What should I do with a vehicle registered for commercial operation?
If the vehicle is licensed in Idaho and has commercial plates, the registration changes depend on the status of the business. For more information, contact the Idaho Transportation Department’s Division of Motor Vehicles at 208-334-8611.

What if I cannot find the title?
- If money borrowed to purchase the vehicle is still owed to a lender, it may be holding the title. Contact the lender to determine if this is true.
- If not, apply for a duplicate title. If your name and your spouse's name is on the title connected by an “OR,” apply for a duplicate title at your local county Assessor's DMV office. Request your spouse's name be removed from the title.
- If your names are connected by an “AND” or the title is in your spouse's name only, contact your county Assessor’s DMV office for instructions.

What information should I have when I contact the local DMV office?
Be prepared to answer the following questions:
- When did the deceased pass away?
- Did the deceased leave a will?
- Has the estate been probated or will it be probated?
- If the estate has been probated, who was appointed as personal representative, executor or administrator?

Bring to your county Assessor’s DMV office:
- The title for each vehicle.
- The registration document for each vehicle.
- A certified copy of the probate court document if the estate has been probated and you have been appointed the personnel representative, administrator or executor.

What should I do with the deceased person’s driver’s license or ID card?
It is not necessary to return the driver’s license or identification card of a deceased person to the DMV. The Idaho Transportation Department is notified when a death certificate is recorded with the Bureau of Idaho Vital Records and Health Statistics.

When giving away or selling a vehicle, always complete a release of liability form
- Within five days after delivering the vehicle to its new owner, complete a release of liability form. This will protect you from liability if the new owner is involved in an accident, receives parking tickets or abandons the vehicle before he or she has transferred the title.
- The form is available at your county Assessor’s DMV office or at dmv.idaho.gov and scroll down and select Forms and Publications.

If there is no surviving spouse, who can transfer the titles to the estate?
- If the estate was probated, the personal representative, executor or administrator may transfer the title.
- If the estate was not and will not be probated, the priority heir may claim ownership and then transfer the title.
- The documents required to transfer vehicle titles will vary according to circumstances. The priority heir will likely need to sign an affidavit that is available at the county Assessor’s DMV office.

Contact Us!
Idaho Transportation Department
Division of Motor Vehicles
Phone: 208-334-8663
Website: dmv.idaho.gov

Correspondence
Idaho Transportation Department
Attn: Titles
P.O. Box 7129
Boise, ID 83707-1129

Surviving Spouse

Have you recently lost a spouse or a loved one?
Titles and registration guide for surviving spouses and family members.
How do I transfer the title?

• If you want to give away or sell a vehicle and you are listed on the title along with your spouse, it is easy to transfer the title.

• If you are selling the vehicle to an unrelated person, complete the seller's section of the title, sign on the seller’s signature line and enter the new owner’s full legal name and purchase price in the purchaser’s section. Give the new owner the title and bill of sale after you have received payment.

• If you are giving the vehicle away or selling it to a parent, child, brother, sister, grandparent or grandchild, instead of preparing a bill of sale, you and the new owners should complete a "Sales Tax Exemption Certificate – Transfer Affidavit." Completing this form will exempt the new owner from paying sales tax. This form is available at your county DMV Assessor’s office or at tax.idaho.gov (click the "forms button" and then the "sales tax exemption forms" link).

What should I do with the license plates if I do not keep the vehicle?

• Always remove the license plates when you give away or sell your vehicle. The license plates are your personal property. The person who is receiving the vehicle can use the bill of sale as a 72-hour permit (excluding weekends and holidays) until getting a new registration and license plates.

• If the vehicle is a motorbike, ATV or UTV with black and white restricted use plates, leave them on the vehicle for the new owner.