Storage Lien Procedures

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

Consent

Contract expires for a vehicle left for storage by the owner or an authorized operator.

Non -Consent

Vehicle is stored under a state law or city ordinance without the owner's consent.

More than 5 days of storage charges?

Yes

No

If no, no more than 5 days of storage fees may be assessed.

Always Required

Claimant notifies owner and any applicable lienholder(s) by certified mail, return receipt (or newspaper publication if applicable).

Notice must include:

1) A request to remove the motor vehicle
2) A request for payment
3) The location of the motor vehicle
4) The amount of accrued charges

Notice must be made:

- Within 5 days of contract expiring or obtaining possession if registered in Texas
- Within 14 days of contract expiring or obtaining possession if registered out-of-state

Claimant notifies law enforcement that the vehicle has been abandoned.

Law Enforcement notification may be after the 17th day. If notification is after the 17th day, no storage fees may be accessed.

Law Enforcement must be notified:

- Consent:
  - Between the 11th and 17th day after the contract expires
- Non-consent:
  - Between the 11th and 17th day after the claimant makes the notice to the owner and applicable lienholder(s)

Vehicle can be sold at public sale to the highest bidder if the charges remain unpaid and law enforcement does not take the vehicle into custody before the 31st day after law enforcement is notified.

Sale may occur on or after the 31st day after law enforcement is notified.

Purchaser files title application with county tax assessor-collector.

Application includes:

1) Form 130-U
2) Form VTR-265-S
3) Title and Registration Verification
4) Proof of Notification, if applicable
5) Proof of Law Enforcement Notification
6) Liability Insurance
7) Written, dated contract, if applicable
8) Copy of city ordinance, if applicable
9) Release of lien(s), if applicable
10) Out of State Vehicles, if applicable:
    a. VI-30 (or a Texas Vehicle Inspection Report after March 1, 2015)
    b. Weight Certificate (Commercial Vehicle)

Detailed explanation of procedures and requirements can be found in the TxDMV Motor Vehicle Title Manual or on page 2 of Form VTR-265-S.

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