

How to fill out Sole Heir Affidavit — Affidavit and Assignment of Title - Sole Heir Affidavit

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Rhode Island · written against Sole Heir Affidavit (Rev 07/20), issued under R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-3.1-14

For a car left by somebody who died without an executor and without probate. It is not a supporting document - the DMV's own instruction is that this affidavit replaces the transfer of ownership on the back of the title, which should now be left blank. The heir swears they are the sole heir, assigns the vehicle straight to a purchaser, and discloses the mileage in the same breath.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank Sole Heir Affidavit from the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles at <https://dmv.ri.gov/media/431/download?f=ri-sole-heir-affidavit.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	Name the decedent and the date of death	Two rules in the opening sentence, sworn under penalty of perjury. Watch out: Spell the name as the certificate of title or the registration spells it, then check it against the death certificate you are attaching. Those two documents are what the Research Office reconciles.
2	YOU	Read the sole-heir paragraph before you sign anything	A printed declaration that you are the sole heir under Rhode Island law, that no letters testamentary or of administration have been issued, and that no petition is pending. Watch out: If probate has been opened, or an executor has been appointed, this is the wrong form entirely - the administrator signs the title as seller and the DMV's Transfer at Death route applies.
3	YOU	The vehicle	Year, make and identification number, after the printed statement that there are no liens or encumbrances on it. Watch out: That statement is part of what you are swearing. A car with a loan outstanding cannot go on this affidavit at all.
4	YOU	Assign and warrant title to the purchaser	Printed name, residence address and signature of whoever is taking the car. Watch out: This block is doing the work the back of a certificate normally does. Write the buyer's name off their licence, and have them sign it where you can see.
5	YOU	The odometer reading	Whole miles, with the two numbered alternatives beneath - in excess of mechanical limits, or not the actual mileage with the odometer discrepancy warning. Watch out: The federal warning printed above the line is the real one: failure to complete or providing a false statement may result in fines and/or imprisonment. An heir who does not know the car's history still has to write what the dial says.
6	YOU	Sign as heir, and state the relationship	One of three paired rules - signature on the left, relationship to decedent on the right. Watch out: Daughter, son, brother. If more than one person is swearing this, each of them uses their own pair of rules and each states their own relationship.
7	YOU	Answer the disclosure question	Yes or no on release of personal information from the motor vehicle record. Watch out: It is about the record rather than about the estate, and it is easy to tick through without reading. Decide it deliberately.
8	OTHER	Swear it in front of a notary	The jurat at the foot: subscribed and sworn this day, with the notary's signature and commission expiration date. Watch out: The commission expiration date is marked mandatory on the form. A Rhode Island notary's stamp has to be inked, not embossed.
9	YOU	Attach a certified copy of the death certificate	The line in capitals across the bottom of the sheet. Watch out: Certified, not a photocopy. On the DMV's separate Transfer at Death route an original is asked for and copied at the counter, which is worth knowing before you post the only one you have.

What gets this one rejected

- An affidavit filed without a death certificate. The line across the foot is in capitals: CERTIFIED COPY OF DEATH CERTIFICATE REQUIRED WITH THIS DOCUMENT.
- An estate that has been through probate. The sworn declaration is that no letters testamentary or letters of administration have been issued and no petition is pending - where an executor or administrator exists, the DMV's Transfer at Death route applies instead and the administrator signs the title as seller.
- A vehicle with a lien on it. The affidavit states there are no liens or encumbrances, and there is no block to release one.
- Both the affidavit and the back of the title completed. The DMV's instruction is that this affidavit replaces the transfer of ownership on the back of the title, which should now be left blank.
- A missing relationship. Each heir's signature has a relationship to decedent rule beside it and the affidavit's whole claim rests on them.
- An un-notarised affidavit, or one with the commission expiration date left blank - the form marks it mandatory.
- A mileage figure carried to a tenth, in a block that prints no tenths beside the line.

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

Read off Sole Heir Affidavit (Rev 07/20) and the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles's own pages, current as of 2026-08-23. Plain-language help sellmycarhub.com
with a form, not legal advice — where this and the agency differ, the agency governs.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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AFFIDAVIT AND ASSIGNMENT OF TITLE – SOLE HEIR AFFIDAVIT

Now come(s) the undersigned, averring under penalty of perjury that Alcide J. Sirois NAME OF DECEDENT
passed away on 03/14/2026 DATE OF DEATH

That under the laws of the State of Rhode Island (I/We) am/are the sole heir(s) of the decedent. That no letters testamentary or letters of administration upon the estate of the decedent have been issued, and that no petition therefore is pending.

And further state there are no liens or encumbrances on the motor vehicle described as a:

2012 YEAR Honda MAKE 5J6RE4H55CL053824 VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)

And hereby assign and warrant title to this vehicle to:

Purchaser's printed name: Isolde N. Chartier

Residence Address: 12 Hopeworth Street, Bristol, RI 02809

Purchaser's signature: Isolde Chartier

Federal and State laws require that you state the mileage upon transfer of ownership and failure to complete or providing a false statement may result in fines and/or imprisonment.

(I/We) certify the odometer reads 96,204 (no tenths) miles and to the best of my knowledge reflects the actual mileage of the vehicle unless one of the following statements is checked:

- ☐ 1. The mileage state is in excess of its mechanical limits.
☐ 2. The odometer reading is not the actual mileage. Warning - Odometer Discrepancy.

Signature of heirs:

Relationship to Decedent:

Daughter

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY MAKE APPLICATION FOR ASSIGNMENT OF TITLE (SOLE HEIR AFFIDAVIT), AND DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE ON THIS APPLICATION ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

PERSONAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN YOUR MOTOR VEHICLE RECORD WILL BE DISCLOSED ONLY IF THE STATE HAS OBTAINED THE EXPRESS CONSENT OF THE PERSON TO WHOM SUCH PERSONAL INFORMATION PERTAINS.

DO YOU CONSENT TO SUCH DISCLOSURE? ☐ YES ☒ NO

Subscribed and sworn to me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

SIGNATURE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

COMMISSION EXPIRATION DATE (mandatory)

CERTIFIED COPY OF DEATH CERTIFICATE REQUIRED WITH THIS DOCUMENT