



INFORMATION NOTICE

DIVISION OF MOTORIST SERVICES

DATE: 06/21/22	Information Notice (INFO) INFO22-011
SUBJECT: FRAUD-ALERT - Vermont Registrations	

Overview:

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) has been informed that in lieu of a title, the Vermont Agency of Transportation Department of Motor Vehicles will issue a “registration form of ownership” for vehicles 15 years old or older. In many instances, the registration ownership is being issued to persons who did not present a title to Vermont, who do not live in Vermont, nor were the vehicles ever located in Vermont.

Details:

Customers are appearing in Florida issuance offices and attempting to use the registration forms as proof of ownership to obtain a Florida title. This “alternate proof” process does not offer the same safeguards nor branding methodology as with a traditional title-based transaction.

Due to the possibility of fraudulent transactions using Vermont registrations, effective immediately, additional documentation is now required when a Vermont registration is submitted to obtain a Florida title.

Florida residents who purchase a vehicle with a Vermont registration as proof of ownership must provide the following:

- Form HSMV 82040.
- Original Vermont registration (no copies). Vermont registration must contain a Vermont residence address.
- Bill of sale containing all information as required on HSMV 82050, reflecting seller to be the same person as shown on the Vermont registration.
- Contact information for the seller, telephone number, and/or email address.
- VIN inspection completed at a Bureau of Dealer Services Regional Office.
- Title and sales tax fees.

Vermont residents moving to Florida with vehicles that have a Vermont registration as proof of ownership must provide the following:

- Form HSMV 82040.
- Original Vermont registration (no copies). The Vermont registration must be current, or the owner must provide a perjury clause affidavit to explain why they are presenting an expired registration.
- VIN inspection completed at a Bureau of Dealer Services Regional Office.
- Title fees. If the vehicle was purchased less than 6 months prior, a bill of sale is required, and proof of sales tax paid to Vermont.

Florida is a title state. Any title transaction presented for processing that does not include a title from another state that is being converted to a Florida title is an “alternate proof” transaction and must be reviewed prior to issuance.

Conclusion:

Effective immediately and until further notice, all transactions with a registration as proof of ownership must follow the instructions in [INFO 21-006, Alternate Proof – FRAUD ALERT.](#)