Indiana Private Car Sale Checklist

Use this checklist to prepare for a private vehicle sale in Indiana. Requirements can vary by vehicle type, lien status, and situation, so always confirm with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) before completing the transaction.

QUICK ANSWER

To sell a car in Indiana, sign the title over to the buyer (no notarization required for a standard in-person sale) and complete the odometer disclosure for vehicles under 10 years old. In Indiana, your license plates stay with you, not the vehicle — remove them and either transfer them to another car or credit them toward a new plate. The buyer then has 45 days to apply for a new title with the Indiana BMV. Verify current requirements with the Indiana BMV.

KEY FACTS

State	Indiana
Agency	Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)
Process	See official source
Notary required	No
Bill of sale	Conditional
Odometer disclosure	Yes
Last reviewed	July 6, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

NOTARY	BILL OF SALE	ODOMETER	INSPECTION
No	**Conditional**	**Yes**	**Not specified**

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 — Indiana does not require notarization for a standard private-party title assignment where both parties sign in person.

Bill of sale: Conditional — A bill of sale (State Form 44237) is commonly used and is required when it serves as the primary proof of ownership; a standard sale with a properly signed title does not always require a separate bill of sale.

Odometer disclosure: Yes — Required by federal law for vehicles under 10 years old.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

1. Verify the title is clear of liens before selling.
2. Sign the title over to the buyer in the designated section.
3. Complete the odometer disclosure on the title.
4. Provide the buyer with the signed title and any other required documents.
5. Notify the state motor vehicle agency of the sale if required.
6. Remove your license plates if required by your state.
7. Cancel your insurance or transfer it to your new vehicle.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Leaving your plates on the car — Indiana plates belong to the owner, not the vehicle; remove them before handing it over.
- Assuming the sale must be notarized — Indiana does not require it for a standard in-person sale.
- Skipping the odometer disclosure for a vehicle under 10 years old.
- Not giving the buyer a completed bill of sale (State Form 44237) for their records.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

Indiana BMV — Buying and Selling
https://www.in.gov/bmv/titles/buying-and-selling/

Indiana BMV
https://www.in.gov/bmv/