

How to fill out MV72 — Affidavit to Release Retained License Plate

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Delaware · written against MV72 (Rev 3/22), issued under the registered owner of the retained plate, /forms/delaware/mv72-affidavit-to-release-retained-license-plate/
sworn before a notary

Delaware lets you give a plate number away. Retention puts the tag on hold in your name after you sell the car; this affidavit takes it out of pending and puts it on somebody else's vehicle, permanently. The Division links it from its own retention page under the words 'or even give it to someone else using this form' - and its operative sentence is that you wish to give up your rights to the licence plate number listed above.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank MV72 from the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles at https://www.dmv.de.gov/forms/veh_serv_forms/pdfs/ve_frm_mv72.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	I/We, your name	The owner of the retained plate, completing the opening sentence. Watch out: The Division's record of who holds the retention is what this is checked against, not the certificate of the car you sold.
2	YOU	Give my/our permission to	The full name of the person receiving the plate number. Watch out: They will need a vehicle registered in that name to put it on, and proof of Delaware insurance for it.
3	YOU	Delaware license plate number	The tag being released from pending, prefix and all. Watch out: Delaware's word for retention on this form is pending. If the plate is not in pending, this form has nothing to release.
4	YOU	Signature of Owner	Signed in front of the notary, not before you get there. Watch out: The certification above it is under penalty of perjury. The Division treats plate numbers as property because in Delaware they behave like it.
5	YOU	Printed Name of Owner	Beside the signature, so a clerk can read who signed. Watch out: Print it the way the Division holds it. A signature nobody can read plus a name that does not match the record is two problems at once.
6	YOU	Driver's License/ID Owner	Your Delaware licence or identification number, on its own line under the signature row. Watch out: This is the identifier the Division matches you to. A retention held in a slightly different spelling of your name is found by this number.
7	YOU	Signature of Co-Owner (if plate joined by AND)	The second signature row, used only where the plate is held in two names joined by AND. Watch out: The condition is printed on the line. Where it applies and the row is blank, the affidavit is incomplete on its face.
8	YOU	Printed Name of Co-Owner and their licence number	The co-owner's printed name, and their licence or identification number on the line below. Watch out: Both owners need to swear this in front of a notary. Doing it together on the same day saves a second appointment.
9	OTHER	Sworn to and subscribed before me	Day, month and year, then the Notary Public's signature. Watch out: The Division wants the original with the seal on it. Photocopy it for yourself before you hand it over.

What gets this one rejected

- One owner signing where the plate is joined by AND. The form prints the condition on the co-owner line, so there is no arguing about it afterwards.
- A missing driver's licence or identification number. There is one under each signature and both are asked for.
- No notary. Sworn to and subscribed is at the foot of the page, and the Division wants the original.
- Using it for a plate that is still on a car. This releases a plate from pending - that is, from retention. A plate still attached to a vehicle you are selling has to be retained first.
- Assuming the plate is still yours afterwards. The printed sentence says you wish to give up your rights to the number. It is a one-way transaction.
- Leaving it too long. A retained plate keeps for 365 days after its expiration date, and after that it is gone whether or not anybody released it.

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

Read off MV72 (Rev 3/22) 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. sellmycarhub.com



**STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

AFFIDAVIT TO RELEASE RETAINED LICENSE PLATE

1 — I/We, Merrick A. Dunavant, by signing this affidavit give my/our
2 — permission to Verena D. Dunavant (Name), for the purpose of releasing my/our
Delaware license plate number PC 2946 from pending to 3 —
their vehicle. I/We wish to give up my/our rights to the license plate number listed above.

I certify, under penalty of perjury, that the statements made herein are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge, information, and belief.

5 <u>Merrick Dunavant</u> Signature of Owner	 <u>Merrick A. Dunavant</u> Printed Name of Owner
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6 — 4183072
Driver's License/ID Owner

Signature of Co-Owner (if plate joined by AND)

Printed Name of Co-Owner

7

8 Driver's License/ID Co-Owner

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public

PLEASE FILM