen Not yours to fill Numbered to the steps further down this page

Every printed phrase above is transcribed from the Alabama Department of Revenue's MVT 5-7, Affidavit to Correct an Assignment on a Certificate of Title, and its MVT 8-3, Dealer Reassignment Form - the two documents whose whole purpose is to reprint this block - the signature rules come from Ala. Admin. Code r.810-5-75-.40 and the alteration rule from r.810-5-75-.39 - the Department publishes no picture of the reverse of an Alabama certificate, and the one photograph of a title's face in its conference decks is a real owner's document behind black bars - none of the certificate's colour, proportion, security tint or watermark is reproduced here

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR A VEHICLE

TITLE NO. 40034153 VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER WDBHA28E3SF355769 TRANS. CODE 01 DATE ISSUED 03/23/2009

YR. MODEL 1995 MAKE MERZ MODEL C280 BODY TYPE 4D PREV AL TITLE NO. 06606409

CYL. NEW USED DEMO PURCHASE DATE NO. LIENS COLOR ODOMETER

08 XX 03/15/2009 1 RED EXEMPT

NAME(S) AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER(S) MAIL TO

DOE JOHN
123 ANY STREET
ANY STATE

AL 00000 ANY LIENHOLDER
456 ANY STREET
ANY STATE

RESIDENT ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT AL 00000

LEGEND(S)

RELEASE OF LIEN
The holder of Lien on the vehicle described in this Certificate does hereby state that the lien described in said Certificate of Title is released and discharged.

1ST LIENHOLDER'S NAME, ADDRESS AND LIEN DATE 03/15/2009

ANY LIENHOLDER
456 ANY STREET
ANY STATE AL 00000

2ND LIENHOLDER'S NAME, ADDRESS AND LIEN DATE

By _____
Signature of Authorized Agent

Date _____

Second Lienholder

By _____
Signature of Authorized Agent

Date _____

CONTROL NUMBER 35816402

KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE — ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS TITLE

FORM NO MUT 8-1 (8-2005)

Published by the Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division, as slide two of its "Verifying Vehicle Ownership" training deck (revised 03/13) - the registered owner is the Department's placeholder DOE JOHN of 123 ANY STREET, ANY STATE AL 00000 and the lender is ANY LIENHOLDER of 456 ANY STREET, so no member of the public's data appears on it - nothing has been added to or taken away from the Department's image - the reverse, which is the half a seller writes on, is not published anywhere by the Department and is drawn as a marked diagram on this page instead

Every rule here is transcribed from Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle title FAQs and the Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division's own pages. Plain-language help with a form, not legal advice — where our wording and the agency's differ, theirs governs.