

How to fill out Plate Gift Letter — Plate Gift Letter

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Rhode Island · written against Plate Gift Letter (no revision printed), issued under 280-RICR-30-10-1

/forms/rhode-island/plate-gift-letter/

The only sanctioned way a Rhode Island plate moves from one person to another, and the reason it needs a form at all is that selling one is illegal. The DMV's regulation on plate transfers prohibits an exchange of money or other articles of value in consideration of a transfer of vehicle registration plates - so a plate changes hands as a gift, in writing, or it does not change hands.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank Plate Gift Letter from the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles at <https://dmv.ri.gov/media/1821/download?f=ri-plate-gift-letter.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	Date of gift	One box at the head of the plate letter. Watch out: Line it up with whatever else is happening the same week. If the car is being sold and the plate kept in the family, the plate gift and the registration cancellation belong on the same day.
2	YOU	Print and sign as the primary registered owner	Two rules, both marked must be the primary registered owner. Watch out: Primary means the first name on the registration certificate, not either of two co-owners. If the plate is on a jointly registered car, check which of you the DMV records as primary before signing.
3	YOU	The plate being gifted	Plate number, plate type and plate design, on three short boxes. Watch out: Design is a separate field from type because Rhode Island has run several general-issue designs and dozens of charity plates. Write what is on the metal.
4	YOU	Name the recipient	Printed name on one rule. Watch out: As it appears on their licence. The plate is going onto a registration in that name, so a shortened version creates a mismatch at the counter.
5	YOU	The relation of recipient	One rule under the name, and the last entry on the sheet. Watch out: Check it against the note at the foot before writing. This form's immediate family reaches grandparents and grandchildren; a relation outside the list can still receive a non-preferred plate, but a preferred plate goes through the Governor's Office instead.

What gets this one rejected

- A letter signed by a co-owner rather than by the primary registered owner - the instruction appears twice, once under the printed name and once under the signature.
- Money changing hands. The DMV's regulation prohibits it expressly and prices the consequence: immediate suspension and revocation of the plates in question, as well as any other penalties provided by law.
- A preferred plate being gifted outside the immediate family on this letter. Those go to the Office of the Governor at the State House rather than to the DMV.
- A blank relation line, which is the only place the gift is justified.
- Using this letter for the plate that is already on a vehicle being gifted - that plate is handled in the plate block of the Vehicle Gift Letter instead.
- A plate type or design left out. Rhode Island has enough plate designs in circulation that the number alone does not identify one.

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

Read off Plate Gift Letter (no revision printed) and the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles's own pages, current as of 2026-08-23. Plain-language help with a form, not legal advice — where this and the agency differ, the agency governs. sellmycarhub.com

PLATE GIFT LETTER

1 — **DATE OF GIFT:** 08/22/2026

NAME OF THE PERSON GIFTING THE PLATE

2 — Lucienne R. Sirois

FULL NAME (PRINT) – MUST BE THE PRIMARY REGISTERED OWNER

SIGNATURE – MUST BE THE PRIMARY REGISTERED OWNER

THE PLATE BEING GIFTED

3 — ZC-486 Passenger Wave
 PLATE PLATE TYPE PLATE DESIGN

NAME OF THE PERSON RECEIVING THE PLATE

Ondine M. Sirois

NAME OF RECIPIENT (PRINT)

Daughter

RELATION OF RECIPIENT

IMPORTANT

- **Immediate family members** defined as spouse/domestic partners, children, siblings, parents, grandparents, and grandchildren (including stepchildren, stepsiblings, stepparents, step-grandparents, and step-grandchildren) requires this plate letter if gifting a preferred or non-preferred plate.
- **Non-immediate** family members gifting **non-preferred** plates may use this gift letter to gift a plate.
- **Non-immediate** family members gifting a **preferred** plate **must** contact the Office of Governor, State House Room 144, 82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903. Phone: (401) 222-2080. Fax: (401) 222-8096. Email: preferredplates@governor.ri.gov