

RV-F1310401 — Application for Certification of Ownership: a filled-in example. Amber is what you write; grey is a block somebody else completes. The line-by-line notes follow. [Back to the walkthrough](#)



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Application for Certification of Ownership

PURPOSE: The Application for Certification of Ownership is used when the motor vehicle registrant is lacking proper documentation to title a vehicle in Tennessee. The vehicle must have a fair market value of \$3,000 or less or the vehicle must be at least 30 years old (regardless of the fair market value). (Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-3-103)

INSTRUCTIONS: The application must be completed in its entirety and returned to the applicants local county clerk office. Additional steps are required on page 2 of the application if the vehicle is less than 30 years old.

A. Applicant/Vehicle Information:

1 Name: Loretta J. Bramblett Phone: (865) 555-0173 Email: l.bramblett@example.com
 Street Address: 1418 Cruze Hollow Rd City: Maryville State: TN Zip: 37803
 2 Vehicle Identification Number: 1FTEF14N5RNA48219 Make: Ford Year Model: 1994
 Model: F-150 Body Type: Pickup Mobile Home Length and Width: _____

B. Purchase Information:

I certify the above described vehicle is free and clear of all liens except those identified herein and will guarantee title to any future owner. I also certify the fair market value of the above described vehicle is less than or equal to \$3,000 or the above vehicle is at least 30 years old.

The above described vehicle was purchased on 04/18/2026 from Ottis W. Sharp 3
 whose address is: Street Address: 622 Six Mile Rd City: Louisville
 State: TN Zip: 37777 Phone: (865) 555-0164 for \$ 1,200.00 4
 Lien Holder: _____ Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

C. STATEMENT OF FACTS:

Applicant cannot furnish proper documents for the following reason(s): None
 5 The truck was bought at a farm dispersal sale. The seller had it from his father and no Tennessee certificate of title was ever
issued in either name; the only paper is a handwritten receipt, which is attached.

D. Vehicle Value Statement: If the vehicle is less than 30 years old, and the purchase price was more than \$3,000, but the fair market value is now \$3,000 or less, I certify the market value is \$3,000 or less for the following reason(s): _____

E. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Under the penalties of perjury, I swear that the foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and this document correctly state the total amount of consideration for the transfer of this vehicle.

6 Loretta J. Bramblett
 Signature of Certifier

05/06/2026
 Date

How to fill out RV-F1310401 — Application for Certification of Ownership

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</forms/tennessee/rvf1310401-certification-of-ownership/>

Tennessee · written against RV-F1310401 (Rev 2-23), issued under Tenn. Code Ann. 55-3-103

For a vehicle you own and cannot prove you own: no certificate, no assigned title, nothing but a receipt. Tennessee splits that problem by value and by age. A vehicle worth \$3,000 or less, or any vehicle at least thirty years old whatever it is worth, goes down this route. Anything newer and worth more goes to the surety bond instead, and the form prints the chart that makes the decision.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank RV-F1310401 from the Tennessee Department of Revenue at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/revenue/documents/forms/titlereg/f1310401Fill-in.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	Work out which side of the chart you are on	Page two prints it: \$3,000 or less, or thirty years or older, is this form. \$3,001 and above and under thirty years old is a bond. Watch out: Value is fair market value, which the form defines as the price the vehicle would fetch between a willing buyer and a willing seller. What you paid for it is a different number and block D exists precisely for that gap.
2	YOU	Block A, you and the vehicle	Your details, then vehicle identification number, make, year model, model and body type. Watch out: If the VIN plate is missing or unreadable, this form is not the next step - a replacement VIN application is, and it goes in first.
3	YOU	Block B, where it came from	The date of purchase, the seller's name, full address and telephone, and what you paid. The certification above it warrants the vehicle free of liens and guarantees title to any future owner. Watch out: Write a real address and a real telephone number if you have them. Where the previous owner is known, page two wants certified letters going to them, and a blank here reads as an unknown owner.
4	YOU	Block C, why there are no documents	Three lines to explain what happened to the title. Watch out: Say what actually happened and keep it factual. The one explanation that is specifically ruled out is that the seller did not furnish a title when you bought it - the Department calls that a civil matter between the two of you.
5	YOU	Block D, only if the value fell	For a vehicle under thirty years old bought for more than \$3,000 that is now worth \$3,000 or less. Watch out: This is the flood, fire and long-abandoned block. A dealer appraisal or a written valuation attached to it does more work than three lines of prose.
6	YOU	Sign under the perjury line	The signature of the certifier and the date, at the foot of page one. Watch out: Then read page two once more before you seal the envelope. Most rejections here are documents that were never enclosed rather than answers that were wrong.

What gets this one rejected

- A vehicle worth more than \$3,000 and under thirty years old. The chart on page two sends it to a bond, and no amount of explanation moves it back.
- Green cards missing. Where the previous owner is known, the return receipts are the evidence, not the fact that letters were posted.
- No VIN verification. It has to come from a law enforcement officer or a licensed dealer, and a pencil tracing of the plate is one of the two accepted forms.
- A bill of sale that is not notarised. Page two asks for a notarised bill of sale from the last registered owner, or a notarised statement from the seller saying why the vehicle was never titled in their name.
- The reason that the previous seller simply never handed over the title. The forms page says in as many words that this does not qualify for the certification process and is a civil matter under Tenn. Code Ann. 55-3-127.
- Rebuilt work with no photographs. A rebuilt vehicle needs pictures of the pre-repair state, or post-repair pictures with a notarised statement explaining their absence.

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Read off RV-F1310401 (Rev 2-23) and the Tennessee Department of Revenue'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.

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