

How to fill out a Texas title

Form 130-U and the assigned Texas title · 4 of 13 boxes are the seller's · rules as of 2026-08-23

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/forms/texas/certificate-of-title/

This sheet is not the title. It is the checklist to keep beside one. Everything here is signed under one line: State law makes falsifying information a third degree felony. The instructions open by telling the applicant to refer to the ownership document assigned to you by the seller. That is the title, properly assigned - the 130-U transcribes from it, it does not replace it.

Who has to sign

Seller(s), donor(s) or trader(s)	The signature, printed name and date of everyone shown as an owner on the title being surrendered.
Applicant / owner	The buyer signs, prints their name and dates it. This is the one signature Texas will not accept as a copy.
Additional applicant(s) / owner(s)	A third row, for a car going into two names.
Yours may be a fax, theirs may not	The form says an application may be reproduced or faxed and the seller's signature may be reproduced or faxed - but a completed form must contain the original signature of the buyer.
A company or business	Signs in the entity name, and box 14 takes an FEIN or EIN rather than a photo ID number.
Where a lien is being released	The lienholder signs the title's own release section, a VTR-266, or their letterhead. All three need original ink and a date; a copy is accepted on none of them.

Every box, in the order you meet it

#	WHO	BOX	WHAT GOES IN IT
0	YOU	Before any box: go with them	The TxDMV's first instruction to a Texas seller is to accompany the buyer to the county tax office to ensure a title application is actually filed. Watch out: This is the step that decides everything below it. If the buyer never files, the vehicle stays in your name - and the TxDMV's own warning is that you could be held responsible for tickets, toll violations or even crimes committed with it. A tax office representative can also tell you both, before anything is submitted, whether the title being signed over is correct and whether it carries salvage or legal issues.
1	BUYER	Applying for: Title & Registration	One of four boxes at the very top. An ordinary private purchase is Title & Registration. Watch out: Title Only means the plates and registration have to be surrendered under Transportation Code 501.0275. It is not the box for a car the buyer intends to drive.
2	BUYER	Boxes 1 to 7, the vehicle	VIN, year, make, body style, model and colours - all copied from the title you assigned, not from the car. Watch out: Body style is an abbreviation: PK for a pickup, CP for a coupe, 2D for a two-door sedan. TxDMV publishes the full list as Form VTR-249.
3	YOU	Boxes 9 and 10, the odometer	Current mileage in whole numbers, no tenths, and then three tick boxes: Not Actual, Exceeds Mechanical Limits, Exempt. Watch out: The instructions say the reading and the brand come from what the seller disclosed on the ownership document. Exempt is federal, and it is twenty years for anything built in 2011 or later - not ten.
4	BUYER	Boxes 13 to 15, who is applying	Individual, business, government, trust or non-profit; a photo ID number or an FEIN; and which of eleven ID types it came from. Watch out: Every title application must include one of those IDs. A buyer who turns up at the county without one is turned away, whatever else is in order.
5	BUYER	Boxes 16 to 18, the buyer	Legal first, middle and last name with a suffix if there is one, a second applicant if the car is going into two names, and the mailing address. Watch out: Legal name, as the instructions put it - not the version used on the classified advert.
6	BUYER	Box 19, county of residence	The county the buyer legally lives in. Watch out: This is what decides whether the title fee is \$28 or \$33. It is not necessarily where the application gets filed - Texas accepts four different counties, and they are listed further down this page.
7	YOU	Box 20, previous owner	Your name, city and state as they appear on the assigned title. Watch out: Name, city and state only - the form does not want your street address, and adding one does not help.
8	BUYER	Boxes 30 to 34, liens	Whether there is more than one lien, whether an electronic title is wanted, the certified lienholder ID and first lien date, and the lienholder name and address. Watch out: If there is no lien, the instructions say to indicate NONE. A blank is not the same answer - and box 31 cannot be ticked if box 30 is.

#	WHO	BOX	WHAT GOES IN IT
9	BUYER	Box 38, sales and use tax	The sales price on line (a), the taxable amount on (d), and 6.25 per cent of it on (e). Watch out: The flat alternatives sit in the right-hand column. The gift one is narrow - immediate family, a guardian, a decedent estate or a qualifying 501(c)(3) - and it needs the Comptroller joint affidavit, Form 14-317, filed in person by the donor or the recipient.
10	BUYER	The title application fee	A tick box printed as \$28 or \$33 Application Fee for Texas Title. Watch out: The form itself says to contact your county tax assessor-collector for the correct one. A separate \$2.50 moves the current registration to the new owner, on top of this.
11	YOU	Signature of seller, donor or trader	Your signature, printed name and date, in the first of three rows. The TxDMV asks the seller to provide a signed 130-U with the sales price clearly shown - so this is your form too, not only theirs. Watch out: This is the row that may be faxed or photocopied. It is the only signature on any Texas form here that may be, and it is why a seller who genuinely cannot get to the county office is not stuck.
12	BUYER	Signature of applicant / owner	The buyer signs, prints and dates the second row. A third row exists for an additional owner. Watch out: Original ink, no exceptions - and then the whole package has to reach a county office within 30 days of the date of sale.

Before you pick up the pen

- **Black or blue ink** — The power of attorney names them and rules everything else out. Nothing in Texas motor vehicle paperwork wants pencil.
- **No alterations** — The VTR-271 says no alterations are allowed on the form. Not crossed out, not initialled, not tidied up - a fresh copy is free.
- **Your name as the title has it** — The transfer notification asks for your first name as shown on the Texas title, not as you usually write it.
- **Whole miles, no tenths** — Both the 130-U and the salvage application say it in the box label.
- **Original where it says original** — A release of lien, a power of attorney and a certified copy application all require original ink. The buyer's signature on the 130-U does too - only yours may be faxed.
- **Read the line above the signature** — State law makes falsifying information a third degree felony. It is printed on nearly every form here.

Every rule here is transcribed from TxDMV Detailed Instructions for Application for Texas Title and/or Registration (VTR-130-UIF), Rev 05/26 and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles's own pages. Plain-language help with a form, not legal advice — where our wording and the agency's differ, theirs governs.