



Georgia Private Car Sale Checklist

Use this checklist to prepare for a private vehicle sale in Georgia. Requirements can vary by vehicle type, lien status, and situation, so always confirm with the Georgia Department of Revenue — Motor Vehicle Division before completing the transaction.

QUICK ANSWER

Georgia sellers sign the back of the title, complete odometer disclosure for vehicles under 10 years old, and remove their license plate — Georgia plates generally go with the owner, not the vehicle. The buyer must apply for title and pay the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) at the county tag office within 30 days of purchase — check the Georgia DOR Motor Vehicle Division website for the current TAVT rate.

KEY FACTS

State	Georgia
Agency	Georgia Department of Revenue — Motor Vehicle Division
Process	See official source
Notary required	No
Bill of sale	Conditional
Odometer disclosure	Yes
Filing deadline	30 days
Last reviewed	May 10, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

NOTARY No	BILL OF SALE Conditional	ODOMETER Yes	INSPECTION Not specified
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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Within 30 days

Buyer must apply for title and pay Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) at county tag office within 30 days of purchase

PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Seller checklist

- ☐ **Signed vehicle title** **REQUIRED**
The seller must sign the title over to the buyer. Sign exactly as your name appears on the title.
- ☐ **Odometer disclosure statement** **REQUIRED**
Required by federal law for vehicles less than 10 years old under 16,000 lbs. Usually completed on the title itself.
- ☐ **Bill of sale** **RECOMMENDED**
A written record of the sale including VIN, price, date, buyer and seller information. Requirements vary by state.
- ☐ **Vehicle history report (recommended)** **RECOMMENDED**
Not required but strongly recommended. Helps buyer verify ownership and history.
- ☐ **Release of liability / notice of sale filed with state** **CONDITIONAL**
Protects the seller from liability after the vehicle is sold. Requirements and process vary by state.
- ☐ **Lien release (if vehicle had a loan)** **CONDITIONAL**
If there is an outstanding loan on the vehicle, the lienholder must release the lien before or at the time of sale.

Required forms

- ☐ **Signed vehicle title** **REQUIRED**
The certificate of title signed over to the buyer.
- ☐ **Odometer Disclosure Statement** **CONDITIONAL**
May be on the title itself or a separate form for older titles.



SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Notary: No — Georgia generally does not require notarization for private vehicle sales.

Bill of sale: Conditional — Not required by state law but recommended as a record of the transaction.

Odometer disclosure: Yes — Required for vehicles under 10 years old. Completed on the title.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 Seller signs the back of the title in the seller's signature section and completes odometer disclosure.
- 2 Seller removes their license plate — Georgia plates stay with the owner.
- 3 Provide the buyer with the signed title and a bill of sale (recommended).
- 4 Buyer applies for title and pays TAVT at the county tag office within 30 days.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Seller leaving plates on the vehicle — Georgia plates go with the owner.
- Buyer missing the 30-day title application deadline.
- Not accounting for the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) — it replaces sales tax in Georgia.
- Missing the odometer disclosure on the title.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

GA DOR — Motor Vehicle Division

<https://mvd.dor.georgia.gov>

GA DOR — Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT)

<https://mvd.dor.georgia.gov/motor-vehicle/title-ad-valorem-tax-tavt>