



Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Division of Motorist Services

PROCEDURE: RS-43	SUBJECT: SURRENDER OF A LICENSE PLATE BY OWNER
DESCRIPTION AND USE: THIS PROCEDURE PROVIDES INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS TO ASSIST EMPLOYEES OF THE TAX COLLECTOR, LICENSE PLATE AGENT AND FLORIDA HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES (FLHSMV) IN RECEIVING A LICENSE PLATE SURRENDERED BY THE OWNER.	
<p>I. WHERE TO SURRENDER A LICENSE PLATE:</p> <p>An owner/registant may surrender their license plate and decal to their local tax collector's office, license plate agent or driver license office. Owners/registrants may submit the license plate and decal in person or by mail. If surrendering by mail, include a signed written statement which specifies the reason for surrendering the license plate and decal (such as cancelling insurance, moved out of state, etc.) and a copy of the owner's/registant's photo identification. If surrendering in person identification must be provided. If a person other than the owner/registant is surrendering the license plate and decal, their photo identification must be provided and scanned with the appropriate affidavit or other document(s) provided or maintained as a paper record in the office for one year.</p> <p>Visit the following link for addresses to your local county tax collector's office or license plate agent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.flhsmv.gov/locations/.</p> <p>II. WHEN TO SURRENDER A LICENSE PLATE:</p> <p>A. When an owner/registant intends to cancel the insurance on a vehicle that has a valid license plate and decal, they should first surrender the license plate and decal.</p> <p>B. When an owner/registant disposes of a vehicle (sells, donates, etc.) that has a current license plate and decal, they must surrender the license plate and decal or provide a completed form HSMV 82050 Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle, Vessel, Mobile Home to their local tax collector's office or license plate agent to prevent a financial responsibility suspension. See TL-52, Mark Title Sold for more information on form HSMV 82050. Form HSMV 82050 cannot be submitted to a driver license only office.</p> <p>C. If the owner/registant does not surrender their license plate and decal they are responsible for any unauthorized use of the license plate.</p>	
Revision(s) to this procedure: <u>Remove language from General Information (C) "If the customer provides the registration in a driver license only office, stamp or write "cancelled" on the registration and return it to the customer."</u>	
EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately	REVISION DATE: 09/08/20
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<p>D. When a towing or repossession company tows a vehicle with a valid or expired license plate the owner/registant of the vehicle should be allowed to retrieve their license plate. If the owner/registant does not retrieve the license plate the towing or repossession company should surrender the license plate to the local tax collector's office or license plate agent.</p> <p>III. WHEN A LICENSE PLATE IS PHYSICALLY UNAVAILABLE:</p> <p>When the license plate is unavailable for surrender, a perjury clause affidavit is acceptable in lieu of the actual license plate. The owner/registant of the license plate must submit the following to have the license plate cancelled in FRVIS:</p> <p>a. Proof of identity see TL-01.</p> <p>b. A completed and signed perjury clause affidavit containing the license plate number to be cancelled and the reason the license plate is not available for surrender. The processing agency must retain this affidavit for one year. See Exhibit A for an example of a suggested affidavit.</p> <p>c. The clerk processing the cancellation of the surrendered license plate will choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration• License Plate• Surrender LP/Cancel Registration• Enter License Plate Number• Plate Status - Cancelled• Reg Status - Cancelled• Cancel Reason - IP (Insurance Purposes)• FRVIS Comments: Affidavit Submitted: LP Unavailable• Provide FRVIS cancellation receipt to the customer <p>IV. DISPOSAL OF SURRENDERED/CANCELLED/OBSOLETE/DEFACED LICENSE PLATES:</p> <p>All surrendered/cancelled license plates shall be listed on Form HSMV 84003, Receipt and Certificate of Disposal for Obsolete License Plates, along with any obsolete or defaced license plates processed in the agency. These license plates must be packaged for pick up by PRIDE with an original or copy of form HSMV 84003. A copy of the submitted Form HSMV 84003 should be retained in the office until the year-end audit is completed by the county and finalized by FLHSMV Bureau of Accounting.</p>	
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V. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. When the surrendered license plate is an authenticated license plate the owner/registrant may remove the decal and surrender the decal only. The processing clerk should note on the FRVIS comments line "Authenticated plate retained by owner/registrant."
- B. The owner/registrant is responsible for reporting their stolen license plate to law enforcement, see [RS-06](#).
- C. When a license plate is surrendered in a driver license only office, the license plate must be surrendered in FDLIS. FDLIS provides a receipt for the customer which includes the license plate number and proof that the license plate was surrendered.
- D. When a license plate is surrendered in a motor vehicle only office, the license plate must be surrendered in FRVIS. FRVIS provides a receipt for the customer which includes the license plate number and proof that the license plate was surrendered.
- E. When a license plate is surrendered in an office that processes both motor vehicle and driver license transactions, the license plate must be surrendered in FRVIS and FDLIS. The receipt from both systems should be given to the customer.
- F. When a customer qualifies for a refund see [RS-65](#).

Historical Revisions:

08/27/20: Clarified language in section (I). If a person other than the owner/registrant is surrendering the license plate and decal, their photo identification must be provided and scanned with the appropriate affidavit or other document(s) provided or maintained as a paper record in the office for one year.

07/27/18: Added General Information and Historical Revisions section. Removed all Note references. Added link for procedure reference and revised information in Sections I and II.

05/01/13: Revised information and re-lettered items.

EXHIBIT A

LICENSE PLATE UNAVAILABLE FOR SURRENDER AFFIDAVIT

License plate number _____ is not available for surrender due to the following:

- LOST
- DESTROYED
- STOLEN (**Customer must submit a police report or a case number.**)

If found or returned the license plate will not be affixed to any motor vehicle.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing document and that the facts stated in it are true.

Printed Name of Owner/Registrant

Signature of Owner/Registrant

Date

This is a suggested form. This is not a prescribed form.