

Florida

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Division of Motorist Services

PROCEDURE RS-65	SUBJECT: REFUNDS FOR LICENSE PLATES, DECALS, OR INITIAL REGISTRATION FEES
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DESCRIPTION AND USE:
 THIS PROCEDURE PROVIDES INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS TO ASSIST TAX COLLECTOR EMPLOYEES, LICENSE PLATE AGENCY EMPLOYEES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES FOR THE REFUND OF FEES FOR LICENSE PLATES, DECALS, AND INITIAL REGISTRATIONS.

I. PROVISIONS OF LAW:

Section 215.26, Florida Statutes, provides that an applicant must apply for a refund within 3 years after the right to the refund has accrued or else the right is barred.

Section 320.072 (3), Florida Statutes, authorizes a refund to anyone who, within 3 months of paying the initial registration fee, sells, transfers, or otherwise disposes of a motor vehicle as defined in section 320.08(2), (3), or (9)(c) or (d).

Section 320.15 (2), Florida Statutes, provides that a motor vehicle registrant who renewed a motor vehicle registration during the advance renewal period pursuant to s. 320.071, F.S., and surrenders the license plate for the vehicle before the end of the renewal period, (for a natural person, at midnight on the owner’s birthday) may apply for a refund of license taxes assessed in s. 320.08, Florida Statutes.

NOTE: Form HSMV 83363, Application for License Plate/Vessel Registration or Decal Refund, should not be provided to the customer unless the customer qualifies for the refund as outlined in section II.

II. REFUNDS:

A. The license tax paid on a motor vehicle, vessel, or mobile home may be refunded only if one of the following circumstances applies:

1. The license plate or vessel/mobile home decal has been surrendered to the tax collector, license plate agency, or the department prior to the effective date of registration.

Revision(s) to this Procedure: Added new statute information, revised Section II A. 1 Example and Misc. item A with renewal period/refund information, and updated Bureau name for refunds.

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STATE OF FLORIDA
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Example: The registrant's birthday is 10-15-12. The registrant renews the registration early during the advance renewal period on 08-01-12. The registrant surrenders the license plate on 10-05-12, prior to the end of the renewal period, which is midnight on the registrant's birthday. In this instance, the registrant would be due a refund less any applicable service fees.

NOTE: In the above example, if the owner renewed the vehicle for a two-year period, the full two-year fees, less any applicable service fees, would be refunded.

2. Two registrations were issued on the same motor vehicle, mobile home, or vessel during the same registration period.

Example: A mobile home decal was purchased on 12-31-11 for the registration year ending 2012. The mobile home was reclassified as Real Property and a Real Property (RP) decal was purchased on 3-08-12 indicating that the mobile home is being taxed as Real Property for the calendar year 2012. The registrant would be due a full refund on the Mobile Home (MH) decal, less any applicable service fees.

NOTE: If a motor vehicle is traded into a dealership and the dealer requests a new license plate be issued rather than transferring the license plate from the old motor vehicle, the owner must surrender the new license plate along with an accurately completed form HSMV 83363. FRVIS must be updated to reflect the previous license plate on the newly acquired motor vehicle.

3. A refund of the Initial Registration Fee may be granted to the owner of a motor vehicle who, within 3 months of paying the fee, sells, transfers, or otherwise disposes of a motor vehicle registered in their name.

Example: The Initial Registration Fee was paid on 07-12-12, but the motor vehicle was sold on 08-15-12.

4. An error was made when the registration transaction was originally processed causing incorrect fees to be charged or an incorrect motor vehicle to be renewed.

B. When applying for a refund of registration fees, the following is required:

1. Form HSMV 83363, Application for License Plate/Vessel Registration or Decal Refund, (REV. 08/03/12), properly completed and submitted to:

Bureau of Accounting
Refund Section, MS# 63
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0624

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<p>2. The license plate and/or decal and registration must be submitted with the application. If the license plate and/or decal and registration have been surrendered to a tax collector's office or license plate agency, proof of this must be submitted.</p> <p>C. When applying for a refund of the Initial Registration Fee, the following is required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Form HSMV 83363, Application for License Plate/Vessel Registration or Decal Refund, (REV. 08/03/12), properly completed and submitted to: <p style="text-align:center"><u>Bureau of Accounting</u> Refund Section, MS# 63 2900 Apalachee Parkway Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0624</p>2. A copy of the motor vehicle registration, MVR Report, or FRVIS screen print indicating the Initial Registration Fee was paid.3. A bill of sale or a copy of the front and back of title indicating the motor vehicle has been transferred. The bill of sale must contain a complete description of the motor vehicle to include the vehicle identification number, year, make, color, selling price, and signatures of the seller and purchaser.4. The license plate and registration of the vehicle being disposed of must be submitted with the application. If the license plate and registration have been surrendered to a tax collector's office or license plate agency, proof of this must be submitted. <p>III. MISCELLANEOUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">A. If a license plate is surrendered after the <u>end of the renewal period (for a natural person, at midnight on the owner's birthday)</u>, the owner is not entitled to a refund. However, if a replacement vehicle is purchased prior to the expiration date of the surrendered plate, the owner may replace the plate and transfer it to the newly acquired vehicle.B. If the license plate/decal is submitted to the tax collector's office for cancellation, the original application for refund, signed by the owner, may be scanned and submitted via email by tax collector personnel to mvrefunds@flhsmv.gov. All required documents must be included with the application.C. When a license plate/decal is surrendered to a tax collector or license plate agency, FRVIS must be updated to reflect this. The customer should be provided with the registration showing the license plate was surrendered. (Refer to RS-43 for additional information.)	
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