

How to fill out MVT-22 — Affidavit of Surviving Spouse or Personal Representative

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Maine · written against MVT-22 (Rev 09-2021), issued under 29-A M.R.S. chapter 7 and Chapter 102 /forms/maine/mvt-22-affidavit-of-surviving-spouse-or-personal-representative/

One notarised page, and the whole of Maine's answer to a vehicle whose owner has died. Which box gets ticked in Section A decides everything that follows, and the four-page instruction sheet stapled behind it is the clearest thing the Bureau publishes about joint ownership, common ownership and what happens when neither applies. A surviving spouse who is selling the car rather than keeping it does not skip this form - the instructions tell them to hand the buyer the transferred title, a release of any lien, and this affidavit completed.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank MVT-22 from the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/sites/maine.gov.sos/files/inline-files/MVT-22%20Affidavit%20of%20Surviving%20Spouse%20or%20Rep%20.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	Name the deceased and the vehicle	Name, date of birth, date of death, and the year, make and identification number of the vehicle. Watch out: Use the name as the certificate prints it. Where it differs from the death certificate, expect to be asked, and bring both.
2	YOU	Read the front of the title first	Whether it says joint ownership decides between two of the six boxes. Watch out: This is the fact everything else hangs on, and it is printed on the certificate rather than something anyone needs to remember.
3	YOU	Tick one box in Section A	Surviving spouse, personal representative, surviving joint owner, surviving common owner, heir, or a claim on the deceased's interest. Watch out: The last three sit under a printed condition. If a spouse, a joint owner or a court-appointed representative exists, those three are not available at all.
4	YOU	Attach what your box requires	A copy of the Probate Court appointment, or the court's statement that no will is being probated, or written reasons for a claim. Watch out: The attachment is named in the box you ticked. An affidavit arriving without it is the commonest delay in an estate transfer.
5	YOU	Answer the will questions	Did or did not leave a will, and who the will provides the vehicle to if it says. Watch out: Answer both even where the answer is no will. A blank there reads as unfinished rather than as none.
6	YOU	Section B, title it or transfer it	Either you will title the vehicle in your own name, or you name the person you are transferring it to. Watch out: A survivor who is selling the car ticks the second and writes the buyer in. The transfer itself still happens on the reverse of the certificate or on the Bureau's separate transfer sheet.
7	YOU	Sign in front of a notary	Date, signature, then the notary or attorney completes the block beneath. Watch out: Where the transfer runs through heirs rather than a spouse or representative, all immediate heirs sign - and all of them sign in front of the notary.

What gets this one rejected

- An heir or common owner box ticked with no statement from the Probate Court that no will is being probated.
- A personal representative box ticked with no copy of the court appointment attached.
- A claim on the deceased's interest with the reasons not attached, when the box asks for them by name.
- Section B left empty, which leaves the Bureau unable to tell whether it is issuing a title or recording a transfer.
- The form signed but not notarised, which it forbids in capitals across its own margin.
- One heir signing where there are several. Where the transfer runs through the heirs, the form must be signed by all immediate heirs.
- A joint ownership box ticked on a certificate that does not carry the words joint ownership on its face.

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

Read off MVT-22 (Rev 09-2021) and the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles's own pages, current as of 2026-08-24. Plain-language help with a form, not legal advice — where this and the agency differ, the agency governs. sellmycarhub.com

**AFFIDAVIT OF SURVIVING SPOUSE
OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

(Requires Notary or Attorney's signature)



**SECRETARY OF STATE
BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES
DIVISION OF TITLE SERVICES**

The undersigned certifies that Lucien R. Sawtelle Date of Birth 11/02/1948 the owner of a
Name of deceased owner
2016 Honda 5J6RW2H86GA714208 died 03/11/2026
Year Make Vehicle Identification Number Date

I/we further certify: (check appropriate items)

- ☐ I am the surviving spouse of the deceased.
- ☐ I have been appointed Personal Representative of the deceased's estate by the Probate Court.
Attach a copy of the court appointment to this form.
- ☐ I am the surviving joint owner of the vehicle. ("Joint ownership" is specified on the title.)

NOTE: The following statements are valid for the transfer of a vehicle only if there is no surviving spouse, no surviving joint owner and no personal representative appointed by Probate Court; and a statement from Probate Court indicating no will has been probated accompanies this form.

- ☐ I am the surviving common owner. (The vehicle title does not state "joint ownership").
- ☐ I am an heir of the deceased.

Please state your family relation with the deceased here: ☐ Child ☐ Parent ☐ Sibling ☐ Other _____

Are there other persons living who had the same family relation with the deceased? ☐ yes ☐ no

- ☐ I/we claim the deceased's interest in the vehicle. **Attach reasons for your claim to this form.**

The deceased ☐ DID ☒ DID NOT leave a will.

If a will provides for transfer of the vehicle, please indicate to whom _____

Check the appropriate item:

- ☐ I/we will title this vehicle in my/our name(s).
- ☐ I/we intend to transfer the vehicle described above to Perley T. Rancourt

Transfer must be accomplished on reverse of the title to this vehicle or use transfer form MVT-16.

09/18/2026

Date

Signature of Survivor or Personal Representative

THIS FORM MUST BE NOTARIZED

Before me personally appeared Odile M. Sawtelle who by me being duly sworn upon oath, says that the statement set forth above is true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this eighteenth day of September, 20 26. Notary Public for Lincoln County, State of Maine.

Signature of Notary or Attorney

INSTRUCTIONS

In order to comply with the requirements of 29-A MRSA Chapter 7 and Chapter 102 of the Rules of the Secretary of State, certain steps must be followed and documents provided in order to title a vehicle in the event of the death of an owner. Please follow the applicable instructions below.

FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE

A surviving spouse may title the vehicle in his or her name only by submitting a title application in the spouse's name (no fee is required if at the time of death, the deceased was a Maine resident and the vehicle was registered and titled in Maine), the vehicle's title, and this form completed by the spouse. If the vehicle was financed, the spouse must submit a lien release or obtain consent from the lien holder to title in the spouse's name (form MVT-27).

If a surviving spouse sells the vehicle, the spouse should provide the buyer with the title transferred to the buyer, a release of any lien and this form completed by the spouse.

INFORMATION CONCERNING JOINT OR COMMON OWNERSHIP OF A VEHICLE

Under the terms of "joint" ownership, when a joint owner dies the surviving owner(s) retains complete ownership of the vehicle. In the case of common ownership, if one of the common owners dies, the surviving common owner(s) and the deceased's estate own equal shares of the vehicle.

FOR JOINT OWNERS (Title states "joint ownership")

A surviving joint owner may title the vehicle in his or her name by submitting a title application in the survivor's name, the title fee, the vehicle's title and a copy of the deceased's death certificate or this form completed by the survivor. If the vehicle was financed, the survivor must submit a lien release or obtain consent from the lien holder to title in the survivor's name alone. (form MVT-27)

If a surviving joint owner sells the vehicle, the survivor should provide the buyer with the title transferred to the buyer, a release of any lien and a copy of the deceased's death certificate or this form completed by the survivor.

FOR OWNERS IN COMMON OTHER THAN SPOUSES (There are two or more names listed on the title as owners and the title does not state joint ownership.)

A surviving common owner may title the vehicle in his or her name by submitting a title application in the survivor's name, the title fee, the vehicle's title, this form completed by the Personal Representative of the deceased and a transfer of ownership from the Personal Representative (a copy of the Probate Court appointment must be attached). If there is no court appointed Personal Representative, the survivor must submit a letter from Probate Court stating there is no will of the deceased's being probated and a transfer to the survivor from all immediate heirs of the deceased. In addition, any lien holder must release the lien or provide consent to title the vehicle in the survivor's name alone. (form MVT-27)

If a surviving common owner sells the vehicle, the survivor must provide the buyer with all material as listed in the paragraph above except the title application and fee, as well as a transfer from the survivor to the buyer.

FOR PERSONS PURCHASING A VEHICLE FROM A DECEASED INDIVIDUAL'S ESTATE

A person purchasing a vehicle from an estate must obtain the title to the vehicle transferred by the Personal Representative of the estate and a copy of the Personal Representative's appointment from Probate Court. If there is no Personal Representative appointed by Probate Court, the buyer must obtain a transfer from all immediate heirs of the deceased and this form must be signed by all immediate heirs with a statement from the court that no will is being probated.