



# Wisconsin DMV guide for family members of recently deceased

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As you move forward after the loss of a loved one, this guidance will help you settle the decedent's DMV records, including:

- Transfer vehicle ownership of title(s) and registration(s)
- Cancel the driver license or identification card record
- Cancel the disabled placards

## Transfer vehicle ownership

If the decedent is the only name on the title(s), a surviving spouse or same-sex [domestic partner](#) can transfer ownership of up to five vehicles. The surviving spouse or domestic partner may either title the vehicle(s) in their name or sell the vehicle(s) by signing their name on the title (as seller) and provide purchaser with form [MV2300](#) or Personal Representative Papers. The transfer of ownership will not affect any prior liens upon the vehicle(s).

A copy of the death certificate is **not** required when the decedent was a Wisconsin resident and death occurred in Wisconsin. A death certificate may be required for residents of other states.

## Surviving Spouse/Domestic Partner

- There is no title fee if transferring to a surviving spouse/domestic partner.
- There is not a replacement title fee for a lost title when transferring title to surviving spouse/domestic partner.
- License plates can transfer to a surviving spouse/domestic partner.

## Heir

- An Heir, using the Statement of Transfer of Vehicles to a Surviving Spouse, Domestic Partner or Heir, form [MV2300](#), is certifying that the decedent has no solely owned property that exceeds \$50,000 in value.
- The title transfer fee is \$164.50.
- If the title is lost, complete the Replacement Title Application [MV2119](#) and \$20 replacement fee.
- License plates can only transfer to surviving heir if the vehicle was solely owned by decedent and the heir is an immediate family member of the decedent.

## To transfer vehicle titles solely owned by a decedent to a surviving spouse/domestic partner or an heir, please submit these documents by mail:

- Fill out the Statement of Transfer of Vehicles to a Surviving Spouse, Domestic Partner or Heir form [MV2300](#) or submit a copy of the summary settlement papers.
  - » If you are appointed a personal representative by the courts, submit the court documents (Personal Representative Papers) in place of the [MV2300](#).
- Original Certificate of Title
- Complete the Title/License Plate Application using the [MV1 Online Application Guide](#). It has step-by-step instructions and allows you to print a completed application with estimated fees.



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## To transfer a title that has joint ownership with spouse/domestic partner or heir

- If the ownership is listed as “or,” only one seller signature is required; the surviving spouse/domestic partner or heir should sign as the seller.
- If the ownership is listed as “and,” the surviving co-owner and the decedent’s legal representative must sign the title as the seller. If you are both the surviving co-owner and the decedent’s legal representative, you should sign the title twice as the seller.

### Please submit these documents by mail:

- Fill out the Statement of Transfer of Vehicles to a Surviving Spouse, [Domestic Partner](#) or Heir form [MV2300](#) or submit a copy of the summary settlement papers. If you are appointed a personal representative by the courts, submit the court documents (Personal Representative Papers) in place of the [MV2300](#).
- Original Certificate of Title.
- Complete the Title/License Plate Application using the [MV1 Online Application Guide](#). It has step-by-step instructions and allows you to print a completed application with estimated fees.
- Send to: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 7949, Madison, WI 53707-7949

## Cancel the driver license or identification card record

The Wisconsin DMV receives updates monthly from Wisconsin Vital Records. At that time, the decedent’s driver license or identification card record will be canceled and there is nothing further that is required unless the decedent was a sponsor for a driver under the age of 18.

If the decedent was a sponsor for a driver under the age of 18, it is important that the driver obtains a new sponsor. This may be done at a Wisconsin DMV Customer Service Center with the under age 18 driver and their new sponsor. A sponsor may also be updated by mail by completing an [MV3001](#), having a notary witness the new sponsor sign the sponsorship section and mailing it into the Driver Eligibility Unit, PO Box 7995, Madison, WI 53707.

## Cancel disabled placards issued to the decedent

If the decedent had a disabled placard, you can simply shred and recycle. We will cancel the permit.

### Online resources:

- [wisconsinmv.gov/survivingspouse](http://wisconsinmv.gov/survivingspouse)
- [wisconsinmv.gov/heir](http://wisconsinmv.gov/heir)