

How to fill out MV12 — Application for Title by Non-Probate Transfer

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Montana · written against MV12 (2/25), issued under MCA 61-3-222 and MCA 72-3-1101, small estates; signed under MCA 45-7-203

/forms/montana/mv12-title-by-non-probate-transfer/

The Montana small-estate route for a vehicle, used where nobody has been appointed executor or administrator and the whole estate - the car included, less liens and encumbrances - does not exceed \$100,000. It puts the title into the heir's name, and that is the point a seller needs to understand: the car has to become yours before it can become anybody else's. Where the title is missing and the vehicle is going to a third party rather than staying in the family, the manual sends the survivor to an MV7 replacement instead, so that there is a certificate to sign.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank MV12 from the Montana Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division, Vehicle Services Bureau at <https://mvdmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/MV12-Application-for-Title-of-Vehicle-by-Non-Probate-Transfer-Fillable.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	Section 1: who is applying	Legal name, identification number, residential and mailing addresses, email and phone. Watch out: The person who signs is the person the title will issue to. If the family intends the car to end up somewhere else, sort that out before this form, not after.
2	YOU	The deceased owner, and the date of death	Legal name, date of death, and where they died - with a second block if the title carried two names. Watch out: A copy of the death certificate goes with this. Where the cause of death has been redacted, the manual accepts it if a Clerk and Recorder or Clerk of Court certified it.
3	YOU	Section 2: the vehicle	Year, make, model, style, colour, identification number, plate, title number and weight. Watch out: The weight decides the fee - \$12.36 up to one ton, \$10.30 above it. On a pickup that is a question worth answering from the door label rather than from memory.
4	YOU	The registration choice	Cancel the registration with the transfer, or keep the plates running and pay for them. Watch out: Keeping the plates may mean registering in your own name and paying all applicable registration fees at the county treasurer. It is not a way of inheriting a paid-up year.
5	YOU	The relationship, inside the certification	Daughter, son, spouse - the word that completes the claim of a superior right. Watch out: Read the whole sentence it sits in before writing anything. It is the sharpest statement on the form and the one that a disappointed relative would read first.
6	YOU	Sign it	Printed name, identification number, signature and date under MCA 45-7-203. Watch out: One applicant signs. There is no notary here - Montana removed that from title work in October 2025, and this form's weight comes from the unsworn-falsification statute instead.

What gets this one rejected

- An estate over the threshold. Above \$100,000 the property is subject to probate, and the manual sends the transaction to a personal representative or executor instead.
- An applicant with a competing heir. The certification claims a right superior to that of any other person surviving the deceased - it is not a form for one of several siblings to file quietly.
- A vehicle bequeathed to somebody else. The certification says the property has not been bequeathed by will to anyone other than the applicant, so a will naming a different person ends this route.
- Filing it to transfer straight to a buyer. It issues the title to the successor. The manual's route for selling to a third party where the title is missing is an MV7 replacement so that the survivor can sign the certificate.
- A missing death certificate. For a non-probated estate the manual is clear that all that is required to release the interest of the deceased is a copy of the death certificate - required, not optional.

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

Read off MV12 (2/25) and the Montana Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division, Vehicle Services Bureau'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.

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Application for Title by Non-Probate Transfer

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PLEASE PRINT P.O. Box 201431 Helena, MT 59620-1431 • Phone (406) 444-3661 • Fax (406) 444-0116 • mvdtitleinfo@mt.gov • mvdmt.gov

This form is used when no executor or administrator is appointed, provided the value of the decedent's entire estate – including the vehicle that is the subject of the application, less liens and encumbrances – does not exceed \$100,000 (§ 72-3-1101, MCA).

If applying for title on a manufactured home, present your application at your local county of residence.

The appropriate title fee must be submitted with this application: \$12.36 for light vehicles, trucks, and buses weighing less than one ton; \$10.30 for all other vehicles (fees include 3% administration fee per § 61-3-111, MCA).

1. Transfer Information:

1	I	<u>Delphine R. Kowalchuk</u>	<u>0417329865</u>
		Applicant's Legal Name (first, middle & last) – please print	DL/FEIN/Tribal ID/Corp ID (applicant) - Required
		Residential Address <u>612 W Broadway St</u>	
	City	<u>Lewistown</u>	State <u>MT</u> Zip <u>59457</u>
	Mailing Address	<u>612 W Broadway St</u>	
	City	<u>Lewistown</u>	State <u>MT</u> Zip <u>59457</u>
	Email Address:	<u>d.kowalchuk@example.com</u>	Phone Number <u>(406) 555-0138</u>
2	Certify that	<u>Orval T. Kowalchuk</u>	Who died on <u>06/02/2026</u>
		Property Owner's Legal Name (first, middle & last)	
	City	<u>Denton</u>	County <u>Fergus</u> State <u>MT</u> Zip: <u>59430</u>
	and		Who died on
		Property Co-Owner's Legal Name (first, middle & last)	
	City		County State Zip:
	Is the registered owner of the following property:		

2. Personal Property Information:

Year	<u>2009</u>	Make	<u>Chevrolet</u>	Model	<u>Silverado 1500</u>	Style	<u>Pickup</u>	Color	<u>White</u>
Property Identification Number	<u>7H2GTM9D4GC730915</u>								
License Plate Number	<u>5-19620B</u>	Title Number	<u>2K8305517</u>	Weight	<u>1/2 ton</u>				

Please read and check one box below

- ☒ I am applying for a title for personal property in the deceased's name. I understand that if there is registration and license plates currently assigned to the personal property it will be cancelled with the processing of this application.
- ☐ I am applying for title to the deceased's property. I wish to continue using the registration and license plates. By choosing this option, I may be directed to obtain registration in my name and pay all applicable registration fees through the county treasurer's office.

3: Owner Certification:

Under penalty of law § 45-7-203, MCA, I certify that the statements made, and information contained on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief; I am the person named on this form; and, if signing for a business entity or trust, I have full authority to do so.

- The deceased left no estate necessitating administration, and no letter of administration or letters testamentary have been issued to any person;
- The personal property has not been bequeathed by will to anyone other than myself, or in the absence of a will, I am the person entitled to the property by operation of law;
- The value of the entire estate of the deceased, wherever located, less liens and encumbrances, does not exceed \$100,000;
- As (state relationship) daughter of the deceased, my right to this property is superior to that of any other person surviving the deceased.

Delphine R. Kowalchuk

Legal Name (first, middle & last) – please print

(Required) DL/FEIN/Tribal ID/Corp ID (applicant)

Delphine R. Kowalchuk

07/09/2026

Signature

Date

*DL = Driver License number; FEIN = Federal Employer Identification Number; Tribal ID = Tribal Identification Number; Corp ID = Corporate Identification Number