



40-1004 R01/26

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Mail Drop 553M  
Abandoned Vehicle Unit  
Motor Vehicle Division  
PO Box 2100  
Phoenix AZ 85001-2100

## VEHICLES LEFT AT REPAIR FACILITIES GUIDELINES

Any vehicle left at a repair facility operated for commercial purposes for more than **10 days after** notice to pick up the vehicle has been mailed to the owner by certified restricted mail delivered to the addressee only, return receipt requested at the address listed on the vehicle registration/MVR (Obtained at your local MVD, a copy of the MVR and the letter sent is required), is deemed an abandoned vehicle. Unless the vehicle is left under a written or oral contract for repair. Report the vehicle to the Director of the Motor Vehicle Division per Arizona Revised Statute § 28-4840. Follow step 4.

1. A vehicle left under a written or oral contract for repair (Estimate/Diagnostic) is not an abandoned vehicle. If the vehicle owner fails to redeem the vehicle, the repair facility must pursue a mechanics lien or seek judicial remedy
2. A vehicle left under an oral contract with garage, repair shop, service station, etc., that was acted upon (repaired) is not an abandoned vehicle. The repair facility cannot seek redress under the mechanics lien provisions without a written contract, (signed work order) therefore they must seek remedy through the judicial process. **IF REPAIRS HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE VEHICLE, THE REPAIR FACILITY DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR THE ABANDONED VEHICLE PROCESS.**
3. A vehicle is not abandoned if the reason the vehicle is not released to the Registered Owner or Lien Holder is because of a dispute about services rendered or charges claimed by the repair facility. Both parties in such a dispute may pursue judicial remedies. The Motor Vehicle Division has no authority or jurisdiction to decide the issues by processing the vehicle as an abandoned vehicle.
4. The following items must be submitted to file abandoned:
  - Copy of the letter that you mailed to the owner (advising the owner that if the vehicle is not redeemed a Report of Abandoned Vehicle will be filed)
  - Either a copy of the certified restricted mail receipt(green return card-if signed and mailed back to you) or the undeliverable/unclaimed/unknown envelope
  - Abandoned Vehicle Report, form 46-4402 (must be completed in full)

Failure to send these required items will result in your application being sent back to you.