New Jersey Private Car Sale Checklist

Use this checklist to prepare for a private vehicle sale in New Jersey. Requirements can vary by vehicle type, lien status, and situation, so always confirm with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) before completing the transaction.

QUICK ANSWER

To sell a car in New Jersey, sign the title over to the buyer (no notarization required) and give them a bill of sale — New Jersey law requires the seller to provide one showing the buyer's name and address, the date of sale, the odometer reading, and the sale price. In New Jersey you remove your license plates and surrender them to the MVC (or transfer them to another vehicle you own) — they don't stay with the car. The buyer then has 10 working days to transfer the title in person at an MVC agency. Verify current requirements with the New Jersey MVC.

KEY FACTS

State	New Jersey
Agency	New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)
Process	See official source
Notary required	No
Bill of sale	Yes
Odometer disclosure	Yes
Last reviewed	July 6, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

NOTARY	BILL OF SALE	ODOMETER	INSPECTION
No	**Yes**	**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 — New Jersey does not require notarization for a standard private-party title assignment; it is only required when a Power of Attorney is used.

Bill of sale: Yes — A bill of sale is required from the seller and must include the buyer's name and address, the date of sale, the odometer reading, and the sale price.

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 — in New Jersey you must remove your plates and surrender them to the MVC unless you transfer them to another vehicle you own.
- Not providing the legally required bill of sale with the buyer's name/address, date, odometer reading, and sale price.
- Skipping the odometer disclosure for a vehicle under 10 years old.
- Assuming the transfer can be done online — New Jersey requires the buyer to file in person at an MVC agency.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

New Jersey MVC — Transfer Ownership
https://www.nj.gov/mvc/vehicles/transowner.htm

New Jersey MVC
https://www.nj.gov/mvc/