

How to fill out SFN 2889 — Affidavit for Refund of License Fee of a Permanently Destroyed Vehicle

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North Dakota · written against SFN 2889 (4-2026), issued under NDCC 39-04-44, quoted in full on </forms/north-dakota/sfn-2889-affidavit-for-refund-of-license-fee-of-a-permanently-destroyed-vehicle/> the face of the form

The one place in the North Dakota system where the answer is a refund rather than a credit - and the form says so by quoting the statute at length in its own body. Where a licensed vehicle is permanently and involuntarily destroyed, the owner may claim back the unused portion of the licence fee, computed pro rata by the month, one twelfth of the annual fee for each month remaining after the month in which the vehicle was destroyed. The condition is surrender: the title, registration card and licence plates all go back to the department. What comes the other way is a cheque and a salvage certificate of title, with \$5 deducted from the refund to cover the cost of that certificate.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank SFN 2889 from the North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division at <https://dot.nd.gov/forms/sfn02889.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	Owner(s) and address	Your name and full mailing address, as the certificate of title has them. Watch out: This is where the refund cheque and the salvage certificate are posted, so a stale address costs twice.
2	YOU	Year, Make, Model, Style	Year, make, model and style of the destroyed vehicle. Watch out: Take it from the certificate rather than from the insurer's letter. The two do not always describe a vehicle identically and the department works from its own record.
3	YOU	Vehicle Identification Number and Title Number	The entries that tie the affidavit to the department's record. Watch out: Copy them before you surrender the certificate - once it goes in the envelope you no longer have them to hand.
4	YOU	Date of Accident	The date the vehicle was destroyed, which the pro-rated refund is measured from. Watch out: The month of the loss itself earns nothing back. One twelfth of the annual fee is credited for each month remaining after that month, so a loss late in a month is worth exactly as much as one early in it.
5	YOU	North Dakota License Number and License Year	The plate number and the registration year the unused fee is being claimed against. Watch out: The plates themselves go back with the affidavit, along with the registration card and the certificate of title. All three are conditions of the refund in the statute quoted on the form.
6	YOU	Name printed, and Signature of Owner	Printed and signed before a Notary Public or Authorized Officer, under the oath set out at the head of the form. Watch out: The \$5 deduction for the salvage certificate is noted immediately above this line. It is not a fee you can decline - the certificate is what the department issues in exchange.
7	OTHER	The Acknowledgement block	State and county, the sworn date, and then the notary's printed name, stamp, signature and expiry - four lines that are not the owner's. Watch out: The officer's block. Take the certificate of title and the registration card to the appointment so the whole package leaves in one envelope.

What gets this one rejected

- A vehicle that is merely uneconomic to repair. The statute the form quotes says permanently and involuntarily destroyed, and both words are load-bearing.
- Claiming without surrendering. The plates, the registration card and the certificate of title all have to reach the department - the refund is conditioned on it in the statute's own wording.
- Missing the window. The statute allows the claim during the same year or the following year, and there is nothing after that.
- Expecting the whole year back. The refund is one twelfth of the annual fee for each month remaining after the month in which the vehicle was destroyed, so the month of the loss itself pays nothing.
- Forgetting the deduction. \$5 comes off to pay for the salvage certificate the department issues in return, and the form says so directly above the signature block.

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

Read off SFN 2889 (4-2026) and the North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division'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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AFFIDAVIT FOR REFUND OF LICENSE FEE OF A PERMANENTLY DESTROYED VEHICLE

North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle
SFN 2889 (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>

THIS FORM IS TO BE USED ONLY WHEN A VEHICLE IS PERMANENTLY DESTROYED

The subscriber being first duly sworn, under oath, deposes and says that he is the owner of the motor vehicle described, and that the statements made herein are in all respects true and correct.

Owner(s) <i>Marlys J. Thorsrud</i>			
Mailing Address <i>1427 Chestnut St</i>		City <i>Grand Forks</i>	State <i>ND</i>
Year <i>2013</i>	Make <i>Dodge</i>	Model <i>Grand Caravan SXT</i>	Zip Code <i>58201</i>
Vehicle Identification Number <i>2K4RDGBG2DR518604</i>			Title Number <i>3105284617</i>
Date of Accident <i>07/14/2026</i>	State of North Dakota License Number <i>907 HTM</i>	State of North Dakota License Year <i>2026</i>	

That said vehicle was licensed in the State of North Dakota with the license number indicated above for the license year indicated above; that affiant knows of his own knowledge that said motor vehicle is permanently and involuntarily destroyed; That affiant is making this affidavit in accordance with the provisions of Section 39-04-44 of the North Dakota Century Code. Any owner of a motor vehicle licensed in the state, if such vehicle is permanently and involuntarily destroyed, may during the same year or following year claim a refund in amount equal to the unused portion of the fee paid upon the vehicle so destroyed; computed pro-rata by the month, one-twelfth of the annual fee paid for each month remaining after the month in which such vehicle was so destroyed; providing the **title, registration card, and license plates** are surrendered to this office.

Note: a salvage title will be sent to you. We will deduct \$5 from your refund to cover the cost of the Certificate of Title to the salvage motor vehicle.

Name (Type or Print) <i>Marlys J. Thorsrud</i>	Signature of Owner (sign before a Notary Public or Authorized Officer) <i>Marlys J. Thorsrud</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: Any person violating any of the provisions of 39-04 for which another penalty is not specifically provided is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.