

How to fill out SFN 2888 — Seller's Certificate and Vehicle Bill of Sale

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North Dakota · written against SFN 2888 (4-2026), issued under North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division; item three on the untitled vehicle checklist at ND Admin. Rule Ch. 37-12-04-01

/forms/north-dakota/sfn-2888-sellers-certificate-and-vehicle-bill-of-sale/

Not the ordinary bill of sale - this is the sworn one, and it exists for a vehicle whose seller cannot produce a certificate of title. Where the everyday private-party bill of sale takes two signatures and no oath, this takes the seller's signature in front of a notary and adds three warranty lines the ordinary form does not have: that the seller is the legal owner and the vehicle is free of liens except as stated, that the seller has the right to sell it and will defend the title against all claims except as stated, and - the line the whole document turns on - the reason the certificate of title cannot be furnished.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank SFN 2888 from the North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division at <https://dot.nd.gov/forms/sfn02888.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	Buyer Information	The buyer's legal name, driver's licence or FEIN with the Select One box marked, telephone and full address. On an untitled application this is the person who will apply for the title. Watch out: This block and the applicant block on the statement of ownership have to name the same person at the same address. The department reads the two documents together.
2	YOU	Vehicle Information	Year, make, model, body style, then the identification number, colour, fuel type and weight - a fuller description than a titled car needs. Watch out: Photograph the VIN plate while you are writing this down - a photo of the VIN plate is item two on the department's untitled-vehicle list, and the inspection will be checked against what you enter here.
3	YOU	Selling Price and Date of Sale	The consideration and the day the vehicle changed hands, beside the acknowledgement that the seller grants, sells, transfers and delivers it. Watch out: The excise tax on an untitled vehicle is worked on fair market value rather than on this price, and the department may ask for a dealer appraisal. A low price does not lower the tax here.
4	YOU	Seller Information and comments	The seller's legal name, telephone and address, with a free-text comments block underneath. Watch out: The comments block is where the vehicle's story goes - how long it sat, where, and in what condition. A reviewer in Bismarck has nothing else to go on.
5	YOU	The two warranty lines	Free from all liens and encumbrances except, and the right to sell and defend the title against all claims except - each with a space for exceptions. Watch out: Write None rather than leaving them blank. A blank line reads as unanswered; None is a warranty the seller has given.
6	YOU	Reason the Certificate of Title can not be furnished	The seller's explanation of why there is no title, which the Registration Manual asks for by name. Watch out: Specific beats apologetic. When the vehicle was acquired, from whom, and why no certificate was ever issued or transferred - that is what the department is deciding on.
7	YOU	Name printed and Signature of Seller	The seller signs before a Notary Public or Authorized Officer, above the Class B misdemeanor penalty note. Watch out: Take the seller to the notary rather than posting them the form. Original signatures are required and a second attempt is often impossible.
8	OTHER	The Acknowledgement block	State, county and the sworn date, followed by the officer's own four lines - name printed, stamp affixed, signature, commission expiry. Watch out: The officer's block. If the seller is elderly or unwell, most North Dakota banks and many insurance offices will send a notary out - it is worth asking.

What gets this one rejected

- The reason line left empty. It is the substance of the document - the department is being asked to issue a title on the strength of an explanation, and a form without one is an ordinary bill of sale that has been notarised for no reason.
- The warranty exception lines left blank rather than answered. Free from all liens except - and the answer, where there are none, is to say so.
- A description copied from an advertisement. Colour, fuel type and weight are asked for because there is no certificate to check them against, and the VIN inspection will be compared with what is written here.
- The buyer's block completed by the seller from memory. The buyer here is the title applicant, and their identifier and address are what the new certificate is built from.
- A signature taken outside a notary's presence. The signature label is explicit and the whole point of this form over the ordinary bill of sale is that it is sworn.

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

SELLER'S CERTIFICATE AND VEHICLE BILL OF SALE

North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle
SFN 2888 (4-2026)

MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION
ND DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
608 E BOULEVARD AVE
BISMARCK ND 58505-0780
Telephone (701) 328-2725
Website: <https://dot.nd.gov>

Buyer Information

Buyer's Legal Name <i>Marlys J. Thorsrud</i>	Select One: ☒ Driver's License ☐ FEIN <i>4180263</i>	Telephone Number <i>(701) 555-0146</i>	
Mailing Address <i>1427 Chestnut St</i>	City <i>Grand Forks</i>	State <i>ND</i>	ZIP Code <i>58201</i>

Vehicle Information

Year <i>1978</i>	Make <i>Chevrolet</i>	Model <i>C10 Custom Deluxe</i>	Body Style <i>Pickup</i>	
Vehicle Identification Number <i>CCL148F326104</i>		Color <i>Green</i>	Fuel Type <i>Gas</i>	Weight <i>3,800</i>
I acknowledge on the date of sale indicated; that I grant, sell, transfer, and deliver to the buyer; for and in consideration of the selling price and other adequate consideration.		Selling Price <i>1,800.00</i>	Date of Sale <i>05/09/2026</i>	

Seller Information

Seller's Legal Name <i>Vernon L. Haugtvædt</i>			Telephone Number <i>(701) 555-0173</i>
Mailing Address <i>512 Division Ave</i>	City <i>Cavalier</i>	State <i>ND</i>	ZIP Code <i>58220</i>

Additional seller comments:

Truck stood in a machine shed on the seller's farm from 1996 until sale. Sold complete, not running.

Seller hereby warrants that he/she is legal owner of such vehicle, that it is free from all liens and encumbrances except:

None

Seller confirms he/she has the right to sell the same and that he/she will warrant and defend the title thereof against the claims and demands of all persons except:

None

If applicable, reason Certificate of Title can not be furnished:

Bought at a farm auction in 1996 and never titled in the seller's name; no certificate was ever issued to him.

Name (type or print) <i>Vernon L. Haugtvædt</i>	Signature of Seller (sign before a Notary Public or Authorized Officer) <i>Vernon L. Haugtvædt</i>
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Acknowledgement

State of	
County of	
Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this day (month, day, year)	
Name of Notary Public or other Authorized Officer (type or print)	Affix Notary Stamp
Signature of Notary Public or other Authorized Officer	
Commission Expiration Date (if not listed on stamp)	

PENALTY: The filing of a false or fraudulent Seller's Certificate of Sale is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 and/or thirty (30) days in jail.