



New Abandoned Vehicles Tow Guide

Why was my Vehicle Towed?

There are three main reasons a vehicle may be towed as an abandoned vehicle:

- **Law Enforcement Tow** – Law enforcement directs the tow. The tow company must receive a tow authorization form from law enforcement.
- **Posted Property Tow** – A business contracts with a tow company to remove unauthorized vehicles (i.e., cars parked without permission). Signs must be posted notifying the public that unauthorized vehicles may be removed or booted.
- **Private Property Tow** – A property owner authorizes a tow company to remove a vehicle from private property and signs a release allowing them to do so.

What Happens After a Vehicle is Towed?

- The tow company reports the vehicle in the Idaho Transportation Department's Abandoned Vehicle Portal.
- The next day, the owner and any lienholders receive a notice by mail or electronically.
- A second notice is mailed 10 days after the first notice.

Notices Include:

- The vehicle's location
- The reason for the tow
- Total tow fees and daily storage costs
- Tow company contact information
- Information about the owner's rights to challenge the tow

Options to Challenge the Tow

Tow Hearing (Law Enforcement Tows Only)

- Must be requested, in writing, within ten (10) days of receiving the first notice
- The hearing is conducted by the law enforcement agency that directed the tow, but not by the officer who authorized the tow
- If law enforcement cannot show valid cause, they must pay the tow and storage fees
- If the tow is justified, the owner is responsible for the costs

Declaration of Opposition ([ITD Form 4101](#))

- Must be submitted within twenty (20) days of the first notice
- After filing, the owner has ten (10) more days to initiate a court case and provide proof to ITD
- The vehicle cannot be sold or titled until the court case is resolved
- If proof of filing is not provided, the abandoned vehicle process continues

If the Vehicle Is Not Claimed

- If the vehicle is not claimed within thirty (30) days of the first notice, and no valid dispute is pending, the tow company may request a title or a junk certificate.

Release of Interest

- All owners and lienholders may complete a Release of Interest ([ITD Form 3337](#))
- This ends the abandoned vehicle process
- The tow company may then apply for a title or junk certificate

