

How to fill out TR-83a — Decedent's Affidavit

Kansas · written against TR-83a (Rev. 0117), issued under K.S.A. 59-403

The middle door: a will exists but the courts have not probated it, and the family needs the car moving before the law finishes. The form's own header states its scope - the heirs may use this affidavit to obtain title, or title and registration, for one vehicle pending final action on the will. The affiant certifies heirship, lists the surviving sole and only direct heirs at law, claims the vehicle under K.S.A. 59-403 as exempt personal property if they are the surviving spouse, and - the sentence sellers should read twice - guarantees title to said vehicle to all subsequent purchasers.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank TR-83a from the Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Vehicles at <https://www.ksrevenue.gov/pdf/tr83.pdf?f=ks-tr83.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	Heir, deceased, date	Your name, the owner's name, and the date of death. Watch out: This affidavit works alongside a will in waiting - if the estate is small and there is no will, compare the small-estates affidavit before choosing this door.
2	YOU	One vehicle	Year, make and VIN. Watch out: The header limits the form to one vehicle pending final action on the will. A second car is a second conversation, possibly with the probate court.
3	YOU	The reading	Odometer with no tenths, and the honest box of the three. Watch out: Model year 2010 or older vehicles are exempt at ten years under the Division's printed rule - but where the reading is entered, enter it from the dash, not from the last service sticker.
4	YOU	The heirs at law	Name and relationship for every surviving direct heir - the form's parenthesis says spouse and minor children. Watch out: Sole and only is the operative phrase and the sworn one. The table's nine rows are capacity, not a target.
5	YOU	Certify, sign, and understand the guarantee	The signature under the certification that claims the vehicle and guarantees title to all subsequent purchasers. Watch out: Take it with the death certificate to the county treasurer's office. And keep the family consensus in writing - the guarantee is yours personally once the ink dries.

What gets this one rejected

- Using it with no will in the picture. The header's condition is a will the courts have not probated - an intestate estate under the ceiling uses the small-estates affidavit instead, and a probated will follows the court's own orders.
- Using it for a second vehicle. The scope is printed in the header: one vehicle, pending final action on the will.
- An heirs table that edits the family. The list asks for the surviving sole and only direct heirs at law - leaving a stepchild or an estranged spouse off a sworn list is perjury, not efficiency.
- No odometer entry. The affidavit carries the mileage precisely because no title assignment exists to carry it - a 2007 sedan is age-exempt, but the reading boxes on this sheet still want their answer where disclosure applies.
- Forgetting what the guarantee means. The affiant personally guarantees title to all subsequent purchasers - if the will later says otherwise, the buyer's problem becomes the affiant's.

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



DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
DIVISION OF VEHICLES
VEHICLE SERVICES
www.ksrevenue.gov

DECEDENT'S AFFIDAVIT

(Pending final action on will)

This affidavit can be used when there is a will but the courts have not probated the will. The heirs may use this affidavit to obtain title or title and registration for **one** vehicle pending final action on the will.

1 Name of Heir: Philomena R. Knackstedt

Name of Deceased: Emery W. Knackstedt Date of Death: 04/09/2026 2

Vehicle Information

3 Year: 2007 Make: Buick VIN: 1G4HD57267U238414

Odometer Reading (No tenths): 128450

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the odometer reading is (check one):

- ☒ Actual
☐ The mileage stated is in excess of its mechanical limits
☐ The odometer reading is not actual mileage (**Warning – Odometer Discrepancy**)

List surviving sole and only direct heirs at law (spouse/minor children):

Name	Relationship
<u>Philomena R. Knackstedt</u>	<u>Surviving spouse</u>

I, the undersigned affiant, do certify that I am an heir of the decedent referred to in this affidavit who departed this life on the date recorded above and that the decedent was the lawful owner of the vehicle shown above. I further certify that the affiant is the surviving spouse of the decedent and claims title to the vehicle under provision of K.S.A. 59-403(a) as exempt personal property to the affiant. If there is no surviving spouse, the affiant claims title to the vehicle as surviving heir(s). Further, the affiant guarantees title to said vehicle to all subsequent purchasers.

Affiant's Signature _____ Date _____

5 Affiant's Printed Name Philomena R. Knackstedt Date 05/18/2026