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Subject: July Newsletter
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Remote Sales of Motor Vehicles

HF 2485 Remote Sales of Motor Vehicles, updates Iowa's remote vehicle sales rules in remote-sale ERT submissions. Dealers must have compliant odometer statements for used vehicles unless the statement is held by a parent company, or the title has already been issued in the dealer's name. Electronic signatures are permitted on a digital title when submitted through ERT or on the separate disclosure form with an MCO. Counties will also see new ERT practices, including parent companies assigning titles to Iowa dealers before reassignment to buyers, acceptance of electronic reassignment information, and consistent transfer-date handling even when buyers' electronic signatures carry time stamps.

Why It Matters

County treasurers and staff are the frontline for reviewing title applications, confirming proper documentation, and spotting issues before they become problems for buyers or the state. Clear visibility into where a vehicle is, how the title is being handled, and whether records are complete helps prevent fraud, reduce processing delays, and support consistent statewide compliance

Training for counties on these updates will be held August 4th at 8:30-9:30AM & 2:00-3:00PM.
PM-26-06-2026-Remote-Sales-Vehicles.pdf

45 Foot Travel Trailers

Iowa code 321 doesn't allow towable RVs longer than 45 feet to be titled or registered as recreational vehicles, though they can be titled as mobile or manufactured homes under 321.1, they still can't receive license plates for road use because of their size. When someone needs to move an oversized RVs, they must get an oversize load permit from Motor Carrier Services, which gives temporary registration and permission to travel on Iowa roads. Motor Carrier Services is aware of the issue and can help customers who need guidance.

Why It Matters

Dealerships and customers often present transactions to title or register towable RVs over 45 feet without realizing Iowa law doesn't allow them to be treated as recreational vehicles or issued plates. Knowing these limits helps counties quickly give correct guidance and direct customers to Motor Carrier Services for an oversize load permit when the RV needs to be moved. It prevents incorrect registrations, reduces confusion at the counter, and keeps county processes aligned with Iowa Code requirements.

Replacement Plates

Plate rules differ when customers owe a fee and when they don't, depending on why the plate needs to be replaced. A $5 fee applies for replacement plates when originals are lost, stolen, illegible, seized in certain suspensions, or when a customer moves counties and wants county-standard plates. Specialty or personalized plates must be repurchased at full price if the customer wishes to change the county designation on the plate. Damaged personalized or specialty plate designs can be replaced for $5, but it will be an exact replica including the county designation. Customers may keep their existing county name unless replacing plates in the 10-year cycle.

Why It Matters

Customers often expect counties to fix or refund specialty or personalized plate orders, but under Admin Rule 761.401, counties can only refund fees if the state issued the plates in error. If the customer made the mistake, they must reorder through MyMVD, and the fee is non-refundable.

Records within ARTS

Some information stored in ARTS—such as internal DOT notes—is classified as state records and cannot be printed or shared by counties. When customers request information that falls under state-record classification, county staff must direct them to submit IA DOT Form 431069 (DPPA Privacy Act Agreement).

Why It Matters

Knowing this distinction helps counties avoid improper release of protected data, stay compliant with state record-handling rules, and ensure customers are routed to the correct process for obtaining DOT-maintained records.

NMVTIS Corrections

Reminder that all NMVTIS (National Motor Vehicle Information Titling System) corrections or updates are to be sent directly to central.vehicle@iowadot.us

VRT Printer Return Cartridges Program

The link to request return labels for printer toners and imaging units can now be accessed at https://help.marconet.com/recycle-your-toner

Thank you!

Reminder: Past newsletters can be located on the county vehicle resource site.

Iowa Department of Transportation
county.vehicle@iowadot.us