



Transferring vehicle ownership of a deceased family member

Introduction (read all instructions carefully)

The TR-40 contains three forms (TR-40a, TR-40b, and TR-40c) that are used to complete the transfer of vehicles from a deceased individual to the surviving spouse, the closest next-of-kin, or to a third party. *The TR-40 is for vehicles that are not subject to a probated estate.*

Required forms

TR-40a: Certification from the Heir to a Vehicle

- The TR-40a form is used to certify that the surviving spouse of the deceased vehicle owner or the closest next-of-kin (if there is no spouse) has claim to the vehicle as the rightful heir. *If more than one heir is eligible to inherit the vehicle (joint inheritance), each qualifying heir must submit a TR-40a. All TR-40a forms must be verified at a Secretary of State office.*

TR-40b: Certification of No Interest

- The TR-40b form is used when multiple heirs have a legal right to the deceased owner's vehicle, but not all of the heirs want the vehicle. In this case, each qualified heir must submit a TR-40b to surrender their legal right to the vehicle. When there are multiple qualified heirs, there will be multiple TR-40b forms. All TR-40b forms necessary for a vehicle transfer must be submitted with a corresponding TR-40a that has been verified at a Secretary of State office.

TR-40c: Certification of Ownership Transfer

- The TR-40c form is used when the vehicle is being transferred into the name of an individual other than the closest next-of-kin. The TR-40c is completed by one qualified heir and lists the new vehicle owner. There may be multiple TR-40c forms if there will be multiple new owners. All TR-40c forms necessary for a vehicle transfer must be submitted with a corresponding TR-40a that has been verified at a Secretary of State office.

You will also need to present the:

- Current vehicle title** (this is the preferred proof of ownership).
 - If the vehicle title is lost:** Present a document listing the year, make, and VIN/HIN/serial number of the vehicle (other documents may be required).
 - If the vehicle does not require a title:** Submit the vehicle registration or other proof of ownership listing the vehicle's year, make, and VIN/HIN/serial number.
- Death certificate** of the vehicle owner(s) as shown on the Proof of Ownership.
- Signed lien termination statement** (lien must be released prior to title transfer.)
- Odometer disclosure statement.** Vehicles subject to odometer disclosure must have the odometer statement completed on the title. If the title cannot be located, a BDVR-108 Odometer Mileage Statement must be completed instead.

****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.



Information about the vehicle to be transferred

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CLEAR FORM



TR-40b: Certification of No Interest

Note: This form is not valid unless submitted together with a completed TR-40a form that has been verified by a Secretary of State office and associated with the same vehicle.

Information about the vehicle to be transferred

Vehicle year 2011 Vehicle make Buick

Body style 4-Door Title number 198774063

6 VIN/HIN 1G4GC5ED5BF204917

I certify that I have no ownership interest in the vehicle described above. I further certify that the information on this form is true to the best of my knowledge.

7 Printed name of heir Alain J. Boisvert

Signature of heir Alain Boisvert Date 08/18/2026

Please note: The above ownership interest certification is for Michigan Department of State vehicle titling purposes. While it is not intended to, it could impact ownership interest as it relates to estate resolution. You may wish to consult an attorney if you have any questions.

CLEAR FORM



TR-40c: Certification of Ownership Transfer

Note: This form is not valid unless submitted together with a completed TR-40a form that has been verified by a Secretary of State office and associated with the same vehicle.

Information about the vehicle to be transferred

Vehicle year 2011 Vehicle make Buick

Body style 4-Door Title number 198774063

8 VIN/HIN 1G4GC5ED5BF204917

New owner's information (more than one owner may be listed)

9 First and last names Colette R. Beaudry

Street address 905 Delta Ave

City Gladstone State MI ZIP code 49837

I, as the surviving spouse, or if no surviving spouse, the closest next-of-kin, certify the vehicle described above is sold or transferred to the person or persons named above and further certify that the title is free of all previous liens.

10 Printed name of heir Marguerite T. Boisvert

Signature of heir Marguerite Boisvert Date 08/18/2026

How to fill out TR-40 — Certification from the Heir to a Vehicle

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Michigan · written against TR-40 (01/2026), issued under MCL 257.236, with MCL 324.80312 for watercraft and MCL 700.1210 for mobile homes </forms/michigan/tr-40-certification-from-the-heir-to-a-vehicle/>

Three forms in one document, for a vehicle that is not part of a probated estate. The TR-40a certifies that the person signing is the surviving spouse or the closest next-of-kin; the TR-40b is how another heir stands aside; the TR-40c is how the vehicle goes to somebody who is neither. Which combination you need depends on how many people have a claim and who ends up with the car.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank TR-40 from the Michigan Department of State at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Vehicle/Titles/TR-40.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	The vehicle title: is attached, or cannot be located	Two tick boxes opening the TR-40a. Watch out: If it cannot be located, the introduction wants a document listing the year, make and VIN instead, and warns that other documents may be required. The title is the preferred proof and everything is easier with it.
2	YOU	VIN/HIN	The identification number, under the year, body style, make and title number. Watch out: The same number has to appear on every one of the three certifications you submit, because that is how the branch associates them.
3	YOU	Printed name of heir	The surviving spouse, or the closest next-of-kin if there is no spouse. Watch out: Closest next-of-kin has a legal meaning here and the department will not settle a dispute about it. The department's own advice is to refer questions about the rights of next-of-kin to an attorney or the probate court.
4	YOU	Relationship to deceased	One box beside the signature - daughter, son, spouse, and so on. Watch out: It has to be consistent with the claim you are making. An heir who is not the closest next-of-kin needs the others to stand aside on TR-40b forms.
5	DEALER	Death certificate verification	State, county, docket number, date examined, branch number, examiner name and a branch stamp. Watch out: Marked office use only, and it is why the form has to be taken to a counter rather than posted. Leave every box in it empty.
6	YOU	TR-40b: the vehicle again	Year, make, body style, title number and VIN, repeated at the top of the second certification. Watch out: One TR-40b per heir who does not want the vehicle. Two siblings standing aside means two forms, not one signed twice.
7	YOU	TR-40b: printed name and signature of heir	The heir certifying that they have no ownership interest in the vehicle. Watch out: Read the note underneath before signing: the department says that while it is not intended to, this certification could affect ownership interest as it relates to estate resolution.
8	YOU	TR-40c: the vehicle again	The same five identifying boxes at the top of the third certification. Watch out: Only needed where the vehicle is going to somebody other than the closest next-of-kin - including a buyer.
9	BUYER	TR-40c: New owner's information	First and last names, street address, city, state and ZIP code of whoever ends up with the vehicle. Watch out: More than one owner may be listed, and there may be several TR-40c forms if there will be several new owners.
10	YOU	TR-40c: printed name and signature of heir	The heir signs again, certifying the transfer and that the title is free of all previous liens. Watch out: It is the heir who signs this page, not the new owner. If a lien is still recorded, deal with the termination before anyone signs anything.

What gets this one rejected

- A TR-40b or TR-40c on its own. Both carry the same printed note: not valid unless submitted together with a completed TR-40a that has been verified by a Secretary of State office and associated with the same vehicle.
- A TR-40a that has not been through a branch. All TR-40a forms must be verified at a Secretary of State office - the death certificate verification block underneath is the record of that happening.
- Using it where there is a probate. The document is for vehicles that are not subject to a probated estate; where a personal representative has been appointed, they assign the title and a copy of the Letter of Authority goes in instead.
- Forgetting the odometer. Vehicles subject to disclosure need the odometer statement completed on the title, and where the title cannot be located a BDVR-108 has to be completed instead.
- Leaving a lien on it. A signed lien termination statement is one of the four things the introduction says you will also need to present, because the lien has to be released before the title transfers.

☒ 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-40 (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.

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