

How to fill out VTR-121 — Beneficiary Designation for a Motor Vehicle

Texas · written against VTR-121 (Rev 05/18), issued under Texas Transportation Code 501.031

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/forms/texas/vtr-121-beneficiary-designation/

Names the person a car passes to when you die, on the title itself, without probate and without the affidavit of heirship the rest of this section is about. It is the cheapest piece of estate planning a Texas car owner can do, and almost nobody knows the form exists.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank VTR-121 from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles at https://www.txdmv.gov/sites/default/files/form_files/VTR-121.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	Vehicle information	VIN, year, make, body style and model. Title or document number and plate if you have them to hand. Watch out: Take the VIN from the title. This designation attaches to one specific vehicle, not to your cars in general.
2	YOU	Owner information	Your name exactly as the Texas title shows it, your address, and an optional email and phone. Watch out: If the title names two owners, both go here and both sign at the bottom.
3	YOU	Designated beneficiary	The beneficiary's complete legal name and address. Their ID details are optional but help the county match the person later. Watch out: One beneficiary. This form has no room for two and no provision for splitting a car.
4	YOU	Certification	Tick whether you are designating, changing or revoking, then print your name, sign and date. Watch out: Read the paragraph beside the box before signing. It is where the form tells you a later will cannot undo this.

What gets this one rejected

- A nickname or an initial where the beneficiary's name goes. The heading says it: must be complete legal name.
- Only one owner signing when the title has two. Both owners sign a joint designation, and the transfer happens on the last surviving owner's death.
- Filing it after the owner has died. It is a designation made by a living owner. Once the owner is gone the route is the heirship affidavit or probate.
- Ticking more than one of the three certification boxes. Designate, change or revoke - one of them.

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

Read off VTR-121 (Rev 05/18) and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles's own pages, current as of 2026-08-23. Plain-language help with a form, sellmycarhub.com not legal advice — where this and the agency differ, the agency governs.



Beneficiary Designation for a Motor Vehicle

Vehicle Information

Vehicle Identification Number 1G4GC5E38BF167294	Year 2011	Make Buick	Body Style 4D	Model LaCrosse
Title/Document Number (if available)	License Plate State and Number (if any) TX CVR-8210			

Owner Information

First Name Odette	Middle Name M.	Last Name Fontenot	Suffix (if any)
Additional Owner (if applicable) First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix (if any)
Address 2207 W Huisache Ave, San Antonio, TX 78201	City	State	Zip
Email (optional)	Phone Number (optional)		

Designated Beneficiary Information – Must be complete legal name

First Name Dale	Middle Name W.	Last Name Fontenot	Suffix (if any)
Address 1418 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78212	City	State	Zip

Designated Beneficiary Government Issued Identification (ID) Information – Optional

ID Type (driver license, ID card, passport, etc.)	Jurisdiction Issuing ID	ID Number	ID Expiration
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Certification – State law makes falsifying information a third degree felony

Select one:

- ☒ I, the owner(s) listed above, am designating the beneficiary listed above to whom interest of the motor vehicle listed above will transfer upon my death, or upon the last surviving joint owner's death. I understand this designation does not provide the beneficiary any interest in this motor vehicle during my life or affect the interest or right of a secured or unsecured creditor or future creditor. I understand a will does not revoke or supersede this designation regardless of when the will is made.
- ☐ I, the owner(s) listed above, am changing the beneficiary designation from the individual currently reflected on the motor vehicle to the designated beneficiary listed above. I understand this designation does not provide the new beneficiary any interest in this motor vehicle during my life or affect the interest or right of a secured or unsecured creditor or future creditor. I understand a will does not revoke or supersede this designation regardless of when the will is made.
- ☐ I, the owner(s) listed above, am revoking the beneficiary designation of the designated beneficiary listed above and am not designating a new beneficiary.

Odette M. Fontenot Signature of Owner	Odette M. Fontenot Printed Name (Same as Signature)	03/14/2024 Date
 Signature of Additional Owner (if applicable)	 Printed Name (Same as Signature)	 Date