



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION
www.revenue.alabama.gov

MVR 40-12-290
5/09

Application For Vintage Vehicle License Plates

Qualifications for the vintage vehicle license plate and penalties for misuse:

- (A) Registrant is a resident of the State of Alabama.
- (B) The vehicle is over 30 years old.
- (C) The vehicle is owned and operated primarily as a collector's item.
- (D) The vehicle **WILL NOT** be used:
 - (1) as a commercial vehicle.
 - (2) for transporting passengers or property.
 - (3) as a service vehicle.
 - (4) **for general transportation such as driving to work, school or shopping.**
- (E) The vehicle is a private passenger automobile, a truck or truck tractor with a gross weight not over 26,000 pounds, a motorcycle or a fire truck that has the original or substantially similar vehicle body, chassis, engine and transmission as designed for that make, model, year and age vehicle. If the vehicle is used for purposes other than those authorized or is modified, no longer meeting the provisions of Section 40-12-290, **Code of Alabama 1975**, the vintage plate must be surrendered to the county license plate issuing official and a standard or other authorized license plate must be obtained.
- (F) Violation of this Alabama law could result in a minimum fine of \$100.00, forfeiture of the vintage vehicle license plate, requirement to pay regular registration fees/ad valorem taxes, and loss of eligibility to obtain and use a vintage vehicle license plate for three (3) years, plus any other applicable penalties.

OWNER'S NAME Odell J. Swearingen				TELEPHONE NUMBER (256) 555-0184	
STREET ADDRESS – PHYSICAL LOCATION 704 Sportsman Lake Rd				MAILING ADDRESS	
CITY Cullman	COUNTY Cullman	STATE AL	ZIP 35055	CITY	STATE ZIP
MAKE Chevrolet	YEAR 1989	DATE ACQUIRED 04/11/1998	BODY TYPE (Ex.: 2DR Sedan) Pickup	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (If None, Use Motor Number) 1GCEC14K8KE162835	FOR COUNTY USE ONLY NEW VINTAGE VEHICLE TAG NUMBER

I certify that the information listed above is true and correct, that I own the vehicle(s) described, and I meet all the qualifications listed above:

SIGNATURE OF OWNER(S)

DATE



DETACH AND RETAIN FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. Alabama Law provides that if this vintage vehicle license plate registration is the **first registration by the OWNER**, PROOF OF PAYMENT OF Alabama sales tax by the current owner is required. If the vehicle was purchased from a licensed Alabama motor vehicle dealer, please provide a copy of the bill of sale as proof. If not secured from a dealer, one should go to the official responsible for tax collection in his/her county of residence, pay the state sales/use tax plus local sales/use tax, and submit a copy of the sales tax receipt with this application or submit a copy of a previous registration showing YOU as the owner of the vehicle.
2. **IMPORTANT** – Vintage vehicle license plates are not authorized for use on a substantially modified vehicle. Thus, these plates are not to be displayed on a vehicle commonly known as a street rod, or on a dune or beach buggy or similar type vehicle. Other vehicles not authorized to use vintage vehicle license plates include: buses, travel trailers, utility trailers, semi trailers, taxis, ambulances and replica/kit cars.
3. A vintage vehicle license plate is a permanent registration to the vehicle, and must follow the vehicle when sold. If lost, stolen or mutilated, a replacement vintage vehicle license plate may be obtained upon payment of the \$2.00 replacement fee (if mutilated, the license plate is to be returned to the county issuing official).
4. Anyone acquiring a vehicle displaying a vintage vehicle license plate must have the vehicle transferred into his/her name within twenty (20) days of date acquired. Proof of payment of sales/use tax (see #1 above) is required in order for the transfer to be made.

How to fill out MVR 40-12-290 — Application For Vintage Vehicle License Plates

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Alabama · written against MVR 40-12-290 (5/09), issued under Code of Ala. 1975, Section 40-12-290

</forms/alabama/mvr-40-12-290-application-for-vintage-vehicle-license-plates/>

The one Alabama plate that does not belong to you. A vintage vehicle plate is issued to a car over 30 years old that is kept as a collector's item, and the notes on the form say plainly that it is a permanent registration to the vehicle, and must follow the vehicle when sold. That single sentence reverses the state's whole plate rule for one class of car - and it lands on exactly the vehicles that are also too old to be titled.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank MVR 40-12-290 from the Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division at <https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MVR4012290.pdf> — always take the current revision from the agency rather than a copy. Print this and keep it beside you while you complete theirs.

Every line, in the order you meet it

1	YOU	Owner's name and telephone number	The first row of the form, under the six lettered qualifications. Watch out: Read the qualifications before you write the name. You are certifying all six of them at the foot, including the ones about how the car is used.
2	YOU	Street address - physical location	A real Alabama address, with city, county, state and ZIP underneath. Watch out: County matters here more than usual: qualification A is Alabama residency and the county office issuing the plate is the one where you live.
3	YOU	Mailing address	The block to the right, with its own city, state and ZIP, if post goes somewhere else. Watch out: Leave it empty if it is the same. A half-filled mailing block is how a registration receipt goes to an address nobody checks.
4	YOU	Make and year	The first two columns of the vehicle table. Watch out: The year is what the qualification test runs on: over 30 years old, counted against today rather than against the model year cut-off used for titling.
5	YOU	Date acquired	When you bought the vehicle, in the third column. Watch out: This is what decides whether note 1 applies to you. A first registration by this owner needs proof that Alabama sales tax was paid.
6	YOU	Body type	The fourth column, with 2DR Sedan printed as the example. Watch out: The example is there because the county wants a body style, not a marketing name. Convertible, pickup, coupe - the plain word.
7	YOU	Vehicle identification number	The last column of the table. The instruction in brackets is that if there is none, use the motor number. Watch out: That bracket is the giveaway that this form is built for pre-1981 vehicles. On a car of that age the engine number may be the only identifier stamped anywhere.
8	YOU	Signature of owner and date	Sign under the certification that you own the vehicle and meet all the qualifications listed above. Watch out: The county column beside the table stays empty - the vintage tag number is written there by the licensing office, not by you.

What gets this one rejected

- A vehicle that is thirty years old but used for the school run. Qualification D rules out general transportation such as driving to work, school or shopping, and the penalty clause is not theoretical.
- A street rod, a dune or beach buggy, a replica or a kit car. Note 2 lists them, along with buses, travel trailers, utility trailers, semi trailers, taxis and ambulances.
- A first registration by this owner with no proof of tax. Note 1 requires proof of payment of Alabama sales tax by the current owner - a dealer bill of sale, a sales tax receipt from the county, or a previous registration showing the applicant as owner.
- A modified vehicle. Qualification E wants the original or substantially similar vehicle body, chassis, engine and transmission as designed for that make, model, year and age vehicle.
- Keeping the plate after the car stops qualifying. If it is modified or used outside the permitted purposes, the vintage plate must be surrendered to the county license plate issuing official and a standard or other authorized license plate must be obtained.

☒ Amber is what you write ☐ Grey is a block somebody else completes The filled-in example is at the start of this sheet.

Read off MVR 40-12-290 (5/09) and the Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division's own pages, current as of 2026-08-23. Plain-language help with a form, not legal advice — where this and the agency differ, the agency governs.

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