

# How to fill out VR-449A — Affidavit in Lieu of a Title

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Maryland · written against VR-449A (04-23), issued under Maryland Transportation Article, Section 13-113

/forms/maryland/vr-449a-affidavit-in-lieu-of-a-title/

The one document in this group that a private seller signs rather than reads about. It exists for a single situation: you are trading your car in to a dealer and the Maryland certificate is defective, lost or destroyed. Rather than making you order a duplicate and come back, the dealer completes this and you sign it as the previous owner - and the indemnity you are signing is worth understanding before you do.

**This sheet is not the form.** Download the blank VR-449A from the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration at <https://mva.maryland.gov/media/234?f=VR-449A.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    | <b>Previous Vehicle Owner and Previous Co-Owner</b>            | Two boxes across the top of the sheet - the people the certificate is in the name of, which is you. <b>Watch out:</b> The word previous is doing a lot of work. By the time this form is filed the dealer already has the car, so the form describes you in the past tense.          |
| 2 | YOU    | <b>Owner's Soundex and Date of Birth</b>                       | Two boxes under your name, with a matching pair for a co-owner. <b>Watch out:</b> Soundex is the MVA's own word for the identification number it holds, and on the certificate it is printed as OWNER'S SOUNDEX / DRIVER LICENSE NO. For a Maryland driver it is the licence number. |
| 3 | DEALER | <b>Title Number, Year, Make, Model, Body Style, Color, VIN</b> | Seven boxes across the vehicle row, usually filled in by the dealership from its own record of the trade. <b>Watch out:</b> Check the VIN before you sign under it. You are the one affirming this under penalty of perjury, not the person who typed it.                            |
| 4 | DEALER | <b>Lienholder Name and Lien Released</b>                       | A name box and a yes-or-no pair beside it. <b>Watch out:</b> If the loan was settled out of the trade-in, this says so. A lien answered no with no explanation is a title that cannot be issued.                                                                                     |
| 5 | YOU    | <b>Defective, Lost or Destroyed</b>                            | Three ticks, one to be chosen, describing why the certificate cannot be produced. <b>Watch out:</b> Defective means it exists but is unusable - a spoiled assignment, a tear through the VIN. If it exists at all in that state, it has to travel with the form.                     |
| 6 | YOU    | <b>Odometer reading</b>                                        | A box marked no tenths, with the two exception statements beneath it. <b>Watch out:</b> Read the dashboard on the day you hand the keys over. Nothing about a missing certificate suspends the federal mileage disclosure.                                                           |
| 7 | YOU    | <b>Printed Previous Owner Name, Signature, Date</b>            | The first of three signature blocks, with a co-owner block below it. <b>Watch out:</b> This is the block that carries the indemnity. Print the name as well as signing, and read the paragraph above it once before you do.                                                          |
| 8 | DEALER | <b>Printed name of Authorized Representative and Title</b>     | The last block, signed by the dealership. <b>Watch out:</b> It should be filled in before the form leaves your hands. An affidavit with your signature and a blank dealer block is a document you have signed for nobody.                                                            |

### What gets this one rejected

- Using it on a certificate from another state. The form rules that out in its own second sentence.
- A defective certificate left at home. If an older version of the title exists it has to accompany the application.
- Only one of two joint owners signing, where the certificate named both.
- An odometer reading omitted because the certificate is missing. The disclosure is federal and it does not depend on the paperwork being available.
- A missing dealer number, which is what ties the affidavit to a licensed business rather than to a private arrangement.
- Signing it in a private sale. It is a dealer trade-in form and there is no version of it for two individuals.

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

Read off VR-449A (04-23) and the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration'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



6601 Ritchie Highway, N.E.  
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21062

VR-449A (04-23)

## Affidavit in Lieu of a Title

Purpose: Use this form to certify the unavailability of a Maryland Certificate of Title for a vehicle acquired through a dealer trade in. Please Complete this form in its entirety.

This form will not be accepted for out-of-state Certificates of Title. If an older version of this title is received, it must accompany this application.

### Vehicle Owner Information

|                                                      |                                    |                    |               |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Previous Vehicle Owner<br><i>Rosalind T. Purnell</i> |                                    | Previous Co-Owner  |               |
| Owner's Soundex<br><b>P-641-208-573-914</b>          | Date of Birth<br><b>07-19-1974</b> | Co-Owner's Soundex | Date of Birth |

### Vehicle Information

| Title Number    | Year        | Make         | Model       | Body Style     | Color       | Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>41027365</b> | <b>2021</b> | <i>Mazda</i> | <b>CX-5</b> | <b>Utility</b> | <b>Grey</b> | <b>JM3KFBCM0M0357418</b>            |

Lienholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lien Released ☒ Yes ☐ No

We are unable to present the current Maryland Certificate of Title with respect to the vehicle described above because the Title is: ☐ Defective ☒ Lost ☐ Destroyed

### Odometer Disclosure

Odometer reading: **61208** (No Tenths)

**Warning** - Odometer Discrepancy

- ☐ 1. The mileage stated is in excess of its mechanical limits.  
☐ 2. The odometer reading is not the actual mileage.

Dealer Name (Print)

*Tidewater Motors of Salisbury*

Dealer Number

**D-8214**

### Certification

I solemnly affirm, under penalties of perjury and upon personal knowledge, the contents of the foregoing document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and/or belief.

I further certify that should any legal action arise as a result of issuing a certificate of title, my application for same herein described, we hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, assigns and personal representatives to indemnify and hold harmless the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration for any loss or damage which may be asserted against it, or which may be sustained as a result thereof.

Any willful misinformation provided with fraudulent intent may be prosecuted under Maryland law.

|                                |                         |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Rosalind T. Purnell</i>     | <i>Rosalind Purnell</i> | <b>08/12/2026</b> |
| Printed Previous Owner Name    | Signature               | Date              |
| Printed Previous Co-Owner Name | Signature               | Date              |

|                                           |                    |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Lorene B. Whitcomb</i>                 | <b>Title Clerk</b> |
| Printed name of Authorized Representative | Title              |
| <i>Lorene Whitcomb</i>                    | <b>08/12/2026</b>  |
| Signature of Authorized Representative    | Date               |