

How to fill out MV14 — Authorization to Drive a Vehicle of Deceased Owner Until Registration Expires

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Delaware · written against MV14 (September 2022), issued under 21 Del. C. s. 2506, printed in full on the form itself

/forms/delaware/mv14-permit-to-drive-a-vehicle-of-deceased/

A permission slip, not a transfer. When a Delaware registered owner dies the registration expires by operation of law - but the statute lets the surviving spouse, the children and the immediate members of the household keep driving the car until the current registration period runs out, once due and proper notice has been given to the Department. This is the form that notice is given on and the permission recorded on.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank MV14 from the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles at https://www.dmv.de.gov/forms/veh_serv_forms/pdfs/mv-14.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	OTHER	Registered owner's name	The person who has died, as the registration record holds the name. Watch out: This is a notification as well as a permission. The form's opening line certifies that proper notification has been provided to the Division regarding the death.
2	OTHER	Registered owner's street address and city	One line, from the registration card. Watch out: The address on the record, which may not be where the car is now. Say so at the counter if they differ.
3	OTHER	Plate number and VIN	Two boxes on the same row identifying the vehicle the permission attaches to. Watch out: One vehicle per form. A household with two cars in the deceased's name needs two.
4	YOU	The usual driver's name	Whoever will actually be driving it, written into the printed sentence granting the Director's permission. Watch out: The permission also covers the immediate members of the family residing in the household - the named driver is not the only person it reaches.
5	YOU	Whose relationship is	Son, daughter, spouse - the relationship to the deceased. Watch out: The statute limits this to the surviving spouse, the children and immediate family residing in the household. If none of those describes you, this is not your form.
6	OTHER	Registration period ending	The expiry date of the current registration, which is the date the permission stops. Watch out: Write it in your diary too. Nothing renews here - when the sticker runs out, the car is off the road until a title transfer happens.
7	YOU	Delaware driver's licence for usual driver	The licence number of the person named above. Watch out: It has to be a valid Delaware licence. This is a permission to drive, and the Division checks the person it is granted to.
8	YOU	Signature of usual driver	One signature, on the line under the licence number. Watch out: No notary. This is the least ceremonious form in the Delaware death set, which is deliberate - it is meant to be done quickly.
9	OTHER	DMV Associate Authorization	The Division's own signature block at the foot, granting the Director's permission. Watch out: Leave it alone. A form that arrives with this filled in is going straight back across the counter.

What gets this one rejected

- Treating it as a title transfer. It transfers nothing. The registration still expires at the end of the current period and the vehicle still cannot be operated after that until somebody applies for registration, inspection and a transfer of title.
- A driver outside the household. The statute reaches the surviving spouse, the children of the deceased and the immediate members of the deceased's family residing in the household - not a friend, not a neighbour, not an executor who lives elsewhere.
- Filing it and driving indefinitely. The permission ends on the date written into the registration period ending box.
- Signing the DMV associate block. That authorisation is the Division's, and a form that arrives with it already completed is a form that has been filled in by the wrong person.
- Using it to move a car to storage. The statute has a separate route for that: an administrator, executor, trustee, sheriff or legal representative may operate the vehicle for a distance not exceeding 125 miles to a garage, warehouse or other place of keeping, on a temporary or limited permit, displaying the number plates issued for it.

☒ Amber is what you write ☐ Grey is a block somebody else completes The completed example follows overleaf.

Read off MV14 (September 2022) and the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles'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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State of Delaware
Department of Transportation
Division of Motor Vehicles

Authorization to drive a vehicle of deceased owner until registration expires

In accordance with 21 *Del.C.* § 2506, this is to certify the proper notification has been provided to the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles regarding the death of:

1 Registered Owner's Name: Alden R. Dunavant

2 Registered Owner's Street Address & City 118 Chestnut Ridge Road, Milton

3 Registered Owner's Plate Number & VIN PC 87310 1FMCU9DG0CKB27154

The Director hereby grants permission for the usual driver Merrick A. Dunavant (name) 4

5 whose relationship is Son of the deceased, as well as the immediate members of the family residing in the household, to operate the above vehicle for the remainder

6 of the current registration period ending 11/09/2026 (expiration date).

Delaware driver's license for usual driver 4183072 7

Signature of usual driver Merrick Dunavant 8

DMV Associate Authorization: 9

21 *Del.C.* §2506. Transfer by operation of law; duty of transferee

In the event of the transfer by operation of law of the title or interest of an owner in and to a vehicle as upon inheritance, devise or bequest, order in bankruptcy or insolvency or execution sale, the registration thereof shall expire, and the vehicle shall not be operated upon the highways until and unless the person entitled thereto applies for and obtains the registration and inspection thereof and a transfer of title therefor. The surviving spouse, the child or children of any deceased person and the immediate members of the deceased's family residing in the household, after giving due and proper notice to the Department in such manner and on such form as may be provided therefor by the Department, may operate such vehicle and the current registration thereof shall continue in full force and effect until normal expiration thereof at which time the registration of such vehicle shall expire. An administrator, executor, trustee or other representative of the owner, or a sheriff or other officer or the assignee or legal representative of any such person may operate or cause to be operated any vehicle upon the highways for a distance not exceeding 125 miles from the place where formerly kept by the owner, to a garage, warehouse or other place of keeping or storage, upon displaying upon such vehicle the number plates issued for it and obtaining a temporary or limited permit for such operation as provided by this title.