



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
609-292-6500 ext. 5069

## Instructions to Implement the Abandoned Vessel Disposition Law

**\*\* Please note that each case is unique and additional documents may be required upon request.\*\***

### **Purpose and Authority:**

These instructions implement the Abandoned Vessel Disposition Law (N.J.S.A. 12:7C-7 et seq.) which provides property owners with a mechanism for legal acquisition and disposition of vessels abandoned upon their property; however, this is not a substitute for the settlement of disputes between the property owner and vessel owner.

### **Provisions:**

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12:7C-9, it is unlawful for any owner to abandon any vessel to or upon public land or waters of this State, including any municipal waterway, to or upon any municipally-owned land, or upon any private property, or the water immediately adjacent thereto without the consent of the official designated by law to have jurisdiction over such public land or waterway, or the owner or other person in charge of the private property except when an emergency exists.

A vessel which has remained moored, grounded, docked, or otherwise attached or fastened to or upon any public land or waterway or any private property without such consent for a period of more than 30 days, or which is submerged partially or completely into the water for a period of time, shall be deemed abandoned and may be impounded if an official authorized by statute or ordinance to enforce regulations related to municipal waterways or a law enforcement officer having enforcement authority has reason to believe that the vessel has been abandoned.

The vessel may be removed from a municipal waterway by, or at the direction of, the municipality or harbor commission and may be impounded and removed to a storage space, and its registration plates seized.

The owner shall be responsible for the cost of the removal, transportation, storage or disposal, and any other incidental costs associated with the impounded vessel.

Whenever a vessel is removed, the official designated by law to have jurisdiction over the municipal waterway shall file an incident report with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC).

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12:7C-10, if the owner of the vessel fails to claim the impounded vessel and pay the reasonable costs of removal and storage by midnight of the 30<sup>th</sup> day following impoundment, it shall be prima facie evidence of abandonment and shall establish a rebuttable presumption that the vehicle is abandoned. A landowner, his lessee, or his agent or a municipality or harbor commission, in the case of a municipal waterway, may institute proceedings to acquire title to any abandoned vessel on his land or the water immediately adjacent thereto in the case of a landowner, his lessee, or his agent, or which has become abandoned in a municipal waterway, in the case of a municipality or harbor commission. The acquisition of title divests any other person and any other legal entity, including lienholders, of any interest in the vessel.

At any time prior to the final acquisition of title by the landowner, his lessee, his agent, or a municipality or harbor commission, the owner or a lessor or holder of a lien on the vessel may reclaim possession of it upon payment of the reasonable costs of removal and storage of the vessel and any outstanding penalties and court costs assessed against him; provided, however, that if it is a lessor or the holder of a lien who is reclaiming the vessel, he may reclaim the vessel without payment for the storage but shall pay the costs of removal. In such cases, the owner of the vessel shall be liable for all outstanding costs, fines and penalties, and the municipality shall have a lien against the property and income of that violator for the total amount of those outstanding costs, fines, and penalties if the vessel has been abandoned in a municipal waterway or on municipally-owned land.

## Procedure and Requirements to Acquire Title:

**If the abandoned vessel has a New Jersey boat registration number**, the applicant must furnish a "Vehicle Registration Application Request" Form DO-11A along with a \$15.00 check or money order made payable to "NJMVC" (no cash). Mail documents to the following address: NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC), Data Output, 225 E. State Street, Trenton, NJ, 08666.

Upon receipt of registration information from the MVC, the applicant must determine whether the vessel was used for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

1

**If the Registration Code (Reg Code) on the Registration Application is a Code 81** the vessel was used for *non-commercial purposes*. In this case, the applicant must contact the County Recording Officer of the county in which the registered owner resides and request a certificate of search pertaining to lienholders on the vessel. The applicant shall comply with the procedures and fees of the County Officer. Note: Some counties may require the applicant to utilize title search companies.

**If the Registration Code (Reg Code) on the Registration Application is anything other than Code 81**, the vessel was used for *commercial purposes*. In this case, the applicant must contact the Secretary of State, Division of Commercial Recording, P.O. Box 303, Trenton, NJ, 08625 and request the Secretary of State to supply him/her with a certificate of search pertaining to lienholders on the vessel.

**If the abandoned vessel has a boat registration number from a state other than New Jersey or does not have a boat registration number** or other obvious owner identification (e.g. papers, identification documents aboard, etc.), a search must be made for a vessel documentation number on the main beam of the vessel. If a number is found, the applicant must contact the U.S. Coast Guard, National Vessel Documentation Center, 2039 Stonewall Jackson Drive, Falling Waters, West Virginia, 25419, and request that the Coast Guard furnish him/her with the name(s) and address of the owner and lienholder, if any.

2

The applicant must also request a lien search with the New Jersey MVC. Lien Search Application (DO-22) with a \$15 check or money order payable to "NJ MVC" is required to be submitted. If there is no record in New Jersey, we will perform an additional search, and if a record is found you will be notified. If no records are found, a certified search from the Motor Vehicle Authority of New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Maryland will be required. Submit your lien search request with one of the documents listed in step 3.

3

**If the vessel was abandoned on private property**, a notarized statement is required stating how and when you came into possession of the vessel. The statement must contain a complete description of the vessel, the applicant's name and address, the current date, and the applicant's signature.

**If the vessel was abandoned at a marina** and the marina owner entered into a storage contract with the vessel owner, a copy of the contract(s) is/are required if in existence. In cases where the marina owner has made repairs to the vessel, a copy of the repair bill(s) is/are required.

**Do Not Continue** until you receive a response regarding steps 1 & 2. For assistance, call the telephone number listed on Page 1 of this procedure.

4

Upon receiving the certificate of search, the applicant must notify the vessel owner and any secured party or assignee thereof by mailing "Abandoned Vessel Notice" Form OS/SS-64. The notice must be sent United States Postal Service Certified Mail, Return Receipt requested. If the registered owner responds that the vehicle was sold or transferred to another person, the applicant shall then redirect the notice to the new owner. If no owner can be identified, or no secured party appears on the records of the Secretary of State, County Recording Officer, Motor Vehicle Commission, or the U.S. Coast Guard, the "Abandoned Vessel Notice" Form OS/SS-64 does not need to be sent. A copy of this notice and the signed return receipts are required to be submitted to this office. If returned undeliverable, the original, unopened envelope is required.

## Procedure and Requirements to Acquire Title: *(continued)*

5

At the same time as step 4, the applicant must place a notice in a newspaper that is published and circulated within the county and/or municipality where the vessel is located. The newspaper advertisement must describe the vessel by year, make, location of abandonment, and any identifying numbers (Hull Identification Number-HIN and/or Registration Number). Publication must also state that if the vessel is not claimed and removed within **30-days** after the publication date, the applicant will apply for title in the applicant's name in accordance with the Abandoned Vessel Disposition Law, N.J.S.A. 12:7C-7 et seq. An affidavit of newspaper publication is required to be submitted to this office. Copies must be certified.

**Note:** The newspaper publication and letter (steps 4 & 5) shall not contain any statements conditioning the release of the vessel upon the payment of overdue repairs or storage costs with respect to the vessel.

6

If the vessel is not claimed and removed within 30 days after the publication date of the notice, the person, entity, municipality, or harbor commission desiring to acquire title shall apply to the MVC for transfer of title to the vessel.

7

The applicant may apply to the MVC for title to the vessel in his name by submitting a completed and notarized "Application for Title to an Abandoned Vessel" Form OS/SS-65 and a \$60.00 check or money order (no cash) made payable to: NJMVC. You may mail documents to the below address. Note: No title shall be issued if there is any dispute between the applicant and the owner of the vessel.

8

After review of your documents, the MVC may find it necessary for the vessel to have the Hull Identification Number (HIN) inspected by the NJ Marine State Police. If a HIN inspection is required, you will be contacted prior to issuance of the Certificate of Ownership. You must have the ISM/SS-10A completed by the Marine State Police.

9

After review and approval of all required documents, the MVC may issue the applicant title to the vessel in the form of a Certificate of Ownership. The acquisition of title to the vessel by the applicant divests any other person of any interest in the vessel.

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***After making copies for your records,  
mail required documents to:***

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission  
Special Title/Abandoned Unit  
225 East State Street  
P.O. Box 017  
Trenton, New Jersey 08666-0017

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION APPLICATION REQUEST**

A separate form must be completed for each record requested. You may photocopy this form for your convenience; however, each request must bear an original signature of the requestor. No other form of request will be accepted. The proper fee(s) must accompany each request in the form of a check or money order payable to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. (DO NOT SEND CASH) Once completed, mail this form to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, Business & Government Services Unit at the above address. Please contact us at the above number for any questions or to obtain the status of a request.

**ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE SECTIONS A, B & D OF THIS FORM. (Please print clearly)**

**FEE: \$15 PER RECORD SEARCH**

SECTION A - Requestor Information					
Applicant's Name:					
Business Name (if applicable):	Phone #:	Your File or Claim #:			
Street Address:					
City:	State:	Zip Code:			
Applicant's Driver License Number (PHOTOCOPY OF <u>YOUR</u> DRIVER LICENSE MUST BE INCLUDED):					
SECTION B - Information Requested (you must provide either a plate number or a VIN / HIN					
I am requesting information on:	MY OWN RECORD <input type="checkbox"/>	ANOTHER'S RECORD** <input type="checkbox"/>	Date You Want Covered:	_____ Month                  Day                  Year	
New Jersey License Plate Number:		Vehicle / Hull Identification Number (VIN / HIN):			
PLEASE INDICATE BELOW THE INFORMATION THAT YOU REQUIRE (You may select more than one)					
Insurance Information <input type="checkbox"/>	Name & Address of Registrant <input type="checkbox"/>	License Plate Number <input type="checkbox"/>	Registration Expiration Date <input type="checkbox"/>	Vehicle Description <input type="checkbox"/>	

**\*\* IF YOU ARE REQUESTING A RECORD THAT IS NOT YOUR OWN, YOU MUST COMPLETE SECTION "C".**

**ALL APPLICANTS MUST READ SECTION "D" AND SIGN THE APPLICATION ON PAGE 3**

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION APPLICATION REQUEST**

**SECTION C – PURPOSE FOR THE REQUEST (required ONLY when requesting another’s record)**

**PLEASE READ THE BELOW SECTION OF THE NEW JERSEY DRIVER PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT, INITIAL NEXT TO THE PERMITTED USE(S) THAT APPLY TO YOUR SPECIFIC USE OF THE MVC RECORDS. THEN PROVIDE A WRITTEN EXPLANATION OF THE REASON FOR YOUR REQUEST AND INTENDED USE OF THE INFORMATION.**

**USES PERMITTED BY N.J.S.A. 39:2-3.4(c)**

\_\_\_\_\_ For use by any government agency including any court or law enforcement agency carrying out its functions, or any private person or entity acting on behalf of a federal, State or local agency in carrying out its functions.

***If acting on behalf of a federal, State or local agency, please include a copy of an individual release consent form, the agreement with the client, or other proof that you have been retained to conduct an investigation.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft; motor vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls or advisories; performance monitoring of motor vehicles; motor vehicle parts and dealers; motor vehicle market research activities, including survey research; and the removal of non-owner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers.

***Please include the documentation supporting your request if the information is to be used for motor vehicle emissions, recalls or advisories, etc.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in the normal course of business by a legitimate business or its agents, employees or contractors, but only;

1. to verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by the individual to the business or agents, employees or contractors; and
2. if such information as so submitted is not correct or is no longer correct, to obtain the correct information, but only for the purposes of preventing fraud by pursuing legal remedies against, or recovering on a debt or security interest against the individual.

***Please include a copy of the individual release consent form.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in connection with any civil, criminal, administrative or arbitral proceeding in any federal, State or local court or agency or before any self-regulating body, including service of process, investigation in anticipation of litigation, and the execution or enforcement of judgments and orders, or pursuant to an order of a federal, State or local court.

***Please include the Docket number and a letter from the client confirming that you have been retained. Please provide an explanation if no docket number has been assigned.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in educational initiatives, research activities, and for use in producing statistical reports, so long as the personal information is not published, redisclosed, or used to contact individuals and, in the case of educational initiatives, only to organ procurement organizations as aggregated, non-identifying information.

***Please include a description of the initiative or research on official letterhead.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use by any insurer or insurance support organization, or by a self-insured entity, or its agents, employees, or contractors, in connection with claims investigation activities, antifraud activities, rating or underwriting.

***Please include supporting documents for intended use.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in providing notice to the owners of towed or impounded vehicles.

***Please include proof of authorization to tow or impound vehicles.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use by an employer or its agent or insurer to obtain or verify information relating to a holder of a commercial driver’s license that is required under the “Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act, “ 49 U.S.C. App. §2710 et seq.

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION APPLICATION REQUEST**

***Please include a copy of an individual release consent form, a copy of the insurance policy, and a copy of the agreement if done on behalf of a client.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in connection with the operation of private toll transportation facilities.

***If your request does not fall under one of the above reasons:***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use by any requestor, if the requestor demonstrates it has obtained the **notarized written consent of the individual to whom the information pertains.**

\_\_\_\_\_ For use by an organ procurement organization designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey, or any donor registry established by any such organization, exclusively for the purposes of determining, verifying, and recording organ and tissue donor designation and identity.

***Please include proof that your organization is authorized to serve in one of the capacities listed.***

**Explanation of reason**

Please explain in detail your reason for requesting the information and how you plan to use it. If involving a lawsuit, please state the type of lawsuit and your relationship to the case.

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION APPLICATION REQUEST****SECTION D – TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The disclosure and use of the personal information<sup>1</sup> contained in the record you have requested is governed by the “New Jersey Drivers’ Privacy Protection Act” (“NJDPPIA”), N.J.S.A. 39:2-3.3 et seq. The NJDPPIA provides that a person who knowingly obtains or discloses information from a motor vehicle record for any use not permitted by the Act is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree and can be held liable, in a civil action in the Superior Court, to the individual to whom the information pertains, including an award of actual damages, punitive damages, and reasonable attorney’s fees and litigation costs.

<sup>1</sup> “Personal Information” means information that identifies an individual, including an individual’s photograph; social security number; driver identification number; name; address other than the five-digit zip code; telephone number; and medical or disability information, but does not include information on vehicular accidents, driving violations, and driver’s status.

I hereby certify that the foregoing statements and submitted supporting documents are true. I understand that if any of the statements or submitted supporting documents are willfully false, I am subject to punishment. I have read N.J.S.A. 39:2-3.3, et seq. (“NJDPPIA”) and I have initialed all the permitted purposes that apply to my request for online access. I will only use any personal information contained in records I have requested as permitted by the NJDPPIA.

I agree to hold the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) harmless in the event of any errors or omissions in the record and document(s) furnished under this application.

If I am requesting another’s record, I certify that:

- 1) Use of the information provided by the NJMVC pursuant to this Application will only be for the purposes explicitly set forth in this Application;
- 2) The information provided by the NJMVC pursuant to this Application will not be used for the purpose of commercial solicitation or marketing, political canvassing or campaigning or any similar purpose or objective, and I shall not provide such information to any person or entity that seeks to use such information for any of these purposes;
- 3) If the information requested is to be used "in anticipation of litigation," pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:2-3.4(c)4, personal information will only be used where litigation is imminent or foreseeable, or where the party on whose behalf the information is obtained has made the conscious decision to prepare a claim or defend against a probable claim;
- 4) In the event of a breach of any of the security obligations or other event requiring notification under applicable law, I shall comply with all applicable State and federal laws that require notification of individuals in the event of unauthorized release of Personal Information, or other event requiring notification, and assume responsibility for informing the NJMVC within twenty four (24) hours and all such appropriate individuals, including the customer whose information is the subject of the release, in accordance with applicable law and to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the State of New Jersey from, and against any claims, damages, or other harm related to such breach or event. All communications must be coordinated with the State of New Jersey by contacting the NJMVC at 609-341-5777.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant (original signature only - signature stamps are unacceptable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**TITLE / LIEN SEARCH REQUEST**

A separate form must be completed for each record requested. You may photocopy this form for your convenience; however, each request must bear an original signature of the requestor. No other form of request will be accepted. The proper fee(s) must accompany each request in the form of a check or money order payable to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. (DO NOT SEND CASH) Once completed, mail this form to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, Business & Government Services Unit at the above address. Please contact us at the above phone number for any questions or to obtain the status of a request.

**ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE SECTIONS A, B & D OF THIS FORM. (Please print clearly)**

**FEE: \$15 PER RECORD SEARCH**

<b>SECTION A - Requestor Information</b>			
Applicant's Name:			
Business Name (if applicable):	Phone #:	Your File or Claim #:	
Street Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Applicant's Driver License Number (PHOTOCOPY OF <u>YOUR</u> DRIVER LICENSE MUST BE INCLUDED):			
<b>SECTION B - Information Requested (all fields in this section must be completed)</b>			
I am requesting information on	MY OWN RECORD <input type="checkbox"/>	ANOTHER'S RECORD** <input type="checkbox"/>	Vehicle / Hull Identification Number (VIN / HIN):
Vehicle / Vessel Model Year:		Vehicle / Vessel Make:	
<b>CHECK ONE</b>	Lien Search <b>\$15 PER SEARCH</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Title Search <b>\$15 PER SEARCH</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	

**\*\* IF YOU ARE REQUESTING A RECORD THAT IS NOT YOUR OWN, YOU MUST COMPLETE SECTION "C".**

**\*\*\* If you check number 10, "A Notarized Authorization to Release Personal Motor Vehicle Information (Form BGS/DO-21A) must be submitted and will not be accepted unless it is acknowledged by a Notary Public or Attorney at Law."**

**ALL APPLICANTS MUST READ SECTION "D" AND SIGN THE APPLICATION ON PAGE 3**



**TITLE / LIEN SEARCH REQUEST**

**SECTION C – PURPOSE FOR THE REQUEST (required ONLY when requesting another’s record)**

**PLEASE READ THE BELOW SECTION OF THE NEW JERSEY DRIVER PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT, INITIAL NEXT TO THE PERMITTED USE(S) THAT APPLY TO YOUR SPECIFIC USE OF THE MVC RECORDS. THEN PROVIDE A WRITTEN EXPLANATION OF THE REASON FOR YOUR REQUEST AND INTENDED USE OF THE INFORMATION.**

**USES PERMITTED BY N.J.S.A. 39:2-3.4(c)**

\_\_\_\_\_ For use by any government agency including any court or law enforcement agency carrying out its functions, or any private person or entity acting on behalf of a federal, State or local agency in carrying out its functions.

***If acting on behalf of a federal, State or local agency, please include a copy of an individual release consent form, the agreement with the client, or other proof that you have been retained to conduct an investigation.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft; motor vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls or advisories; performance monitoring of motor vehicles; motor vehicle parts and dealers; motor vehicle market research activities, including survey research; and the removal of non-owner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers.

***Please include the documentation supporting your request if the information is to be used for motor vehicle emissions, recalls or advisories, etc.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in the normal course of business by a legitimate business or its agents, employees or contractors, but only;

1. to verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by the individual to the business or agents, employees or contractors; and
2. if such information as so submitted is not correct or is no longer correct, to obtain the correct information, but only for the purposes of preventing fraud by pursuing legal remedies against, or recovering on a debt or security interest against the individual.

***Please include a copy of the individual release consent form.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in connection with any civil, criminal, administrative or arbitral proceeding in any federal, State or local court or agency or before any self-regulating body, including service of process, investigation in anticipation of litigation, and the execution or enforcement of judgments and orders, or pursuant to an order of a federal, State or local court.

***Please include the Docket number and a letter from the client confirming that you have been retained. Please provide an explanation if no docket number has been assigned.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in educational initiatives, research activities, and for use in producing statistical reports, so long as the personal information is not published, redisclosed, or used to contact individuals and, in the case of educational initiatives, only to organ procurement organizations as aggregated, non-identifying information.

***Please include a description of the initiative or research on official letterhead.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use by any insurer or insurance support organization, or by a self-insured entity, or its agents, employees, or contractors, in connection with claims investigation activities, antifraud activities, rating or underwriting.

***Please include supporting documents for intended use.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in providing notice to the owners of towed or impounded vehicles.

***Please include proof of authorization to tow or impound vehicles.***

**TITLE / LIEN SEARCH REQUEST**

\_\_\_\_\_ For use by an employer or its agent or insurer to obtain or verify information relating to a holder of a commercial driver's license that is required under the "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act," 49 U.S.C. App. §2710 et seq.

***Please include a copy of an individual release consent form, a copy of the insurance policy, and a copy of the agreement if done on behalf of a client.***

\_\_\_\_\_ For use in connection with the operation of private toll transportation facilities.

**If your request does not fall under one of the above reasons:**

\_\_\_\_\_ For use by any requestor, if the requestor demonstrates it has obtained the **notarized** written consent of the individual to whom the information pertains.

\_\_\_\_\_ For use by an organ procurement organization designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey, or any donor registry established by any such organization, exclusively for the purposes of determining, verifying, and recording organ and tissue donor designation and identity.

***Please include proof that your organization is authorized to serve in one of the capacities listed.***

**Explanation of reason**

Please in explain in detail your reason for requesting the information and how you plan to use it. If involving a lawsuit, please state the type of lawsuit and your relationship to the case.

**TITLE / LIEN SEARCH REQUEST****SECTION D – TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The disclosure and use of the personal information<sup>1</sup> contained in the record you have requested is governed by the "New Jersey Drivers' Privacy Protection Act" ("NJDPPEA"), N.J.S.A. 39:2-3.3 et seq. The NJDPPEA provides that a person who knowingly obtains or discloses information from a motor vehicle record for any use not permitted by the Act is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree and can be held liable, in a civil action in the Superior Court, to the individual to whom the information pertains, including an award of actual damages, punitive damages, and reasonable attorney's fees and litigation costs.

<sup>1</sup> "Personal Information" means information that identifies an individual, including an individual's photograph; social security number; driver identification number; name; address other than the five-digit zip code; telephone number; and medical or disability information, but does not include information on vehicular accidents, driving violations, and driver's status.

I hereby certify that the foregoing statements and submitted supporting documents are true. I understand that if any of the statements or submitted supporting documents are willfully false, I am subject to punishment. I have read N.J.S.A. 39:2-3.3, et seq. ("NJDPPEA") and I have initialed all the permitted purposes that apply to my request for online access. I will only use any personal information contained in records I have requested as permitted by the NJDPPEA.

I agree to hold the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) harmless in the event of any errors or omissions in the record and document(s) furnished under this application.

If I am requesting another's record, I certify that:

- 1) Use of the information provided by the NJMVC pursuant to this Application will only be for the purposes explicitly set forth in this Application;
- 2) The information provided by the NJMVC pursuant to this Application will not be used for the purpose of commercial solicitation or marketing, political canvassing or campaigning or any similar purpose or objective, and I shall not provide such information to any person or entity that seeks to use such information for any of these purposes;
- 3) If the information requested is to be used "in anticipation of litigation," pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:2-3.4(c)4, personal information will only be used where litigation is imminent or foreseeable, or where the party on whose behalf the information is obtained has made the conscious decision to prepare a claim or defend against a probable claim;
- 4) In the event of a breach of any of the security obligations or other event requiring notification under applicable law, I shall comply with all applicable State and federal laws that require notification of individuals in the event of unauthorized release of Personal Information, or other event requiring notification, and assume responsibility for informing the NJMVC within twenty four (24) hours and all such appropriate individuals, including the customer whose information is the subject of the release, in accordance with applicable law and to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the State of New Jersey from, and against any claims, damages, or other harm related to such breach or event. All communications must be coordinated with the State of New Jersey by contacting the NJMVC at 609-341-5777.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant (original signature only - signature stamps are unacceptable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
609-292-6500 ext. 5069

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

**Application for Title to an Abandoned Vessel**

<b>Applicant</b>	Last Name		First Name		Middle Initial
	Street Address		City	State	Zip
	NJ Driver License No. (if Business-Corpcode)				

<b>Vessel Identification</b>	Name, <i>if any</i>		Hull Identification Number (HIN)			
	State Boat Registration Number		U.S. Coast Guard Documentation Number, <i>if any</i>			
	Year	Make	Length	Hull Material		
	Type (Cabin, open, etc.)		Fuel Used (Gasoline, diesel, etc.)	Propulsion (Inboard, outboard, i/o, etc)		
	Date Vessel Abandoned without Permission		Location Vessel Abandoned			

<b>Ownership of Vessel</b>	Owner Name (Last, First)				
	Owners Address				
	<b>Ascertained Ownership Information From</b> ( <i>check and complete statements as necessary</i> ):				
	<input type="checkbox"/> -Boat registration information from the NJ MVC or the State of: _____ (attach copies).				
	<input type="checkbox"/> -A vessel documentation check by the U.S. Coast Guard (attach copy).				
<input type="checkbox"/> -Through the following means in the absence of the foregoing, or based upon ownership information received: ( <i>Describe in full, what you did and attach letters or other substantiating data as appropriate. Use extra sheets if necessary.</i> )					
_____					
_____					
_____					
_____					

<b>Lienholder Information</b>	<b>Ascertained Lienholder Information From</b> <i>(check and complete statements as necessary):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> -The Secretary of State of New Jersey responded that a lien is held on this commercially used vessel by: _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>_____ <i>Name &amp; Address of Institution or Individual</i></span> <span>_____ <i>(If not applicable or none, so state)</i></span> </div>
	<input type="checkbox"/> -The recording officer of _____ County in the State of _____, wherein the <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>_____ <i>County</i></span> <span>_____ <i>State</i></span> </div> registered Vessel owner resides, responded that a lien is currently held on this pleasure used vessel by: _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>_____ <i>Name &amp; Address of Institution or Individual</i></span> <span>_____ <i>(If not applicable or none, so state)</i></span> </div>
	<input type="checkbox"/> -The Authorities of the State of _____ have responded that a lien is held on this vessel by: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>_____ <i>State</i></span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>_____ <i>Name &amp; Address of Institution or Individual</i></span> <span>_____ <i>(If not applicable or none, so state)</i></span> </div>
<b>Publication</b>	Date Notice Appeared in Newspaper
	Name and Address of Newspaper
	County & City in which Newspaper Circulates
<b>Notification</b>	<b>Notification to Owner &amp; Lienholder, if applicable (Form OS/SS-64)</b> <i>(check and complete statements as necessary)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> -I mailed a registered "Abandoned Vessel Notice" Form OS/SS-64 to the owner and lienholder (if applicable), in accordance with the provisions of the Abandoned Vessel Disposition Law (N.J.S.A. 12:7C-7, et seq.). The notice was mailed on: _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>_____ <i>Date Notice Mailed</i></span> </div> Further, I am unaware of any dispute by the vessel owner or lienholder.
	<input type="checkbox"/> -I was unable to ascertain the owner and lienholder (if applicable); therefore, I could not send the registered letter.

**State of New Jersey**  
**County of** \_\_\_\_\_

**BEFORE ME**, the undersigned Notary, \_\_\_\_\_  
*[name of Notary before whom affidavit is sworn]*, on this \_\_\_\_\_ *[day of month]* day of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *[month]*, 20\_\_\_\_, personally appeared  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *[name of affiant]*, known to me to be a credible  
 person and of lawful age, who being by me first duly sworn, on \_\_\_\_\_ *[his or her]* oath, deposes and says:

1. I submit this application to obtain a New Jersey title for the above-described vessel, which was impounded after remaining on public land or waterway, or private property, without the consent of the person in control of the property or waterway, for a period of more than thirty (30) days. The owner of the vessel failed to claim the vessel by midnight of the thirtieth day.

2. On \_\_\_\_\_, I placed notice in the above newspaper, describing the vessel, its location of abandonment, any identifying number, and stating that if the vessel is not claimed and removed within thirty (30) days after the publication date of the notice, I would apply for title to the vessel in my name under the Abandoned Vessel Disposition Law (N.J.S.A. 12:7C-7, et seq.). To date, there has been no response to my public notice.

3. Check one:

\_\_\_\_ On \_\_\_\_\_, I mailed a registered Abandoned Vessel Notice (OS/SS-64) to the owner and to the vessel lienholder (if applicable), stating that if ownership is not claimed and the vessel not removed within thirty (30) days, title to the vessel will be applied for in my name. To date, there has been no response to my registered notice(s);

    The owner has responded; See response.

\_\_\_\_ I was unable to ascertain the owner (or lienholder) and I could not send a registered letter requesting removal of the vessel.

4. To the best of my knowledge, this vessel is not the subject of any court action in which ownership, unpaid storage or repair bills are in dispute.

5. Accordingly, having complied with all applicable provisions of the law governing the disposition of abandoned vessels within the waters of the State of New Jersey, I hereby request that title to the vessel abandoned for more than thirty days, as described herein, be issued to me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[signature of affiant]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[typed name of affiant]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[address of affiant, line 1]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[address of affiant, line 2]*

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this \_\_\_\_\_ *[day of month]*  
day of \_\_\_\_\_ *[month]*, 20\_\_\_\_.

*[Notary Seal:]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[signature of Notary]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[typed name of Notary]*

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Applicant Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Abandoned Vessel Checklist

Use the below checklist as a guide as it may be useful to ensure that you have met all the requirements of the Abandoned Vessel Procedure. To ensure your request is processed in a timely manner, please only submit complete and accurate documents. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the telephone number listed prior to submitting your request. **This checklist must be submitted with your completed request.**

**Please Note:** Each case is unique and is handled on an individual basis. Additional documents may be required upon request.

- 
- Boat ownership information furnished by the NJ MVC or the State of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - U.S. Coast Guard Documentation Number Certification (if applicable).
  - Certificate of Search, State of New Jersey (if applicable).
  - Certificate of Search, County of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Affidavit of Newspaper Publication with actual Newspaper Publication (a clipping).
  - Original registered Abandoned Vessel Notice(s) (Form OS/SS-64) sent to the Owner and Lienholder (if applicable) AND the original signed return receipts. If envelope was returned as undeliverable, the original, unopened envelope with US Postal Service notation is required.
  - If applicable. Copy of Contract and/or Repair-Storage Bill(s).
  - *If abandoned on Private Property*, a notarized letter stating how the applicant came into possession of the vessel.
  - Check or money order in the amount of \$60.00 made payable to: NJ MVC.
  - Application for Certificate of Vessel or Hull Ownership (Form OS/SS-27).
  - Application for Title to Abandoned Vessel (Form OS/SS-65).
  - Hull Identification Number (HIN) Investigation Report, Form OS/SS-10A (if applicable).
-



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
609-292-6500 ext. 5069

## Application for Certificate of Title for Vessel

The Boat Ownership Certificate Act requires that vessels and hulls shall be titled. These articles are defined as follows.

1. Vessel means a boat or watercraft, other than a sea plane, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water.
2. Hull means a vessel exclusive of all means of propulsion.
3. For the purpose of this act, all vessels more than 12 feet in length must be titled.

### Instructions – Please Read Carefully

- 1) Owner or purchaser should submit any supporting documents as proof of ownership.
- 2) This form should be completed by the owner of a vessel or hull purchased prior to the effective date of the Boat Ownership Certificate Act, or purchased out of state, who does not have a Manufacturers Certificate of Origin or a Certificate of Ownership.
- 3) Please type or print clearly.

Owner	Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	
	Street Address	City	State	Zip
	NJ Driver License No. (if Business, Corporation Code)	Date of Birth	Sex	Eye Color

Lienholder	Name of Lienholder or Financial Institution	Corporation Code (15 Digit)	
	Street Address		
	City	State	Zip

Equipment	Hull Identification Number (HIN)	Year	Make
	Type of Boat	Length (Feet & Inches)	Hull Material
	Use	Type of Propulsion	Type of Fuel

**I, the undersigned, hereby apply for Certificate of Ownership for the Vessel or Hull described above, and certify that the statements on this application are correct and true.**

**Owner**  
**Signature X** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Purchase Price \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sales/Use Tax \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ex. Code** \_\_\_\_\_ **Initials** \_\_\_\_\_



**ABANDONED VESSEL NOTICE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Property Owner/Harbor Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Vessel Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

You are advised that your vessel \_\_\_\_\_  
State Registration No. & Description of Vessel (year, make, HIN, length, material, type, etc.)

has been moored, grounded, or otherwise attached or fastened to  public and or waters of this State or  private  
property located at \_\_\_\_\_ without property owner's consent  
Address of property

since \_\_\_\_\_. As a result of the abandonment of this vessel, the vessel has been impounded and is now  
Date Abandoned

located at \_\_\_\_\_  
Physical location of the vessel

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12:7C-10, failure to claim a vessel which has been moored, grounded, or otherwise attached or fastened to public or private waterways for more than thirty (30) days following impoundment is considered abandoned. You are further advised that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12:7C-7 et seq., a landowner, his lessee or his agent (or a municipality or harbor commission if applicable), may institute proceedings to acquire title to any vessel abandoned on his land or water adjacent thereto, upon notice and application to the Motor Vehicle Commission to transfer title to the vessel. Such transfer of ownership will divest the vessel owner and any lienholders of any and all interest in the vessel.

You are hereby notified that, if ownership to the vessel is not claimed and the vessel removed within 30 days of your receipt of this letter, title to the vessel will be applied for in my name (or in the name of the above mentioned municipality or harbor commission if appropriate).

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
CC: Lienholder name (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, & Zip Code

**ABANDONED VESSEL NOTICE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Property Owner/Harbor Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Vessel Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

You are advised that your vessel \_\_\_\_\_  
State Registration No. & Description of Vessel (year, make, HIN, length, material, type, etc.)

has been moored, grounded, or otherwise attached or fastened to  public and or waters of this State or  private  
property located at \_\_\_\_\_ without property owner's consent  
Address of property

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Date Abandoned

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You are hereby notified that, if ownership to the vessel is not claimed and the vessel removed within 30 days of your receipt of this letter, title to the vessel will be applied for in my name (or in the name of the above mentioned municipality or harbor commission if appropriate).

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
CC: Lienholder name (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, & Zip Code

**To be sent certified to  
the vehicle's Lien  
Holder (if applicable)**

**ABANDONED VESSEL NOTICE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Property Owner/Harbor Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Vessel Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

You are advised that your vessel \_\_\_\_\_  
State Registration No. & Description of Vessel (year, make, HIN, length, material, type, etc.)

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Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
CC: Lienholder name (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, & Zip Code

**Retain by the applicant  
for later use with the  
returned certified  
receipt. (Step 4)**

**ABANDONED VESSEL NOTICE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Property Owner/Harbor Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Vessel Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

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State Registration No. & Description of Vessel (year, make, HIN, length, material, type, etc.)

has been moored, grounded, or otherwise attached or fastened to  public and or waters of this State or  private  
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Signature of Applicant

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CC: Lienholder name (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, & Zip Code