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NEW LAW PROTECTS VEHICLE SELLERS

~ Sellers now have 30 days following transaction to file form ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Selling your vehicle? If the answer is, “yes,” then you must notify the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or your local tax collector. Florida law now requires individuals selling a motor vehicle in the Sunshine State to submit a Notice of Sale (**Form HSMV 82050**) within 30 days of a sale.

“The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is pleased to see this important consumer protection provision incorporated into law,” said Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles Carl Ford. “We have always recommended that sellers provide us with a Notice of Sale, but the new requirement means more people will file the necessary form and protect themselves as a result.”

Newer certificates of title include a perforated portion on the top back that sellers can complete and mail to the Department or local tax collector after the sale of the vehicle. Sellers also may use a Notice of Sale (available online at www.flhsmv.gov/dmv/forms/BTR/82050.pdf) to provide the required notification. Sellers also can request a copy of the form from a DMV regional office or their local tax collector’s office.

How does this new requirement protect a seller? Filing the form will remove the seller’s registration from the vehicle, which may protect a seller from possible liability relating to the use of that motor vehicle if the new owner fails to transfer the vehicle title. The form also documents the sale and provides a receipt of the transaction. The Department encourages sellers to have buyers accompany them to a local office to have the vehicle title properly transferred, and we encourage sellers to maintain a copy of the Notice of Sale (preferably notarized), a copy of the certificate of title or other type of transaction document evidencing the sale.

To provide consumers with useful information, the Department recently posted both a buyer’s and seller’s guide online at www.flhsmv.gov/SafetyTips/Vehicles.htm. The seller’s guide provides protective measures one can take before, during and after a sale, while the buyer’s guide explains what to look for when car shopping, describes buyers’ rights, and includes a list of questions to ask. It also provides information on Florida’s new car lemon law, warranties, titles and much more.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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