
FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on buying or selling a used vehicle, please call the Secretary of State Vehicle Services Department at 800-252-8980 or 217-785-3000.

If you have problems with a title or registration on a vehicle you purchased or suspect improper activity by someone trying to sell you a vehicle, please contact the Secretary of State Police in your area.

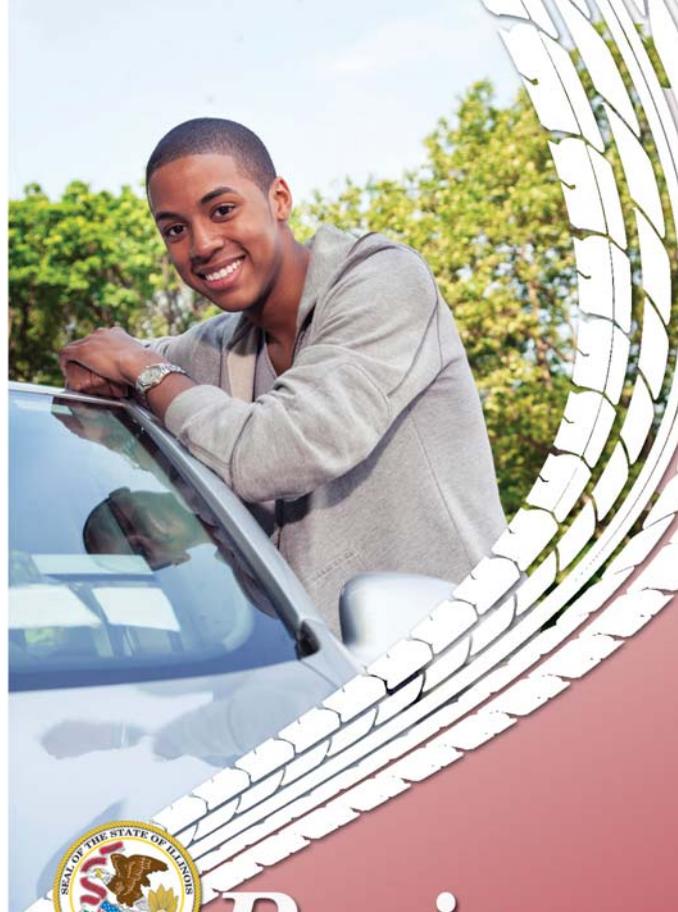
Secretary of State Police District #1
103 W. Roosevelt Rd. • Villa Park, IL 60181
630-693-0551

Secretary of State Police District #2
3214 Auburn St. • Rockford, IL 61101
815-484-8100

Secretary of State Police District #3
421 E. Capitol Ave. • Springfield, IL 62701
217-785-5486

Secretary of State Police District #4
220 S. 12th St. • Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
618-244-8343

Secretary of State Police District #4A
400 W. Main St. • Belleville, IL 62220
618-236-8765



Buying or Selling

A USED VEHICLE

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JESSE WHITE
Illinois Secretary of State

Buying or selling a used vehicle requires attention to detail in order to avoid problems down the road. If you are buying or selling a vehicle, follow these guidelines to ensure that you are following the necessary procedures.

Buying a Used Vehicle

- If you intend to purchase a used vehicle, the Secretary of State strongly urges you to utilize an online national database, such as Carfax, and research a vehicle's history using its Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). Many used car dealers provide such a report to the prospective purchaser as a service.

Many vehicles are illegally rebuilt after another state has determined them to either be a total loss or junk. Once a vehicle has been previously classified as a "junk" or "total loss" in any state, Illinois will not issue a rebuilt title to an Illinois purchaser. Researching a vehicle's history may eliminate the purchase of a vehicle that has been previously deemed "junk" or "total loss."

- Make sure the vehicle's title is provided and that it is signed and dated by the seller.
- Never purchase a vehicle with an altered title. Alterations and erasure marks invalidate a title. Confirm the name on the title matches the name of the seller and the VIN matches the VIN on the vehicle. Also make sure that all previous liens have been released.
- Confirm the VIN on the vehicle. The VIN on the driver's side dash and the sticker on the driver's door frame should match.
- Be aware of notations on the title and vehicle history report, such as Flood, Rebuilt, Specially Constructed, Not Actual Mileage, Mileage Exceeds Mechanical Limits, Inoperable Odometer, etc. If a Salvage Title has been issued on a vehicle, the seller must provide the buyer with a Disclosure of Rebuilt Vehicle form. Salvage vehicles cannot be registered in the state of Illinois.
- Obtain the seller's contact information in case there is a problem with the title or the vehicle.

- Remove the previous owner's license plates. It is illegal to operate a vehicle with someone else's license plates.
- By law, a dealer has 20 days to send your title, transfer and sales tax to the Secretary of State's office. If purchasing a vehicle from a private individual, it is the buyer's responsibility to have the title put in his/her name within 20 days.
- By law, all new and used car dealers are supposed to be licensed with the Secretary of State's office. The license should be displayed by the dealer.

Selling a Used Vehicle

- Remove the license plates on the vehicle before delivering it to the buyer. The license plates belong to the registered owner of the vehicle, not the vehicle itself.
- Give the buyer a valid title at the time of delivery. The seller must sign and date the title when the sale is final. A dealer must send the title, transfer and sales tax to the Secretary of State's office to be transferred to the buyer.
- Complete and mail the Notice of Sale form (attached to the bottom of the title) to the Secretary of State's office. If the title does not contain a Notice of Sale form, it may be downloaded at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.
- Request the buyer's name and address in case there are title or registration problems after the sale.
- Prepare a bill of sale for the buyer. Include the date of sale and the price paid. Keep a copy for your files.
- Remove all vehicle registration and insurance cards from the vehicle.