



ABANDONED VEHICLES

INDEX CODE: 1910
EFFECTIVE DATE: 02-03-23

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I. DEFINITION

A motor vehicle is abandoned when it has remained illegally on public property for more than forty-eight hours (48) hours, or has remained on private property for more than forty-eight (48) hours without the consent of the owner, or for more than ten (10) days in a commercially operated garage.

II. PUBLIC PROPERTY

A. Officers investigating complaints of abandoned vehicles on public property will:

- 1. Determine if the vehicle is stolen, wanted in connection with an official investigation, or a traffic hazard;
- 2. If the positioning of the abandoned vehicle causes a traffic hazard, the vehicle should be removed, but only after the officer makes reasonable efforts to contact the owner/operator and provides a reasonable opportunity for him/her to remove the vehicle.
- 3. Officers will attach a Towing Notice (PD 1910) to the rear window on the driver's side of the vehicle to indicate that the vehicle will be taken into police custody if it is not moved. If there is no rear window, the notice should be placed on a driver's side window of a vehicle or the driver's side tongue of a trailer.
- 4. Officers shall notify the District Traffic Coordinator by email when they have attached a Towing Notice to a vehicle. The email shall contain the following information;
 - a. The date and time the notice was attached,
 - b. The location of the vehicle,
 - c. A clear description of the vehicle,
 - d. The reason the vehicle was tagged.
- 5. It is the responsibility of the District Traffic Coordinator to verify the vehicle has been removed within 48 hours. This can be accomplished by the District Traffic Coordinator or the dayshift patrol platoon. If the vehicle has not been removed and remains in violation after forty-eight hours have elapsed since the Towing Notice was attached, it shall be towed. Abandoned vehicles should be towed during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) unless they are a traffic hazard.

B. Boats

- 1. Boats abandoned on navigable waterways and along the tidal shorelines of Anne Arundel County should be

referred to the Department of Natural Resources Police. If a boat is left on the roadway without a trailer, it should be handled in the same manner as an abandoned vehicle, and towed using the Tow/Vehicle inventory report. The vehicle information will be blank and boat information (boat make, hull identification number, and boat registration number) should be noted in the narrative section of the Tow/Vehicle Inventory report.

2. If a boat is on a trailer, the trailer information should be used to fill in the vehicle information of the Tow/Vehicle Inventory report. The boat information (boat make, hull identification number, and boat registration number) should be noted in the narrative section of the Tow/Vehicle Inventory report.
- C. Owner notification must be made in accordance with Index Code 1909, Section VIII.

III. PRIVATE PROPERTY - USED BY THE PUBLIC

A. Abandoned vehicles will be removed from private property used by the public only in response to a complaint from the owner or lessee of the property if the vehicle significantly affects the business conducted on the private property in question (i.e. blocking a travel lane within a parking lot, blocking an entrance, etc.) and they do not already have a Anne Arundel County licensed non-consensual (trespass) towing company under contract. If they do, they should contact that towing company directly.

B. Officers investigating these complaints will also follow the procedures set forth in Section II for towing from public property.

IV. PRIVATE PROPERTY - PERSONAL USE

A. In response to complaints made by citizens of abandoned or junked vehicles in their community, not on a public right-of-way (such as in a neighbor's yard), the officer will refer the complainant to the Office of Planning and Zoning at (410) 222-7450 or the online link at www.aacounty.org.

B. Citizens requesting the removal of abandoned vehicles from their own private property (not used by the public) should be advised to contact a private tow company. With supervisory approval, the vehicle may be towed in accordance with Section II if the vehicle blocks access to the citizen's property, or causes a hazard, and they are unable to have it removed.

V. TOW RECORDS

Tow/Vehicle Inventory reports completed per Index Code 1909, VII. will be submitted to and filed by Central Records according to the retention schedule determined by the custodian of records.

The Communications Section is responsible for maintaining a log of vehicles towed by the department. The *Special Events Section* will monitor the departmental tow procedure, ensuring that the department complies with all provisions of the law.

VI. PROPONENT UNIT: *Special Events Section*.

VII. CANCELLATION: This directive cancels Index Code 1910, dated *01-02-20*.