

INFORMATION NOTICE

DIVISION OF MOTORIST SERVICES

DATE: 04/22/2021	Information Notice INFO21-006
SUBJECT: Alternate Proof – FRAUD ALERT	

Overview:

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) has received an increase in the number of fraud complaints from law enforcement agencies investigating motor vehicles fraudulently obtained through the Alternate Proof (Defend Title) operation of law process.

Details:

Effectively immediately and until further notice, please follow the below steps if you receive an application for title applying to TL-07, Application for Certificate of Title on a Motor Vehicle with Alternate Proof of Ownership and Procedure for Securing a Florida Court Order Awarding Ownership and Section 319.23,(3)(c), Florida Statutes. FLHSMV MV Procedure TL-07 covers many situations involving alternate proof; however, we are only reviewing transactions for the following (not mobile homes):

- Ancient motor vehicle is one manufactured for private use in model year 1945 or earlier and operated on the streets and highways of Florida.
- Antique motor vehicle is one manufactured for private use in a model year after 1945 and of the age or 30 years or more after the model year and operated on the streets and highways of Florida.
- Antique vessel is a vessel that is at least 30 years old, used only for recreational purposes, and powered by the vessel’s original-type power plant.

These are the steps you should take:

- When the customer presents documentation, immediately review the documents to ensure all required documents, signatures, and affidavits are provided. If all required documentation is not submitted, reject and ask customer to resubmit.
- If the customer presents appropriate documentation, immediately scan clear and legible copies of all documents presented, including the customer’s driver license or identification (color if possible).
- Inform the customer the application will be sent to FLHSMV in Tallahassee for review.
- If the customer wishes to proceed with the transaction, do NOT collect payment and email the scanned documents to the Bureau of Motorist Services Support (BMSS) at MSSG@flhsmv.gov. Obtain the customer’s phone number and let them know you will

contact them within five (5) business days with a determination. If no issues are found, they can return to the office to have their transaction processed. If issues are found, the FLHSMV reply will include the discrepancies.

- If a customer does not wish to proceed with the transaction, return their documents to them. Once the customer leaves your office, immediately email the scanned documents to MSSG@flhsmv.gov.
- If the same customer attempts to submit an application to another clerk or office, they will see a stop on the VIN with "INFO21-006 Contact (850) 617-3174" in the comments field on the stop record in FRVIS.

This alert does not include other operation of law procedures (i.e. Labor and Storage, Towing and Storage, etc.)

REMINDER: FRAUD ALERTS pertaining to Warehouseman's Liens (INFO20-022) and Landlord Tenant (INFO21-002) are still in effect.

Conclusion:

If you need additional information, please contact your next level of management or BMSS at (850) 617-3174.