

# How to fill out MV13 — Beneficiary Designation for Vehicle or Vessel Title

Montana · written against MV13 (8/26), issued under MCA 61-3-226, certificate of title transfer on death; signed under MCA 45-7-203

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/forms/montana/mv13-beneficiary-designation/

Montana's transfer-on-death paperwork for a vehicle, and it belongs on a seller's list for two opposite reasons. If you are keeping the car, this is how you spare whoever inherits it a trip through probate. If you are selling it, the designation dies with the sale - a transfer of ownership processed before the last surviving owner's death revokes it automatically - and if you are selling a car you inherited under someone else's designation, this form's instructions are the checklist for doing it. Up to five beneficiaries, none of whom has any interest at all while you are alive.

**This sheet is not the form.** Download the blank MV13 from the Montana Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division, Vehicle Services Bureau at <https://mvdmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/MV13-Beneficiary-Designation-for-Vehicle-or-Vessel-Title-08.26F.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>Section 1: the owners, as the title prints them</b> | Full legal name including any suffix, physical address, identification number, email and phone for every owner. <b>Watch out:</b> Use the name on the face of the title. A designation filed under a shortened version of your name is a mismatch the department has to resolve before it can attach it to the record.                                             |
| 2 | YOU | <b>Section 2: the vehicle</b>                          | Year, make, model and the VIN or hull number. <b>Watch out:</b> The designation attaches to a vehicle record, not to you. Selling this car and buying another leaves the new one with no designation at all.                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3 | YOU | <b>Section 3: who inherits it</b>                      | Legal name, identification number and issuing state, mailing address, phone and email for each beneficiary, up to five. <b>Watch out:</b> Name them all now. If more than one is designated, the instructions require every one of them to apply and to provide identification after the death - so a beneficiary you left off cannot be added later by agreement. |
| 4 | YOU | <b>Section 4: every owner signs</b>                    | Signature and date for the owner and for any joint owner. <b>Watch out:</b> The certification you are signing says a will does not revoke or supersede this designation. If your will leaves the car to somebody else, one of the two documents needs changing, and it is not going to be this one.                                                                |

**What gets this one rejected**

- One signature on a two-owner title. The certification's own last line is all owners must sign, and a joint owner who did not sign has not designated anybody.
- A designation filed on its own. This form travels with a title transaction: an MV1 when applying for a title, or an MV7 replacement application when adding, changing or revoking a designation already on record.
- Six beneficiaries. The instructions cap it at five.
- A beneficiary trying to claim without every death certificate. All owners on the current Montana title need one, and where there are multiple beneficiaries, all of them must apply and all must provide identification.
- Treating a will as an override. The form says the opposite in its own certification - a will does not revoke or supersede this designation regardless of when the will is made.

☒ Amber is what you write

☐ Grey is a block somebody else completes

The completed example follows overleaf.



## Beneficiary Designation for Vehicle or Vessel Title MV13

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

PO Box 201431 • Helena, MT • 59620-1431 • Phone 406-444-3661 • Fax 406-444-0116 • mvdtitleinfo@mt.gov • mvdmt.gov

### Instructions

#### A beneficiary(s) designation may be added or updated during a title transaction in the following situations:

1. Applying for a Montana title (initial application, title transfer, or replacement title).
  - The applicant(s) will enter the beneficiary(s) on form MV13 and apply for a Montana title.
2. Adding or changing current beneficiary(s) on file.
  - The Montana owner(s) will enter the new beneficiary(s) on form MV13 and apply for a Montana title on *MV7 Certificate of Title Replacement Application*.
3. Revoking current beneficiary(s) on file.
  - The Montana owner(s) will leave the beneficiary section on form MV13 blank and apply for a Montana title on form *MV7 Certificate of Title Replacement Application*.

#### Once a beneficiary designation is added to the vehicle record, it is valid until:

1. A transfer of ownership is processed prior to the owner or last surviving owner's death.
2. A new beneficiary designation form is filed to change or revoke the designation.

#### Upon the death of all owners on the current vehicle title, the beneficiary (if multiple beneficiaries, all must apply) may:

1. Request a title in their name by providing:
  - a. Copy of death certificates for all owners listed on the current Montana title.
  - b. *MV1 Certificate of Title for Motor Vehicle Application* in the beneficiary(s) name. All beneficiaries must be shown on the new title issued; all beneficiaries must sign MV1.
  - c. Beneficiaries' government issued identification (ID) (if multiple beneficiaries, all must provide ID).
2. Request title and registration in their name by providing:
  - a. Copy of death certificates for all owners listed on the current Montana title.
  - b. *MV1 Certificate of Title for Motor Vehicle Application* in the beneficiary(s) name – all beneficiaries must be shown on the new title issued; all beneficiaries must sign the MV1.
  - c. Beneficiaries' government issued identification (if multiple beneficiaries, all must provide ID).
3. Transfer the vehicle/vessel to a purchaser by providing:
  - a. Copy of death certificates for all owners listed on the current Montana title.
  - b. *MV24 Bill of Sale* selling the vehicle to the purchaser – all beneficiaries must sign.
  - c. *MV1 Certificate of Title for Motor Vehicle Application* in the purchaser's name.
  - d. Purchaser's government issued identification (if multiple purchasers, all must provide ID).

Paperwork mentioned in any section above can be submitted to MVD, the customer's local County Treasurer's office, or a MVD Authorized Agent. All applicable title and registration fees will apply.

**An applicant may arrange for transfer, upon death of the last surviving owner, by completing MV13. The designation will be placed on the applicant's vehicle/vessel record within the MVD system. A maximum of five beneficiaries allowed.**

Montana county and state authorities reserve the right to reject any form that has been altered. This form is available in alternate formats for people with disabilities.



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## Choose one of the following for completing this form:

- ☐ Designate beneficiary(s) as shown below when applying for a Montana title.
- ☐ Add a new beneficiary to the current beneficiary on record. Titles may have up to five beneficiaries on file.
- ☐ Change current beneficiary(s) on record to the beneficiary(s) shown below. The name on file will be replaced.
- ☐ Revoke current beneficiary(s) on record (leave beneficiary section blank).

### 1. Applicant Information

Owner Full Legal Name (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)

Delphine R. Kowalchuk

Physical Address

612 W Broadway St

City

Lewistown

State

MT

Zip

59457

DL/FEIN/Tribal ID/Corp. ID

0417329865

Email Address

d.kowalchuk@example.com

Phone Number

(406) 555-0138

Joint Owner Full Legal Name (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)

Physical Address

City

State

Zip

DL/FEIN/Tribal ID/Corp. ID

Email Address

Phone Number

### 2. Vehicle Information

Year

2013

Make

Toyota

Model

4Runner SR5

VIN/HIN

4R8KUZ5B6DL418206

### 3. Beneficiary Information

Beneficiary 1 Legal Name (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)

Rusty L. Kowalchuk

DL/FEIN/Tribal ID/Corp. ID

Issuing State

MT

Beneficiary 1 Mailing Address

318 E Janeaux St

City

Lewistown

State

MT

Zip

59457

Beneficiary 1 Phone

(406) 555-0155

Beneficiary 1 Email

r.kowalchuk@example.com

Beneficiary 2 Legal Name (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)

DL/FEIN/Tribal ID/Corp. ID

Issuing State

Beneficiary 2 Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Beneficiary 2 Phone

Beneficiary 2 Email

### 4. Owners Certification

Signed under penalty of unsworn falsification as provided in 45-7-203, MCA:

- Interest in the above listed vehicle will transfer to the designated beneficiary(s) upon the last surviving owner's death.
- The beneficiary(s) does not have any interest in this motor vehicle during my life.
- This designation does not limit the interest or rights of a lienholder whose lien was attached to the vehicle/vessel prior to the death of the owner or last surviving joint owner.
- A Will does not revoke or supersede this designation regardless of when the Will is made.
- All owners must sign.

Delphine R. Kowalchuk

Owner Signature

08/03/2026

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Joint Owner Signature (if applicable)

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)