

	<p style="text-align: center;">BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLICY AND PROCEDURE GENERAL ORDER</p>	Distribution	General Order Number
		ALL PERSONNEL	<b>5.21</b>
		Original Issue Date	Reissue/Effective Date
		5/21/19	11/23/19
Order Title:  <b>ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES</b>		Accreditation Standard: POSTC:	Section
		5	
		Section Title PATROL FUNCTIONS	
Rescinds: N/A		<b>Armando J. Perez, Chief of Police</b>	

*This General Order is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This General Order should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting*

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines and procedures to the Bridgeport Police Department related to abandoned motor vehicles.

### II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Bridgeport Police Department that all motor vehicles deemed to be abandoned upon public or private property be processed and disposed of in the manner prescribed in this policy.

### III. DEFINITIONS

Intentionally Abandoned Motor Vehicles: Those vehicles which are stripped, partially stripped, having no registration plates, or invalid registration plates, or damage to constitute a public hazard or nuisance, and left at a location with no apparent intention of being removed.

Unintentionally Abandoned Motor Vehicles: Those vehicles which have mechanical problems or defects, impede snow removal, flow of traffic or are illegally parked where no operator can be immediately located.

Accident Related Vehicles: Inoperable due to motor vehicle accidents.

Unregistered Motor Vehicles: Those vehicles which are not registered with a motor vehicle department and are commonly operated in violation of C.G.S. § 14-147 (Misuse of Plates) and C.G.S. § 14-12a (Operating Unregistered Motor Vehicles.)

## IV. PROCEDURE

### **A. Abandoned Motor Vehicles - General**

1. Any person who abandons any motor vehicle within the limits of any highway or upon property other than such person's own without the consent of the owner thereof for a period longer than twenty-four hours shall have committed an infraction. The last owner of record of a motor vehicle found abandoned, as shown by the files of the Department of Motor Vehicles, shall be deemed to have been the owner of such motor vehicle at the time it was abandoned and the person who abandoned the same or caused or procured its abandonment. (C.G.S. §14-150(a).)

### **B. Responsibilities of Initial Officer**

1. Obtain a listing and stolen check on the vehicle (vehicle shall be towed if listed stolen.)
2. Obtain a case number from PSDC Dispatcher.
3. A Bridgeport Police Department notification sticker (BPD Form #59), properly filled out, shall be affixed in a readily visible place on the vehicle. The notification sticker shall also include the call number;
4. The officer shall make a reasonable attempt to contact the last registered owner of the vehicle and advise them that their vehicle will be towed after 24 hours if not removed.
5. Investigate the case until all leads have been exhausted and/or vehicle is ready for towing.
6. All enforcement action;
7. Complete an Abandoned Vehicle Report, to include the following information:
  - a. Date and time sticker was attached.
  - b. Year, make, model, color, registration/VIN, condition of vehicle.
  - c. Location of vehicle.
  - d. Owner notified. If not notified, indicate reason.
8. Forward report to the Records Division at end of the duty tour for forwarding and investigation by the Traffic Division.
8. Arranging for the towing of abandoned vehicles in accordance with C.G.S. §14-150 and Department Policy;
9. Ensuring that the owner of the vehicle, if known, is notified of the towing and any other subsequent appropriate action by registered mail;
10. Completing the required forms and reports in accordance with C.G.S. §14-150 and Department Policy;

11. Records of all vehicles, removed, stored, or towed at the direction of any officer shall be maintained.

**C. Disposition of Abandoned Motor Vehicles**

1. If the vehicle, so marked, has not been moved within twenty-four hours of the notification, said vehicle shall be towed to and stored in a suitable place.
2. Traffic officers assigned to continue an investigation of an abandoned motor vehicle shall:
  - a. Inventory the contents of the vehicle, using the departmental inventory form, and any items of value shall be secured, Seized W/O Warrant form completed, and turned over to the evidence officer.
  - b. Where possible, photographs should be taken of the vehicle in its present condition prior to being removed by the wrecker.
  - c. The last registered owner of such motor vehicle shall be given written notice by Registered Mail, Return Receipt Requested of such towing within 48 hours.
  - d. A copy of the form letter shall be placed in the case jacket.
  - e. Complete the DMV Form H-109 and mail same to the Conn. Dept. of Motor Vehicles within 48 hours of taking the vehicle into custody if the vehicle is worth \$500.00 or less.
  - f. Provide a copy of DMV Form H-109 to the Wrecker Operator
  - g. All notification letters will be mailed through the Records Section;
  - h. Issue an Infractions Complaint, if possible, for Violation of CT. General Statutes 14-150 to the last registered owner of the vehicle if no contact has been made to this department by the vehicle owner after ten (10) days following the return of the Registered Mail receipt.