



Self-Certification of Vehicle Ownership

Introduction (read all instructions carefully)

[MCL 257.217(1)(d)] [MCL 324.80307(2)] [MCL 324.82105(2)]

The law provides for a self-certification process when an applicant cannot provide a properly assigned ownership document. This procedure is limited as a last resort to assist a person, dealer, or business who acquired a titled motor vehicle, titled trailer, trailer coach, ORV, moped, watercraft, or snowmobile and:

- Was not provided with a properly assigned ownership document and is unable to contact the previous owner for a replacement.
OR
- Lost the properly assigned ownership document and is unable to contact the previous owner for a replacement.

Eligibility Requirements

Vehicles, titled trailers, trailer coaches:

- Must be 10 or more calendar years old
- Must have a value of \$2,500 or less
- Must have been purchased in Michigan

ORV's:

- Must be six or more calendar years old
- Must have a value of \$1,500 or less

Mopeds:

- Must be 10 or more calendar years old
- Must have a value of \$2,500 or less

Watercraft:

- Must have a value of \$2,500 or less

An applicant cannot use this procedure unless all possible options of contacting the owner of record have been exhausted. If an applicant needs to establish ownership for an item that does not meet the above criteria and cannot obtain a properly assigned ownership document, a surety bond or court order is required.

Instructions

1. The TR-205 Self-Certification of Vehicle Ownership form must be completed in full. Incomplete forms will not be accepted. Forms with insufficient information will not be accepted.
2. If applying for a vehicle, applicant must submit an appraisal. All non-dealer applicants must submit an appraisal showing the value is \$2,500 or less. An acceptable appraisal must be:
 - a. An appraisal completed by a licensed Michigan dealer
OR
 - b. A page printed from an on-line appraisal service such as Kelly Blue Book, J.D Power, Edmunds etc.
3. Submit the completed TR-205 form and all supporting documents to a secretary of state office.
4. A registration may be purchased as part of your transaction. For vehicles, proof of Michigan no-fault insurance must be presented.

CLEAR FORM



TR-205 Self-Certification of Vehicle Ownership

Information about the item acquired

Type of item acquired: ☒ Vehicle ☐ Trailer Coach ☐ Titled Trailer ☐ ORV
☐ Moped ☐ Watercraft ☐ Snowmobile

When was the item acquired? 14 June 2015

Where was the item acquired? Gwinn, Marquette County, Michigan

Who was the item acquired from? Theodore R. Lachance, Gwinn, Michigan

Why is there not a properly assigned ownership document?

He handed me the keys and a receipt and said the title was in the house. He never posted it and I never chased it.

When and how did you attempt to contact the owner of record? (Phone, e-mail, letter, etc.)

Telephoned 3 and 9 July 2026, no answer. Letter posted 14 July 2026 to his last address, returned undelivered.

Additional information about the acquisition of the item:

The vehicle has sat behind my garage since 2019. It has never been titled or plated in my name. A Kelley Blue Book valuation printed 18 August 2026 is attached and shows \$1,850.

Information about the vehicle to be transferred

Vehicle year 2004 Vehicle make Pontiac Grand Am Body style 4-Door

VIN/HIN: 1G2NF52E14M508913

Value: 1,850.00

NOTE: A 6% use tax is due on the appraisal value or the purchase price, whichever is higher, as required by the Sales and Use Tax Act (MCL 205.179).

Information about the applicant

Printed name: Marguerite T. Boisvert

Address: 812 Presque Isle Ave, Marquette, MI 49855

Phone number: (906) 555-0148

E-mail address: m.boisvert@example.com

Applicant's certification

The act of signing this form and its submission to the State of Michigan serves as my certification that the statements above are true to the best of my knowledge. I further certify the following:

- I am the rightful owner of the item described above
- I am entitled to title or register the item described above in the State of Michigan.
- I have exhausted all possible options to acquire a properly assigned ownership document.
- I have inspected the vehicle identification number (VIN) or hull identification number (HIN) on the item and have entered it above.

Signature of applicant Marguerite Boisvert Date 08/19/2026

****Please note:** Personally identifiable information collected on these forms is limited to what's needed to complete your transaction. For other ways your information may be used, visit Michigan.gov/SOS/policies

How to fill out TR-205 — Self-Certification of Vehicle Ownership

Michigan · written against TR-205 (01/2026), issued under MCL 257.217(1)(d), the subsection that lets the Secretary of State take a certification instead of a bond

[sellmycarhub.com](https://www.sellmycarhub.com/forms/michigan/tr-205-self-certification-of-vehicle-ownership/)
[/forms/michigan/tr-205-self-certification-of-vehicle-ownership/](https://www.sellmycarhub.com/forms/michigan/tr-205-self-certification-of-vehicle-ownership/)

The cheap way out of owning a vehicle with no ownership document, and it has a hard ceiling. Michigan lets you certify ownership yourself instead of buying a surety bond, but only for a vehicle that is ten or more calendar years old, worth \$2,500 or less, and bought in Michigan. Over either line and the bond is compulsory.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank TR-205 from the Michigan Department of State at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/03lehman/tr205.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	Type of item acquired	Seven tick boxes across two rows. Vehicle is the first of them. Watch out: The eligibility limits change with the box. A moped follows the vehicle rule, an ORV has to be six or more calendar years old and worth \$1,500 or less, and watercraft has no age limit at all.
2	YOU	When, where and who from	Three single-line boxes recording the acquisition. Watch out: Give a real date and a real place. This is the first thing an examiner reads and a vague answer sets the tone for the rest of the form.
3	YOU	Why is there not a properly assigned ownership document?	The first of three deep boxes, and the reason the application exists. Watch out: Say which of the two situations you are in - never given one, or given one and lost it. The form's own instructions distinguish them and so will the reviewer.
4	YOU	When and how did you attempt to contact the owner of record?	Dates and methods - phone, e-mail, letter. Watch out: This is the box that gets applications refused. Two dated phone calls and a returned letter is evidence; 'I tried to reach him' is not.
5	YOU	VIN/HIN	The identification number, under the vehicle's year, make and body style. Watch out: You certify at the foot of the form that you have inspected it on the item itself and entered it above. Read it off the car, not off an old insurance document.
6	YOU	Value	The appraised value, in its own box under the VIN. Watch out: It has to be backed by an appraisal from a licensed Michigan dealer or a printed online valuation, and it has to come in at \$2,500 or less. Use tax is then charged on that value or the purchase price, whichever is higher.
7	YOU	Signature of applicant	One signature under four printed certifications, with the date beside it. Watch out: Read the four lines above it. The third one - that you have exhausted all possible options - is the one the department will hold you to.

What gets this one rejected

- A vehicle worth more than \$2,500, or less than ten calendar years old. Either one puts you on the surety bond route instead, and the form is not a way round it.
- No appraisal. All non-dealer applicants must submit an appraisal showing the value is \$2,500 or less - either from a licensed Michigan dealer or a printed page from an online appraisal service.
- A vehicle that was not purchased in Michigan. It is one of the three eligibility conditions, listed alongside the age and the value.
- An incomplete form. The instruction is printed twice: incomplete forms will not be accepted, and forms with insufficient information will not be accepted.
- Treating it as a way to skip finding the seller. The certification you sign says you have exhausted all possible options, and the free-text boxes are where you show your working.

☒ Amber is what you write ☐ Grey is a block somebody else completes The filled-in example is at the start of this sheet.

Read off TR-205 (01/2026) and the Michigan Department of State'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](https://www.sellmycarhub.com)