



Texas Private Car Sale Checklist

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

QUICK ANSWER

Texas sellers must sign the back of the title and complete Form 130-U (Application for Texas Certificate of Title) with the buyer. The buyer applies for a new title at the county tax assessor-collector's office (not at TxDMV) within 30 days and pays a \$33 title fee plus 6.25% motor vehicle sales tax on the sale price or Standard Presumptive Value, whichever is higher.

KEY FACTS

State	Texas
Agency	Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV)
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 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.



FEES

\$33 — Title application fee (Plus 6.25% motor vehicle sales tax on sale price or Standard Presumptive Value, whichever is higher.)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Notary: No — Notarization is generally not required for private vehicle sales in Texas.

Bill of sale: Conditional — Not mandated but strongly recommended. Form 130-U serves as the primary transfer document.

Odometer disclosure: Yes — Required by federal law and completed on Form 130-U for vehicles under 10 years old.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 Seller signs the back of the title, filling in the buyer's name, sale price, date, and odometer reading.
- 2 Seller and buyer complete Form 130-U (Application for Texas Certificate of Title).
- 3 Seller gives the buyer the signed title and Form 130-U.
- 4 Buyer submits Form 130-U, the signed title, proof of insurance, and fees to the county tax office within 30 days.
- 5 Buyer pays 6.25% motor vehicle sales tax based on the sale price or Standard Presumptive Value.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Missing the 30-day deadline for title application — daily penalty fees apply.
- Not paying the correct amount of sales tax (use SPV if sale price is below it).
- Seller not giving buyer a copy of Form 130-U.
- Odometer disclosure missing from title or Form 130-U.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

TxDMV — Buying or Selling a Vehicle

<https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/buying-or-selling-a-vehicle>

Texas Form 130-U

<https://www.txdmv.gov/forms>

Texas DMV

<https://www.txdmv.gov>