MAINES' ABANDONED VEHICLE PROCESS

MAINE INDEPENDENT MOTOR VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

Governing Maine Law: Title 29A, section 3, § 1851 to § 1855

View, http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/29-A/title29-Ach15sec0.html and scroll down to "Subchapter 3: ABANDONED VEHICLES"; select from the top five (5) links.

According to the Maine Secretary of State, here are the instructions for claiming a vehicle under Maine's Abandoned Vehicle Law:

ANY VEHICLE MEETING ONE OF THE CONDITIONS LISTED BELOW IS ELIGIBLE TO BE CLAIMED UNDER MAINE'S ABANDONED VEHICLE LAW

1. If a vehicle comes into your possession by one of the following means, that vehicle may be claimed under the abandoned vehicle law:
2. Towed at the request of the owner or driver.
3. Towed because illegally parked or left standing or at the officer's discretion. (As ordered by law enforcement)
4. Towed because illegally parked or left standing. (As ordered by the Department of Transportation)
5. Towed because left without permission. Towed after being left on property without permission.
6. Left without permission. Left on property without the permission of the property owner or person in charge of the property or premises where the vehicle is located.
7. Left after repair completed. Left at a place of business after being repaired pursuant to a written work order and signed by the person requesting the repair work.
8. Left on residential property. Left on an individual's residential property (claimant must be owner of property) for more than 6 months (no towing, repair, or storage charges may be charged against the vehicle).
9. Left at storage facility. Left at a storage facility, if the owner has failed to pay storage or rental fees.

Instructions For Claiming Abandoned Vehicles

1. An Application for Certificate of Title (MVT-2) or an application for a Certificate of Salvage (MVT-102) for vehicles 1995 and newer and the $33.00 fee (Note: The application is not available online. You will need to visit your town office or branch office to obtain one).

   OR
2. For title-exempt vehicles, a request for a letter of ownership and $5.00 fee. If you towed

MAINES' ABANDONED VEHICLE PROCESS

MAINE INDEPENDENT MOTOR VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

the vehicle per order of law enforcement and you declare the vehicle a total loss, you must submit an Application for Certificate of Salvage (MVT-102). If the vehicle owner can be notified by the Secretary of State, no title fee is required from the towing company.

3. Notice to the Secretary of State of an Abandoned Vehicle (MVT-28).
4. VIN Inspection form (MVT-10): must be completed and signed by a full time law enforcement officer.
5. If you are applying for ownership because you repaired the vehicle, or performed an estimate for which you were charged, you must include the written work order/ authorization signed by the person who authorized the repair.

If the notification to the Secretary of State required by section 1854 (of Title 29-A) is made more than 14 days after receipt of a vehicle described in section 1851, the person holding the vehicle may not collect more than 14 days of storage fees ($420.00). Daily storage charges must be reasonable and total storage charges may not exceed $900.00 for a 30-day period. (Title29-A M.R.S.A. chapter 15, subchapter 3, sec.1857)

What The Secretary Of State Will Do

If all the paperwork received is in order, the Secretary of State will contact the owner and lien holder, if any, by letter and inform them that they have 21 days to pay your charges and retrieve the vehicle or ownership will pass to you. A copy of the letter will be sent to you.

If the vehicle was towed per order of law enforcement and an Application for Certificate of Salvage is
submitted, the towing company need not submit any fee provided the owner can be identified. The Secretary of State will request the fee from the owner of the vehicle.

If the Secretary of State cannot locate an owner or lien holder, or if the Secretary of State's letter is returned, the owner of the premises where the vehicle is located shall publish one advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the premises is located. The advertisement must:

1. Clearly describe the vehicle by the year, make, model, and vehicle identification number.
2. State how the owner of the premises may be contacted.
3. State that if the owner or lien holder of the vehicle has not properly retrieved it and paid all reasonable charges for its towing, storage, and repair within 14 days from the publication, ownership of the vehicle will pass to the owner of the premises where the vehicle is located.

MAINES' ABANDONED VEHICLE PROCESS

MAINE INDEPENDENT MOTOR VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

Immediately after running the advertisement you must submit proof in the form of the entire page of the newspaper containing the advertisement. Upon receipt of the advertisement, a title or letter of ownership will be issued provided 21 days have passed since the Secretary of State was first notified in writing of an abandoned vehicle.

Maine's Secretary of State's mailing address is:

U.S. Post Office

Secretary of State
Bureau of corporations, Elections & Commissions
101 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0101

UPS, FedEx, AIRBOURNE, etc.

Secretary of State
Bureau of Corporations, Elections & Commissions
111 Sewall Street, 4th floor
Augusta, ME 04330

Sources:
https://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/forms/MVT-28A%20Aband%20Instruct%207-2014%20Fillable.pdf
http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/29-A/title29-Ach15sec0.html
https://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/forms/MVT-10%20VIN%20Inspection%201-2013.pdf

BECOME A MIMVA MEMBER

APPLY NOW