

Storage & Repair Lien

I own a storage or repair business. A customer has left their vehicle and will not pay the bill. Can I sell their vehicle to pay the bill?

If the vehicle has a North Dakota title or registration:

You must first title the vehicle in your name before it can be sold.

- Complete and submit [SFN 51269 Request for Personal Information](#) with a \$3 fee. **If there is a lienholder listed on the title record you must obtain a lien release. If the lienholder will not release the lien no new title can be issued to you.**
- A certified letter detailing the cost accrued for storage and/or repairs must be mailed to the titled owner. If the vehicle was left by someone other than the titled owner a certified letter must also be sent to that person.
- You must allow 30 days from the receipt of the letter or return of the letter for the owner to respond.

After the required 30 days has passed, the following documentation can be submitted to this division and a title can be issued in your name:

- A completed and signed [SFN 2872 Application for Certificate of Title and Registration of a Motor Vehicle](#).
- A letter of indemnification from the storage or repair facility releasing the State of North Dakota and its agencies from any and all liability.
- A copy of the certified letter and return receipt or the undelivered, returned letter.
- A \$5 title fee and tax in the amount of 5% of the fair market value and registration fees if the vehicle will be driven.

If the vehicle has an out-of-state title or registration:

- You must contact the state where the vehicle was last titled to obtain the owner's information. If you are unable to determine the appropriate state contact your local law enforcement or the Bismarck Motor Vehicle Office for assistance. **If there is a lienholder listed on the title record you must obtain a lien release. If the lienholder will not release the lien no new title can be issued to you.**
- A certified letter detailing the cost accrued for storage and/or repairs must be mailed to the titled owner. If the vehicle was left by someone other than the titled owner a certified letter must also be sent to that person.
- You must allow 30 days from the receipt of the letter or return of the letter for the owner to respond.

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- A copy of the certified letter and return receipt or the undelivered, returned letter.

- A \$5 title fee, \$1.50 Abandoned Disposal fee, tax in the amount of 5% of the fair market value and registration fees if the vehicle will be driven are due.