



Louisiana Department of Public Safety  
Office of Motor Vehicles  
**Policy 78.00 Issuance of a Title to a Stolen Vehicle  
(Unrecovered Theft)**

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

**Effective Date:** 05/10/1987

**Revised Date:** 01/25/2017

**Authority:**

Administrative

**General:**

- Vehicles that were stolen and never recovered may be titled in the name of the insurance company upon settlement with the owner or in the name of the owner if the vehicle is stolen before a title can be issued in his name.

**Eligibility:**

- An unrecovered theft title can be issued only to vehicles that are reported as stolen through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC)
- An unrecovered theft title is processed by the Specialized Vehicle Unit, Headquarters Services.

**Requirements:**

- The following documents must be submitted in order to transfer ownership to the insurance company:
  - A completed vehicle application form (DPSMV 1799) in the name of the insurance company.
  - A Louisiana certificate of title assigned by the titled owner to the insurance company (or to dealer and reassigned by dealer to insurance company in the event the dealer was insured) and any lien that might have been recorded on the title must be properly released, OR the MSO for a new, previously unregistered vehicle which was stolen en route to a licensed dealer or while on the dealer's lot and covered by an insured peril or while being used as a demonstrator or a used vehicle on which an out-of-state title or license has been issued either in the name of the insured or assigned before a notary public by the out-of-state resident to the licensed dealer who is insured.
  - A proof of loss statement (if file is submitted by the insurance company) indicating the stolen vehicle has not been recovered, therefore, the percentage of sustained damage cannot be determined. The statement must also indicate that the vehicle is being titled for ownership purposes and, if recovered, will not be leased or rented to an individual or personally used by the insurance company.

**Fees:**

- **To title in insurance company's name**
  - Title fee
  - Handling fee
  - Sales tax will not be collected on unrecovered theft titles issued in the insurance company's name
- **To title in an individual's name**
  - Title fee
  - Handling
  - Sales/Use tax, if applicable
  - Mortgage fee, if applicable

**Notes:**

- If the insured party is not a licensed dealer and if he has not titled the vehicle in his name, he is required to obtain a title before the vehicle can be transferred into the name of the insurance company.
- When the vehicle is recovered and if it has sustained damage as a result of the theft, the insurance company/owner must apply for a title indicating brands consistent with the damages sustained.