

How to fill out a Michigan title

This sheet is not the title. It is the checklist to keep beside one. ANY ALTERATION, ERASURE, FALSE STATEMENT, FORGERY OR FRAUD VOIDS THIS TITLE AND IS A CRIME. That line is printed directly above the assignment block, in capitals, on every Michigan certificate. It is why there is no tidy way to fix a slip on a Michigan title: you attach a TR-34 explaining it, or the buyer needs a new certificate.

Who has to sign

Every owner shown on the face	All owners whose names appear on the front of the title have to sign the assignment. Two names on the certificate means two signatures before it transfers.
Signature of Seller(s), then the printed name beside it	Michigan asks for both, in adjacent boxes on the same row, and a signature with no printed name beside it is an incomplete assignment.
The seller's street address, city, state and zip	A row of its own underneath the signatures. It is not decoration - the odometer disclosure required by MCL 257.233a has to carry the transferor's name and current address.
Signature of Purchaser(s) and the printed name	In the buyer's block, under the line 'I am aware of the above odometer certification made by the seller(s).' Theirs, not yours.
An agent, if an owner genuinely cannot sign	The TR-128 appoints one, and it will not appoint the same person to sign as both seller and buyer where the vehicle needs an odometer disclosure.
The lienholder, if one is still recorded	Either by completing the termination statement on the title, or by a separate signed statement or letterhead letter carrying the VIN. The seller does not sign that on their behalf.

Every box, in the order you meet it

#	WHO	BOX	WHAT GOES IN IT
1	YOU	Purchaser(s) Name (printed), Date of Sale, Selling Price	The top row of the assignment carries three boxes, and the two narrow ones on the right are the ones people skip: the date of sale and the selling price. Watch out: The date of sale is the day the fifteen days start running, and the selling price is what the buyer's 6% use tax is worked out from. Leave the price blank and the counter values the vehicle instead, which almost never goes the buyer's way.
2	YOU	Purchaser's Street Address, City, State, Zip	The buyer's address in four boxes on the second row, printed rather than signed. Watch out: This is not a formality. The odometer disclosure Michigan requires under MCL 257.233a has to carry the transferee's name and current address, and this row is where the certificate collects it.
3	YOU	The odometer reading, six cells and a decimal point	Six printed cells for whole miles, one digit each, then a decimal point and a seventh cell for tenths that the department has already crossed through. Watch out: Write nothing after the decimal point and nothing in the crossed cell. The department's own warning about this box is that mileage cannot be corrected at a later date - once the buyer's application is in, the reading you wrote is the reading on the record.
4	YOU	actual mileage, or one of the other two	Three tick boxes on the line below: actual mileage, not actual mileage with the WARNING ODOMETER DISCREPANCY legend, or exceeds mechanical limits of odometer. Watch out: Tick one. An untouched row is not a certification, and the middle box is the one to use if the cluster has ever been swapped - a discrepancy disclosed is a nuisance, a discrepancy hidden is a federal offence.
5	YOU	Signature of Seller(s)	Your signature, in the left half of the row. Every owner named on the front of the certificate signs here. Watch out: In ink, and once. There is no crossing out on this document - the line above the block says any alteration or erasure voids the title, and the way back from a slip is a TR-34 attached to the transaction, not a correction.
6	YOU	Seller(s) Name (printed)	The same name again, printed, in the right half of the same row. Watch out: Print it as it appears on the face of the certificate above. A married name on the signature line and a maiden name on the title is a mismatch a clerk has to resolve before anything moves.
7	YOU	Seller's Street Address, City, State, Zip	Your own address, on the bottom row of the seller's block. Watch out: Your current address, not the one printed on the title. If you have moved since the certificate was issued the two will differ, and the current one is what the odometer disclosure asks for.
8	BUYER	Signature of Purchaser(s)	In the smaller block underneath, against the printed line 'I am aware of the above odometer certification made by the seller(s).' Watch out: Watch them do it before they drive off. A Michigan title with the seller's half completed and the buyer's half empty is not a finished assignment, and getting a signature afterwards means finding the buyer again.

#	WHO	BOX	WHAT GOES IN IT
9	BUYER	Printed Name of Purchaser(s)	The buyer's name printed beside their signature, in the right half of the same row. Watch out: Compare it with the licence they showed you and with what you wrote in box 1. Three spellings of the same person is the commonest reason a private Michigan transfer is handed back at the counter.
10	LENDER	NEW LIENHOLDER INFORMATION - Secured Party and Address	The last row of the buyer's block, for the buyer's lender if they are financing the car. Watch out: Nothing here is yours, and a private cash sale leaves it empty. If the buyer does fill it in, the title they get will be electronic - the department holds it until that loan is paid off, and no paper certificate is printed.

Before you sign the front of the sheet

- **Ink, and no alterations** — The TR-128 puts it plainly for the whole Michigan set: all information must be completed in ink, and any alterations void this form.
- **No correction fluid, no correction tape, no erasing** — The Vehicle Dealer Manual's rule for fixing an assignment is a single line through the wrong entry, the right entry beside it, and a TR-34 attached explaining it. Everything else is an alteration.
- **Whole miles, no tenths** — Six printed cells and a crossed seventh. The reading cannot be corrected once the application has been submitted.
- **Both halves of your own name** — Signature in one box and printed name in the next. Michigan asks for both on the title, on the odometer statement and on the salvage application.
- **The original, never a copy** — The department's instruction to buyers is that the seller must give them the original vehicle title. A photocopy is not an ownership document in Michigan and a colour copy is one only for a licensed dealer with a registered inventory lender.
- **Photograph it before you hand it over** — MCL 257.240 accepts a photocopy of the reassigned title as your record of the sale. The cheapest eighteen months of protection available anywhere in this state costs one photograph.

STATE OF MICHIGAN				
CERTIFICATE OF TITLE				
VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY STYLE
TITLE NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	ODOMETER	BRAND OR LEGEND	
WEIGHT OR FEE CATEGORY	ODOMETER BRAND			
OWNER(S) NAME AND ADDRESS				
				
Title Assignment by Seller				
State and federal laws require the seller(s) to indicate mileage when ownership is transferred. Failure to complete or providing false information may result in civil liability, fines and/or imprisonment. ANY ALTERATION, ERASURE, FALSE STATEMENT, FORGERY OR FRAUD VOIDS THIS TITLE AND IS A CRIME.				
Completed by Seller	I warrant the ownership of the vehicle described on Certificate of Title has been transferred to the following purchaser(s) and is free of all previous liens.			
	Purchaser(s) Name (printed)		Date of Sale	Selling Price
	Purchaser's Street Address		City	State Zip
	I (we) certify the odometer reading is: ☒ and to the best of my knowledge the odometer mileage is (No Tenches)			
	☐ actual mileage ☐ not actual mileage - WARNING ODOMETER DISCREPANCY ☐ exceeds mechanical limits of odometer (odometer has rolled over)			
	Signature of Seller(s)		Seller(s) Name (printed)	
Completed by Buyer	X		Seller's Street Address	
	City		State	Zip
	A late fee will be due if you fail to apply for a title transfer by the required deadline. Deadlines and late fees are provided by MCL 207.317 (vehicle dealers) and MCL 207.314 (non-dealers).			
	"I am aware of the above odometer certification made by the seller(s)."			
Signature of Purchaser(s)		Printed Name of Purchaser(s)		
X		NEW LIENHOLDER INFORMATION: The information below must be on an application for title and presented to the Michigan Department of State.		
Secured Party:		Address:		
The State of Michigan, Michigan Department of State certifies this certificate of title is issued in compliance with the laws of Michigan and constitutes prima facie proof of ownership. Further, on the date of title issuance, the described vehicle was subject to the security interest(s) listed above.				
MAILING ADDRESS				
XXXXXXXXXX				
** NOTICE TO SELLERS ** Sellers must keep a receipt or photocopy of the reassigned title for their records for 18 months or accompany the purchaser to a Secretary of State Office.				
DO NOT ACCEPT TITLE SHOWING ANY ERASURES, ALTERATIONS OR MUTILATIONS				

ANNOTATED SAMPLE - Completed by Buyer and New Lienholder Information, Michigan Certificate of Title (MDOS specimen)

8 9 10 11	"I am aware of the above odometer certification made by the seller(s)."	
	Signature of Purchaser(s)	Printed Name of Purchaser(s)
	Desmond Okafor	DESMOND A. OKAFOR
	NEW LIENHOLDER INFORMATION: The information below must be on an application for title and presented to the Michigan Department of State.	
	Secured Party:	Address:
State of Michigan, Michigan Department of State certifies this certificate of title is issued in compliance with the laws of Michigan and constitutes prima facie proof of ownership. Further, on the date of title issuance, the described vehicle was subject to the security interest(s) listed above.		

Title Assignment by Seller

Michigan and federal laws require the seller(s) to indicate mileage when ownership is transferred. Failure to complete or providing false information may result in civil liability, fines and/or imprisonment. ANY ALTERATION, ERASURE, FALSE STATEMENT, FORGERY OR FRAUD VOIDS THIS TITLE AND IS A CRIME.

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I warrant the ownership of the vehicle described on Certificate of Title has been transferred to the following purchaser(s) and is free of all previous liens.			
Purchaser(s) Name (printed)		Date of Sale	Selling Price
DESMOND ADEYEMI OKAFOR		08/12/2026	\$13,400.00
Purchaser's Street Address		City	State
1140 Textile Rd		Ypsilanti	MI
Zip			
48197			
I (we) certify the odometer reading is: 088417 and to the best of my knowledge the odometer mileage is:			
(No Tenths)			
☒ actual mileage ☐ not actual mileage - WARNING ODOMETER DISCREPANCY ☐ exceeds mechanical limits of odometer (odometer has rolled over)			
Signature of Seller(s)		Seller(s) Name (printed)	
Marguerite Boisvert		MARGUERITE T. BOISVERT	
Seller's Street Address		City	State
812 Presque Isle Ave		Marquette	MI
Zip			
49855			

Every rule here is transcribed from MDOS Online Title Transfer - Seller, rev. 09/02/2025 and the Michigan Department of State's own pages. Plain-language help with a form, not legal advice — where our wording and the agency's differ, theirs governs.