Louisiana Department of Public Safety
Office of Motor Vehicles
Policy 3.00 Justice of the Peace Court Orders

Section: 4. Motor Vehicle Registration Requirements

Effective Date: 06/29/1992

Revised: 06/17/2024

Authority:
Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, Article 4912
Administrative
R.S. 32:735 B
R.S. 47:303 B
To view Louisiana Statues: http://www.legis.state.la.us/

Scope: To establish the requirements for issuance of a Louisiana title for a vehicle that is subject to a Justice of the Peace Court Order and to establish a process by which a Justice of the Peace can request documents necessary to aid in rendering a judgement.

Definitions:
- **Justice of the Peace** – an elected official who has judicial authority of a ward or district and who has concurrent jurisdiction with Parish and District Courts on issues regarding the ownership of movable properties the value of which does not exceed $5000.
- **Justice of the Peace Court Order** – A court order rendered by a Justice of the Peace
- **J.D. Power** – A vehicle valuation guide

General:
- A Justice of the Peace may request information from the Office of Motor Vehicles pertinent to the vehicle and which may be necessary to aid the Justice of the Peace in determining if an order/judgement should be rendered.
- Adversarial proceedings (if someone contests the court order) must be against the owner of record. It will be the responsibility of the Justice of the Peace issuing the judgment to provide proof of the proceedings to the Office of Motor Vehicles.
- A Justice of the Peace order submitted by an auto title company shall **not** be accepted if the Justice of the Peace who rendered the order is an employee, officer, director, manager or owner of that auto title company submitting the transaction.

Eligibility:
- **Vehicle Valuation:** To determine if ownership of the movable property can be established by a Justice of the Peace, the value of the vehicle shall be based on the retail value of the vehicle as determined by J.D. Power. The value of the vehicle shall be less than $5,000. If the J.D. Power value exceeds $5,000, the Judgement shall contain a detailed statement of facts as to why the vehicle is valued at less than $5,000.

- OMV **will not** accept court orders for the following:
    - When the current value or current purchase price exceeds $5,000 with no explanation warranting the value
    - A vehicle purchased from a dealer that is still in business
    - Damaged vehicles with no disclosure or affidavit of repairs submitted
    - Vehicles that have been branded with any of the following brands or their equivalent:
        - **Auto Hulk**
        - **Crushed Vehicle**
        - **Crushed Katrina**
        - **Dismantled Vehicle**
        - **Stolen Vehicles**
        - **Certificate of Destruction**

Requirements:

- A completed vehicle application form (DPSMV 1799)
    - In lieu of an odometer statement, the current odometer reading must be included on the vehicle application, if applicable.
- An original Justice of the Peace Court order/judgment on letterhead. The order/judgement must contain, at the minimum, the following:
    - Name of person awarded ownership of the vehicle
    - Date vehicle was acquired
    - Seller/entity from whom the vehicle was acquired
    - Nature/history of the acquisition, including a thorough explanation of the circumstances as to why the documentation necessary to obtain a title is not available
    - Complete description of the vehicle including vehicle identification number, make, year and model
    - Consideration (monies, etc.) involved/exchanged for the vehicle must be indicated
    - Judgment must state that the vehicle is lien free. If a judgment does not indicate that the vehicle is lien free, a satisfaction of lien is required.
- A title or certificate of registration to verify the vehicle identification number (VIN). If the title or registration is not available an affidavit of physical inspection will be required. The physical inspection must be performed by a full-time Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) certified law enforcement officer who has been certified by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police, to inspect motor vehicles.
- Bill of Sale, if available
- Original or copy of a properly completed UCC-1 form (financing statement) or other security agreement, if a lien is to be recorded.
- Additional documents may be required if the vehicle has been or is required to be branded (i.e. disclosure, affidavit of repairs, etc.)

Related Policies:

Section 4, Policy 8.02 Good Faith Possession of a Vehicle
Section 4, Policy 15.00 Duplicate Titles
Section 4, Policy 18.02 Affidavit of Heirship
Section 4, Policy 20.08 Self-Park Storage Facility Procedure for Abandoned Vehicles
Section 4, Policy 34.01 Vehicle Sales by Pawnbrokers
Section 4, Policy 121.00 Alternate Procedure to Transfer Vehicles