

How to fill out SFN 2916 — Affidavit for Collection of Personal Property of the Decedent

North Dakota · written against SFN 2916 (4-2026), issued under NDCC 30.1-23-01, printed in the form's own title; filed with the North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division

/forms/north-dakota/sfn-2916-affidavit-for-collection-of-personal-property-of-the-decedent/

The small-estate route, and for most North Dakota families it is the whole answer. Six numbered statements, sworn in front of a notary, that between them tell the department the estate is small enough to move without probate: the affiant is the decedent's successor, the estate is worth no more than \$100,000 net of liens, thirty days have elapsed since the death, and no application or petition for a personal representative is pending or has been granted anywhere. The Registration Manual sets it beside the two alternatives - a title in joint tenancy with right of survivorship needs only a copy of the death certificate, and anything outside both routes needs letters of administration, letters testamentary, or an order of the court.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank SFN 2916 from the North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division at <https://dot.nd.gov/forms/sfn2916.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	Applicant's Legal Name, telephone and address	The successor's details - the person collecting the vehicle, who will become its registered owner. Watch out: Use the name on your own identification, because the notary will check it and the certificate will be printed from it.
2	YOU	Name of Decedent	The deceased owner, named as the certificate of title names them. Watch out: If the certificate carries a maiden name or an initial the death certificate does not, note the difference in statement 2 rather than tidying it up here.
3	YOU	Date of Death	The date, which is what statement 4's thirty days are counted from. Watch out: Count the days before you book the notary. An affidavit sworn on day twenty-eight is a false statement on its face.
4	YOU	Statement 2, the basis of the claim	Three ruled lines to say why you are the successor - the relationship, the absence of anyone with a prior claim, and what you are attaching. Watch out: Name the vehicle here too. The department is being asked to move a specific car on the strength of this affidavit, and identifying it saves a letter.
5	YOU	Name printed, and the Affiant's Legal Signature	Printed and signed under all six statements, before a Notary Public or Authorized Officer. Watch out: Read statements 3 and 5 again before signing. Both are about the whole estate rather than the car, and both carry the Class A Misdemeanor note at the foot.
6	OTHER	The Acknowledgement block	The place and date of the oath, and then the officer's printed name, the affixed stamp, their signature and an expiry date if the stamp lacks one. Watch out: Take the death certificate and the certificate of title to the appointment as well. The notary witnesses the signature, but the department wants the whole package together.

What gets this one rejected

- Filing it before day thirty. Statement 4 is a sworn assertion that thirty days have elapsed, and it is not a formality that can be signed early.
- An estate over the threshold. Statement 3 puts the whole estate wherever located, net of liens and encumbrances, at \$100,000 or less - the vehicle's value is not the test.
- A probate already in motion. Statement 5 asks whether an application or petition for a personal representative is pending or has been granted in any jurisdiction, and one answer closes this route.
- Statement 2 left as a single word. Successor by relationship is a claim the department has to be able to follow - the ruled lines exist so the basis can be set out.
- Attaching a will and expecting it to do the work. The Registration Manual's line is flat: a last will and testament cannot be accepted for certificate of title transfer.

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

AFFIDAVIT FOR COLLECTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE DECEDENT - NDCC 30.1-23-01

North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle
SFN 2916 (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>

Applicant's Legal Name <i>Marlys J. Thorsrud</i>		Telephone Number <i>(701) 555-0146</i>	
Mailing Address <i>1427 Chestnut St</i>	City <i>Grand Forks</i>	State ND	ZIP Code <i>58201</i>
Name of Decedent <i>Alvin O. Thorsrud</i>		Date of Death <i>06/02/2026</i>	

I, being duly sworn, state the following:

- Affiant is successor of above named decedent.
- Affiant claims to be successor on the following basis:
~~*Sole surviving child of the decedent, who died intestate and whose surviving spouse predeceased him. Certified death certificate attached. The vehicle is a 2009 Buick LaCrosse CX, title 2740916358.*~~
- The value of the entire estate of the decedent wherever located, less liens and encumbrances, does not exceed \$100,000.
- Thirty days have elapsed since the death of the decedent.
- An application or petition for the appointment of a personal representative of the decedent's estate is not pending or has not been granted in any jurisdiction.
- The affiant, as successor of the decedent, is entitled to the payment of any sums of money due and owing the decedent and to the delivery of all instruments evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action belonging to the decedent.

Name (Type or Print) <i>Marlys J. Thorsrud</i>	Affiant's Legal Signature (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)	

NOTE: The filing of a false affidavit is a Class A Misdemeanor punishable by a maximum penalty of \$1,000 and/or one year in jail (North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 12.1-11)).