

How to fill out Form 1203 — Bonded Title Request Form

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South Dakota · written against Form 1203 (no revision printed), issued under South Dakota Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division, submitted to the Pierre office under SDCL 32-3-64.1

The car in the shelterbelt with no title and nobody left to ask. South Dakota's bonded route is narrower than most states': SDCL 32-3-64.1 opens it only where the vehicle is older than thirty years, no record exists for it, and there is no bill of sale. A vehicle eleven years old or more with no record but with a valid bill of sale goes down a different and much cheaper road under s. 32-3-64. This form starts the bonded process - it goes to the Motor Vehicle Division in Pierre with a \$2 fee for the record search, not to a county treasurer - and the department then runs a nationwide title search and a National Crime Information Center check before it will value the vehicle.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank Form 1203 from the South Dakota Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division at <https://sddor.seamlessdocs.com/f/1203?f=1203.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 details and county	Name, address, identification number, county, phone and email. The county matters because the county treasurer finishes the process later. Watch out: Use contact details that will still work in a year. The department's own outside limit on this process is twenty-four months from the day the form is submitted.
2	YOU	The vehicle, in detail	Type, VIN, year, make, model, trim level, body style, weight and cylinders - more detail than any other South Dakota form asks for. Watch out: A pre-1981 vehicle has a shorter VIN than seventeen characters, and that is correct rather than a transcription error. Copy it exactly as it is stamped.
3	YOU	Operational, complete, and previously branded	Three yes-or-no questions with explanation blocks beneath them, covering whether it runs, whether it has all its original major components, and whether it has ever been branded. Watch out: Answer the branding question honestly even about another state. The department is about to run a nationwide title search and a National Crime Information Center check, and a surprise there is worse than a disclosure here.
4	YOU	Your estimate of the value	A figure, with supporting documentation attached. The bond will be at least one and a half times whatever the department settles on. Watch out: The form tells you plainly that your number may not be the one used. Attach the evidence rather than arguing the figure.
5	YOU	How you acquired it, with names and dates	The narrative block. The statute wants the facts surrounding the applicant obtaining possession of the vehicle. Watch out: This is the block the whole application turns on. Vague possession is what the bond exists to insure against, and a clear account shortens everything that follows.
6	YOU	Photographs, and the \$2 declaration	Colour photos of the front, driver's side, rear, passenger side and the VIN, plus the safety sticker if present; then the declaration and the \$2 record-search fee. Watch out: Photograph the VIN so it is legible, not so it is in shot. If the pictures do not answer the department's questions, the next step is a physical inspection by a division agent.

What gets this one rejected

- A vehicle that is not older than thirty years. The statute's threshold is explicit, and the department's own page repeats it - a vehicle 30 years old or older with no record on file.
- A vehicle you do have a bill of sale for. The bonded route is for the case where there is none; with one, an eleven-year-old vehicle goes through s. 32-3-64 with an affidavit instead.
- A record that turns out to exist. The department conducts a nationwide title search and checks the National Crime Information Center, and a record found ends the bonded route.
- An acquisition story with no names and no dates. The form asks for both, and the statute wants the facts surrounding the applicant obtaining possession of the vehicle.
- Missing photographs. Five views are named on the form, and where they do not answer the department's questions the vehicle may need to be brought to an inspection.
- Letting it run past twenty-four months. If the title application process is not completed within 24 months from the date the request form is submitted, the request is considered abandoned and a new request form is required.

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



State of South Dakota
Motor Vehicle Division
445 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3541 <http://dor.sd.gov>

Form# 1203

Bonded Title Request Form

1 **A** **Applicant Information**

Name: Marlene D. Tschetter Address: 1408 Medary Ave

City: Brookings State: SD Zip Code: 57006

DL#/SSN/FEIN: 04186273 County: Brookings

Contact Phone #: (605) 555-0148 Email Address: m.tschetter@example.com

2 **B** **Vehicle Information**

Vehicle Type (passenger, travel trailer, trailer, truck or motorcycle): Truck

VIN: F10GRB47219 Year: 2026 Make: Ford Model: F-100

Trim Level (SS, RT, LT, SE, etc.): Custom Body Style (coupe, sedan, pickup etc.): Pickup

Weight: 3,600 Cylinders: 8

3 **C** **Questions**

Is this vehicle operational? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If no, please explain:

Engine turns by hand but the truck has not run since 2004. Fuel tank, brake lines and wiring loom all need replacing.

Does this vehicle have all original major component parts? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, please explain:

I have knowledge the vehicle was previously branded junked, salvaged, rebuilt, or flood in this or any other state.

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain:

4

What do you believe the value of the vehicle to be: \$4,200.00

Note: Attach any supporting documentation to support your estimated value of the vehicle. The estimated value submitted may not be the amount used for valuation.

How did you acquire the vehicle? (Include names and dates.)

Left in a shelterbelt near Bruce by Harlan J. Aadland, who died 11 March 2009. Moved to my yard in April 2011 when the land sold. No title was ever found and no bill of sale exists.

5

Note: Please submit color photos of the front, drivers' side, rear, passenger side, and VIN of this vehicle. If applicable, please include a photo of the federal safety sticker. If the Department has further questions regarding your vehicle, following the review of the submitted photos, the vehicle may need to be brought to an inspection for further verification.

6 **D** **Unsworn Declaration**

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of South Dakota that the foregoing is true and correct. Along with this form I am submitting \$2.00 for the record search to be performed on this vehicle.

Executed on the 26 day of the August (Month), _____ (Year) at Brookings, SD

Printed Name: Marlene D. Tschetter Signature: _____