



FIELD ORDERS

Chapter	ARS TITLE 28
Subject	Registration

CLARIFICATION

Not all codes involving registration are listed in this section, however, the most frequently violated codes are provided.

CIVIL VIOLATIONS

1. See ARS [28-2532](#)/Current Registration.
 - a. Use for vehicles with expired Arizona registration, vehicles not displaying current Arizona registration, or vehicles with no Arizona registration when required. Cite the driver or owner who knowingly permits the vehicle to be operated upon a highway.
 - b. To allow for the renewal process Arizona MVD requests a thirty-day grace period from the month the registration expires before citing. This does not apply to residents with out-of-state registration.

2. See ARS [28-2533](#)/Current Registration, Out-of-State Plates.
 - a. Requires Arizona residents who have failed to register their vehicle in this state to pay a fine.
 - b. Officers are encouraged to cite for this statute where applicable.

3. Suspended Registration for Mandatory Insurance violation.
 - a. Legal Review – See ARS [28-4139](#)/License Plate Display violation.
 - b. Procedure
 - 1) Check the registration record for all vehicles stopped for traffic violations and all vehicles involved in a collision.
 - 2) If the registration record shows M/I Suspension, F/R Suspension, or other notation of suspension for no insurance, question the driver, or the owner if present.
 - 3) If the driver cannot produce proof of insurance more recent than the notice of insurance cancellation or the date of suspension of the registration by MVD, cite the driver for [28-4139.A](#), displaying M/I

- suspended plate, or [28-4135.C](#), no proof of current insurance, or both. You may also cite the owner, if present, for one or both violations.
- 4) If the driver or owner is cited for a violation of [28-4139.A](#), you must impound the license plate at the time of citation.
 - 5) If the driver or owner is able to produce proof of insurance more recent than MVD notations to the registration record and you have no reason to doubt the validity of the information presented, tell the driver or owner to contact MVD immediately to correct the problem. Do not issue an insurance violation citation and do not take the license plate.
 - 6) Do not seize suspended license plates from unoccupied vehicles.
4. *See* ARS [28-2354](#)/License Plates; Attachment.
 - a. Requires the license plate to be displayed on the rear of the vehicle (A.1), legible (B), securely fastened so it does not swing (B.1), not less than twelve inches from the ground to the bottom of the license plate (B.2), and in a clearly visible position (B.3).
 - b. When issuing a citation for a license plate cover obstructing the view of a license plate, it is not necessary to impound the license plate cover. The cover is not needed as evidence in court.
 5. *See* ARS [28-4532](#)/Dealer Owned Vehicles; Registration Exemption; Use of Dealer Plates.
 - a. Do not stop vehicles for the sole purpose of questioning the validity of dealer plates.
 - b. A dealer, an employee or a prospective buyer may use dealer plates. When used for business purposes, in addition to dealership employees, authorized users include paid independent contractors of the dealership and paid immediate family members of the dealer. Only the dealer or a full-time employee may use a dealer plate on a vehicle for personal use. Prospective buyers may use a vehicle with dealer plates for demonstration purposes only and use is limited to 48 hours for a passenger vehicle and 72 hours for an unladen pickup or truck.

- c. Dealer plates may not be used on work or service vehicles, leased or rented vehicles, laden vehicles or vehicles that have been sold.
- d. A dealer may demonstrate a laden vehicle with cargo after obtaining a permit from MVD. Such permit must be carried in the vehicle.

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS

See ARS [28-2322](#)/License Plate Requirement for Nonresident's Foreign Vehicle.

See ARS [28-2531](#).B.1/Fictitious Registration/Plates.

- 1. When the vehicle is occupied and knowledge can be shown for the fictitious registration:
 - a. Cite the driver or owner.
 - b. Seize and impound the plates.
 - c. Complete a DR. Include a copy of the MVD printout and a photocopy of the impound sheet with the DR.
 - d. Do not allow the violator to drive the vehicle away.
- 2. For seizing plates from occupied vehicles where knowledge by the owner or driver cannot be shown:
 - a. Seize and impound the plates.
 - b. Complete a DR. Include a copy of the MVD printout and a photocopy of the impound sheet with the DR.
 - c. Do not allow the violator to drive the vehicle away.
- 3. When the vehicle is unoccupied:
 - a. Seize and impound fictitious plates from any vehicle when you have legal access.
 - b. Complete a DR. Include a copy of the MVD printout and a photocopy of the impound sheet with the DR.
 - c. Leave a note on the vehicle for the owner to contact the officer.
 - d. Follow-up on criminal charges whenever possible.
- 4. For out-of-state plates:
 - a. When the vehicle is occupied and knowledge by the owner or driver can be shown, cite the violator and seize the plate.

- b. When the vehicle is occupied and you cannot establish evidence of driver/owner knowledge, refer the owner to the particular state MVD. Seize the plates.
- c. When a vehicle with fictitious plates is unoccupied, impound the license plate for destruction. Leave a note on the vehicle for the owner to contact the officer. Include the DR number.

