

Motor Vehicle Procedure Manual

Vessel and Titles

Derelict Vessel Title Stops

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Legal Authority

[Section 328.09 \(4\), Florida Statutes](#) - Refusal to issue and authority to cancel a certificate of title or registration.

[Section 823.11 \(3\), Florida Statutes](#) - Derelict vessels, relocation or removal, penalty.

[Section 705.103\(4\), Florida Statutes](#) - Procedure for abandon or lost property.

Description and Use

This procedure provides information and instructions to assist law enforcement with the process of adding or removing a vessel title stop.

Definition of a Derelict Vessel

A derelict vessel is one that is left, stored or abandoned in a wrecked, junked or substantially dismantled condition upon any public waters or at a port in this state without the consent of the agency having jurisdiction thereof; including docked, grounded or beached upon the property of another without the consent of the owner of the property.

Special Instructions and Responsibilities

A. To request a derelict vessel stop be placed on the title of a vessel located in Florida.

1. A written request must be submitted to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) by a law enforcement officer under section [823.11, F.S.](#), as follows:
 - a. The written request may be provided by email to Derelict@flhsmv.gov

or,
 - b. The written request may be provided by fax to (850) 617-3946.

The written request must include the vessel's derelict status and the vessel title number or hull identification number.

The title stop code "DB" – Derelict Vessel will be added to the title record and will be reflected in the Vehicle Stop Inquiry function in the motor vehicle issuance system, in Motorist Maintenance and DAVID.

B. To request a derelict vessel stop be removed from the title of a vessel located in Florida.

1. A written request must be submitted to FLHSMV by a law enforcement officer under [823.11, F.S.](#), as follows:
 - a. The written request may be provided by email to Derelict@flhsmv.gov

or,
 - b. The written request may be provided by fax to (850) 617-3946.

The written request for the removal of the stop must include the law enforcement officer's statement that the vessel is no longer a derelict and reference the vessel's title number or hull identification number.

The derelict vessel stop does not prevent the registration from being issued as an original, a renewal or from being replaced.

Revision(s) to Procedure

Conducted a statutory review of procedure.

07/01/17: This procedure was created to provide instructions for the placement and removal of derelict vessel stops by law enforcement.