



Louisiana Department of Public Safety  
Office of Motor Vehicles  
**Policy 18.03 Loss of Properly Assigned Title After  
Death of Titled Owner**

**Section:** 4. Motor Vehicle Registration Requirements

**Effective Date:** 12/14/1994

**Revised Date:** 06/28/2013

**Authority:**

Administrative

**Definition:**

- Under extenuating circumstances, a title transfer is permissible without the properly assigned title being surrendered.

**Requirements:**

- A duplicate title cannot be issued after the titled owner is deceased. If the properly assigned title has been lost after the previous owner dies, the following documents will be acceptable for the transfer of the vehicle to the new owner.
  - A completed vehicle application form (DPSMV 1799) signed by the new owner.
  - Notarized bill of sale signed by the previous owner.
  - Copy of the last registration certificate, if available.
  - Copy of the previous owner's death certificate.
  - Affidavit attesting to the fact that the properly assigned title was surrendered to the buyer by the previous owner at the time of the sale, but has since been lost or misplaced.
  - Notarized release of lien, if applicable.
  - Federal odometer disclosure form if the vehicle is less than 10 model years old. If an odometer disclosure form was not completed before the previous owner's death, only the buyer's portion must be completed.
  - Proof of current liability insurance if obtaining license plate.
  - Applicable sales tax and fees.
- If evidence cannot be found that the vehicle was previously titled in Louisiana in the decedent's name, a double transfer must be processed. The following documentation must also be included:
  - A completed vehicle application form (DPSMV 1799) on behalf of the decedent,
  - An affidavit of physical inspection. 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.
  - Statement of fact as to how the vehicle was acquired.

**Related Policies:**

Section 4, Policy 2.03 [Completion Of Vehicle Application](#)