



Georgia Car Title Transfer Checklist

Georgia title transfers are handled by the county tag office (not the state directly) on behalf of the Georgia Department of Revenue Motor Vehicle Division. The buyer completes Form MV-1 (Motor Vehicle Title/Tag Application) and pays the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) instead of sales tax. TAVT is a one-time tax on the vehicle's fair market value (currently 7% — verify with GA DOR) that replaces both sales tax and the older annual ad valorem tax for vehicles titled in Georgia since March 2013. The buyer must complete the transfer at the county tag office within 30 days of purchase to avoid TAVT penalties. Plates stay with the seller in Georgia — the buyer either transfers eligible plates from another vehicle they own or buys new plates with registration.

QUICK ANSWER

Georgia title transfers are handled at the county tag office — not at a centralized state DMV branch. Buyers must apply and pay the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) within 30 days of transfer — check the GA DOR Motor Vehicle Division website for current TAVT rates and required documentation.

KEY FACTS

State	Georgia
Agency	Georgia Department of Revenue — Motor Vehicle Division
Process	In person
Notary required	No
Bill of sale	Conditional
Odometer disclosure	Yes
Filing deadline	30 days
Last reviewed	May 21, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

NOTARY No	BILL OF SALE Conditional	ODOMETER Yes	INSPECTION Conditional
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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Within 30 days

Buyer must apply for title and pay TAVT at the county tag office within 30 days of the date of sale

Within 30 days

TAVT late penalty applies after 30 days 10% of TAVT + monthly compounding penalty.

PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Buyer checklist

- ☐ Signed Georgia title from seller **REQUIRED**
- ☐ Completed Form MV-1 **REQUIRED**
Form MV-1
- ☐ Bill of sale (T-7 if needed) **CONDITIONAL**
Form T-7
- ☐ Proof of Georgia auto insurance **REQUIRED**
- ☐ Government-issued photo ID **REQUIRED**
- ☐ Emissions inspection (in 13 metro counties) **CONDITIONAL**
- ☐ Payment for title fee, TAVT, and registration fee **REQUIRED**

Seller checklist



- ☐ **Signed Georgia title (back, seller's section)** **REQUIRED**
No notarization required. Sign as your name appears on the front.
- ☐ **Odometer disclosure on the title** **REQUIRED**
- ☐ **Bill of sale (Form T-7 or equivalent)** **RECOMMENDED**
[Form T-7](#)
Document the price for TAVT calculation purposes.
- ☐ **Remove Georgia license plates** **REQUIRED**
Plates stay with the seller, not the vehicle.
- ☐ **Lien release letter (if applicable)** **CONDITIONAL**

Required forms

- ☐ **MV-1 — Motor Vehicle Title/Tag Application** **REQUIRED**
[Form MV-1](#)
Primary title application filed at the county tag office.
- ☐ **T-7 — Bill of Sale** **CONDITIONAL**
[Form T-7](#)
Georgia's official bill of sale template. Required when the price field on the title is incomplete.
- ☐ **MV-16 — Affidavit of Correction** **CONDITIONAL**
[Form MV-16](#)
Used to correct errors on the title at transfer.
- ☐ **T-20 — Lien or Security Interest Affidavit** **CONDITIONAL**
[Form T-20](#)
Filed when a lien needs to be recorded or released on the new title.

FEES

\$18 — Title fee (Paid at the county tag office at the time of transfer.)

7% of fair market value — Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) (One-time tax that replaces both sales tax and annual ad valorem tax for vehicles titled in Georgia since March 2013. Calculated on the Georgia DOR fair-market-value tables (not the sale price). Rate can change — verify current rate before transfer.)

sourceNeeded — varies by county — Registration fee (Annual registration fee plus optional county/special-tag fees. Confirm current amount with your county tag office.)

10% of TAVT + 1% per month — Late TAVT penalty (Georgia adds an immediate 10% penalty on unpaid TAVT after 30 days, plus 1% per month thereafter (sourceNeeded — confirm current penalty calculation).)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Notary: No — Georgia does not require notarization for standard vehicle title transfers. The seller's signature on the back of the title is sufficient.

Bill of sale: Conditional — Georgia uses Form T-7 as the official bill of sale. Not required by statute when the title is properly assigned, but Form T-7 is recommended and may be required when the title's purchase price field is incomplete.

Odometer disclosure: Yes — Required by federal law and on the back of the Georgia title. Completed by the seller for vehicles less than 20 model-years old.

Inspection: Conditional — Georgia requires annual emissions inspections in 13 Atlanta metro counties for most gasoline vehicles 3–25 model-years old. Vehicles outside those counties are exempt. Emissions must be passed before registration in covered counties.

Plates: Georgia plates stay with the owner, not the vehicle. The seller removes plates before delivery; the buyer transfers an eligible plate from another vehicle they own or buys new plates with registration at the county tag office.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 Confirm the seller is the titled owner of record on the front of the Georgia title.
- 2 Check the title for liens — outstanding liens must be released before transfer.
- 3 Seller signs the back of the title and completes the odometer disclosure.
- 4 Both parties complete Form T-7 (bill of sale) if needed.
- 5 Seller removes Georgia plates from the vehicle.
- 6 Buyer obtains Georgia auto insurance in their name.
- 7 If the vehicle is in one of the 13 emissions counties (mostly Atlanta metro), complete emissions inspection.



- 8 Buyer brings signed title, MV-1, bill of sale, insurance proof, photo ID, and payment to the county tag office within 30 days.
- 9 Buyer pays \$18 title fee + TAVT (7% of fair market value) + registration fee.
- 10 County tag office issues registration and new plates; the new title arrives by mail.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Missing the 30-day deadline — Georgia immediately adds a 10% penalty on unpaid TAVT with monthly compounding.
- Not realizing that plates stay with the seller in Georgia — driving on the seller's plates is illegal.
- Trying to file at a GA DOR office — title transfers go through the county tag office, not the state directly.
- Underreporting the sale price — Georgia calculates TAVT on its own fair-market-value tables, not the bill of sale price, so under-declaring won't reduce the tax owed.
- Forgetting emissions inspection in covered counties — the county tag office won't complete registration without it.
- Confusing TAVT with annual sales tax — TAVT is a one-time tax that replaces sales tax for vehicles titled in Georgia.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

GA DOR — Motor Vehicle Division

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

GA DOR — TAVT Information

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

Form MV-1 (Title/Tag Application)

<https://dor.georgia.gov/documents/mv-1-motor-vehicle-titletag-application>

Form T-7 (Bill of Sale)

<https://dor.georgia.gov/documents/t-7-bill-sale>

Georgia's Clean Air Force (Emissions)

<https://cleanairforce.com/>