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Texas Transportation Code Reference Guide

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This document is intended to be used as a quick reference only and is not legal advice. Peace officers are responsible for their own research and following respective agency policy. For questions, comments, or suggestions email the author at mguzman1316@gmail.com.

Texas Transportation Code – Important Chapters

502	Registration of Vehicles
503	Dealer's and Manufacturer's Vehicle License Plates
504	License Plates
521	Driver's Licenses and Certifications
522	Commercial Driver's Licenses
541	Definitions
542	General Provisions
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546	Operation of Authorized Emergency Vehicles and Certain Other Vehicles
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601	Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act
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Applicability of the Transportation Code

Where does the transportation code apply? In most circumstances, the transportation code will only apply to public highways and streets unless specifically noted in the transportation code or intended by the legislature to apply elsewhere.

542.001 Vehicles on Highways – A provision of this subtitle [TRC Chapters 541-600] relating to the operation of a vehicle applies only to the operation of a vehicle on a highway unless the provision specifically applies to a different place.

The following are examples of transportation code offenses that can be enforced on private property.

• Reckless Driving	545.401
• Duty Upon Striking Unattended Vehicle	550.024
• Duty Upon Striking Structure/Fixture/Landscaping	550.025
• Hit and Run (Collision Involving Damage to Vehicle)	550.022
• Fail to Stop and Render Aid (Collision Involving Injury)	550.021
• Park in Disabled Parking	681.011
• Fail to Maintain Financial Responsibility	601.191
• Use of Portable Wireless Communication Device on School Property	545.4252

What encompasses a highway, roadway, or street? An easy way to remember what encompasses a highway or street is to think of the term “fence line-to-fence line” which would delineate the private property lines on each side of the road. The transportation code applies to the entire right-of-way that is publicly maintained. This includes the roadway, shoulder, sidewalk, culvert, and easement (i.e., fence line-to-fence line).

Highway or Street – 541.302(5) – means the width between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained way any part of which is open to the public for vehicular travel.

Roadway – 541.302(11) – means the portion of a highway, other than the berm or shoulder, that is improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel. If a highway includes at least two separate roadways, the term applies to each roadway separately.

Shoulder – 541.302(15) – means the portion of a highway that is:

- (A) adjacent to the roadway;
- (B) designed or ordinarily used for parking;
- (C) distinguished from the roadway by different design, construction, or marking; and
- (D) not intended for normal vehicular travel.

Sidewalk – 541.302(16) – means the portion of a street that is:

- (A) between a curb or lateral line of a roadway and the adjacent property line; and
- (B) intended for pedestrian use.

Alley – 541.302(1) – means a street that:

- (A) is not used primarily for through traffic; and
- (B) provides access to rear entrances of buildings or lots along a street.

Example: A person operating an off-highway vehicle, go-kart, or dirt bike on the easement next to a roadway would be Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle 502.472 as the easement is a “publicly maintained way.”

Example: An occupant of a vehicle stopped on a shoulder during a traffic stop is still required to be secured in a seat belt at all times during the stop as the shoulder is a “portion of a highway” and the vehicle is being operated.

Example: A white light to the front of a bicycle at night is still required if the bicycle is being ridden on a sidewalk as the sidewalk is considered a “portion of a street.”

Example: A vehicle in a private parking lot that backs into another vehicle cannot be cited for “Unsafe Backing” since the vehicle was on private property. If the vehicle is not insured, the driver can be cited for this violation.

Accidents / Crashes / Collisions

- A deliberate or intentional act is not a reportable crash, and a crash report should not be generated. For it to be considered a reportable crash, it must be unintentional or an unstable situation not under human control per the TxDOT CR-100 *Instructions to Police for Reporting Crashes* and CR-102 *Classification of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes in Texas*. If the intentional act caused unintended consequences (i.e., damage or injury beyond which was intended), this would be considered a reportable crash.
- Examples of intentional acts in which a crash report should not be generated:
 - A police officer performs a legal intervention such as a ram, PIT, or deploying stop sticks.
 - A road rage incident in which the suspect purposely rams another vehicle.
 - A wife purposely kills her cheating husband by running him over.
 - Suicide by purposely colliding into a tree.
- Crash report required (peace officers) 550.062
 - Officers shall file a crash report if there was an injury or property damage of more than \$1,000 to any one person's property.
 - Crash reports shall be completed if the location of the collision is intended for open use by the public. This includes private parking lots and roads open to the public. 550.001
 - Does not apply to a private residential parking area or a private parking lot where a fee is charged for parking or storing a vehicle. 550.041
- Crash report required (citizens) 550.026
 - Operator of a vehicle involved in a collision shall immediately notify local law enforcement if:
 - there is damage to a vehicle to the extent that it cannot be normally and safely driven; or
 - a collision resulting in injury to or death of a person
- If It Steers, It Clears 550.022(b)
 - If the collision occurs on a main lane, ramp, shoulder, median or adjacent area of a freeway in a metropolitan area, vehicles need to be moved so as not to impede traffic.
 - Metropolitan area – contains at least one municipality with a population of at least 100,000 and includes the adjacent municipalities and unincorporated urban districts 541.101
 - Stop, stand, or park in a lane of travel may be another option for a citation outside of a metropolitan area or freeway if obstructing traffic unnecessarily. 545.301
- Exchanging info after a collision. The operator must: 550.021, 550.022(a) & 550.023
 1. Immediately stop the vehicle at the scene, stop as close as possible to the scene, or immediately return to the scene if they were not able to stop initially.
 2. Immediately determine if a person was involved and whether that person requires medical aid
 3. Drivers must provide name, address, license plate number, and insurance
 4. Must provide driver's license if available
 - Collision Involving Damage to Vehicle <\$200 (Class C) 550.022(c)(1)
 - Collision Involving Damage to Vehicle >=\$200 (Class B) 550.022(c)(2)
 - Fail to Stop and Render Aid 550.021
 - Collision Involving Injury – (SJF) 550.021(c)(2)
 - Collision Involving Serious Bodily Injury – (Felony 3) 550.021(c)(1)(B)
 - Collision Involving Death – (Felony 2) 550.021(c)(1)(A)
- Striking unattended vehicle 550.024
 - Must locate owner/operator and provide name and address; or
 - Leave a written note giving name, address, and a statement of circumstances leading to the collision
 - Duty on Striking Unattended Vehicle <\$200 (Class C) 550.024
 - Duty on Striking Unattended Vehicle >=\$200 (Class B)
- Causing damage to a structure, fixture, or landscaping 550.025
 - Must take reasonable steps to locate and notify owner and provide name, address, and license plate number. Must provide driver's license if available.
 - Duty on Striking Fixture/Hwy Landscape <\$200 (Class C)
 - Duty on Striking Fixture/Hwy Landscape >=\$200 (Class B)

- If a vehicle causes a collision, even if it didn't collide with another car, that vehicle is considered to be part of the crash. May be charged with hit and run or fail to stop and render aid.
Gillie v. State, 181 S.W.3d 768 (Tex. App.–Waco 2005)
- If at fault in a collision which caused SBI/death, does not have insurance, and:
 - DL or ID was suspended (Class A); 521.457(f-2)
 - Never been issued a DL (Class A); or 521.025(c)(3)
 - Operating a vehicle with the wrong driver's license classification (Class A). 521.025(c)(3)
 - Example: Motorcyclist doesn't have a class M license and their passenger suffers a serious bodily injury.
- Fleeing on foot after a single vehicle collision and leaving the vehicle in the roadway is not considered obstructing or impeding a highway. Proper violation may be failure to immediately report a crash under 550.026 or other relevant statutes under chapter 550. *Bailey v. State*, 304 S.W.3d 544 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2009)
- Fleet Crashes 521.042(c)(
 - When completing the Crash Report, for the body style select "PC" for police car/truck rather than a sedan or SUV. Even if the vehicle is unmarked, still select the "PC" designation. This ensures the crash is not reported on the officer's official Texas driving history.

Authority to Tow

- Police authority to tow vehicles 545.305 & 683.011
 - Unattended on a bridge, causeway, or tunnel and the vehicle is obstructing traffic
 - Unlawfully parked and blocking the entrance to a private driveway
 - Stolen vehicle
 - Unattended and the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the vehicle has been abandoned for longer than 48hrs
 - Disabled so that normal operation is impossible or impractical and the owner or person in charge of the vehicles is incapacitated or unable to provide for the vehicle's removal or he is not in the immediate vicinity of the vehicle.
 - Operated by a person an officer arrests.
 - The vehicle lacks insurance or any other financial responsibility.
 - The driver has not been issued a driver's license.
 - The operator's driver's license is suspended, cancelled, or revoked.
 - This applies to out-of-state driver's licenses as well
 - In the officer's opinion, the vehicle is a hazard, interferes with the normal function of a governmental agency or because of a catastrophe, emergency, or unusual circumstance is imperiled.
 - If the officer believes a vehicle in the right-of-way or roadway endangers public safety. Officer does not need owner's consent. 545.3051(b)
 - Shall tow vehicles used in a Reckless Driving Exhibition PC 42.03(f), or Racing 545.420(i)
- Abandoned motor vehicle definition 683.002
 - Is inoperable, is more than 5 years old, and has been left unattended on public property for more than 48hrs
 - Remained illegally on public property for more than 48hrs
 - Remained on private property without consent for more than 48hrs
 - Left unattended on a right-of-way for more than 48hrs
 - Left unattended on a right-of-way on a controlled access highway for more than 24hrs
- Tow truck drivers who remove a vehicle must also remove the debris from the highway 600.001(b)
- If a peace officer tows for evidentiary purposes and places a hold at a wrecker lot, the agency is responsible for the cost of towing and storage. The owner is financially responsible for storage from the date the evidence hold is lifted. CCP 18.23

Authorized Emergency Vehicles

- Duty of care – This chapter does not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle: 546.005
 - from the duty to operate the vehicle with appropriate regard for the safety of all persons; or
 - the consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others.
- May park or stand irrespective of another provision of this subtitle 546.001
- May 1) proceed past a red or stop signal, after slowing as necessary for safe operation, 546.001, 546.002
 - 2) exceed a maximum speed limit, as long as the operation does not endanger life or property,
 - 3) disregard a regulation governing the direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

This only applies when:

 - responding to an emergency call;
 - pursuing an actual or suspected violator of the law;
 - responding to but not returning from a fire alarm;
 - directing or diverting traffic for public safety purposes; or
 - conducting a police escort.
- Using lights and sirens
 - The use of lights and sirens is at the discretion of the operator and/or policies of the agency. 546.003
 - The operator of an authorized emergency vehicle shall use the siren, whistle, or bell when necessary to warn other vehicle operators or pedestrians of the approach of the emergency vehicle. 547.702(b)
- Police officer may violate traffic laws without lights or siren if responding to an emergency call or pursuing a suspected violator of the law with probable cause to believe that: 546.004(c)
 - knowledge of the presence of the officer will cause the suspect to destroy or lose evidence of a suspected felony or end a suspected continuing felony before the officer has obtained sufficient evidence to establish grounds for arrest or evade apprehension or identification of the suspect or the suspect's vehicle; or
 - because of traffic conditions on a multilane roadway, vehicles moving in response to the audible or visual signals may increase the potential for a collision or unreasonably extend the duration of the pursuit.
- Police Patrol 545.058(c), 545.365(b)
 - Speed regulations and driving on an improved shoulder do not apply to a police patrol whether responding to an emergency call or not.
 - Under the exceptions to the speed limit requirements and driving on improved shoulder it states, “an authorized emergency vehicle responding to a call” or “a police patrol.”
 - Police patrol is not defined in the transportation code therefore a police patrol may be in unmarked vehicles as well.
- Authorized Emergency Vehicles 541.201
 - Fire department vehicle
 - Police vehicle
 - A police vehicle is not required to be equipped with emergency lights 546.004(b), 547.702(f)
 - May be a private vehicle owned or leased by the peace officer if approved for use for a law enforcement purpose by the head of the law enforcement agency that employs the peace office 541.201(13-a)
 - A governing body may exempt their police vehicles from being marked 721.005
 - An unmarked police vehicle may not display a license plate marked “EXEMPT” 502.451
 - Public or private ambulance
 - Must be operated by a person who has been issued a license by the Department of State Health Services
 - EMS vehicle
 - Must be authorized under an emergency medical services provider license issued by the Department of State Health Services; and
 - Operating under a contract with an EMS district that requires the emergency medical services provider to respond to emergency calls with the vehicle.
 - Municipal department or public service corporation emergency vehicle that has been

- designated or authorized by the governing body of a municipality
 - County owned or leased emergency management vehicle that has been designated or authorized by the commissioners court
 - Vehicles designated as an authorized emergency vehicle by the Texas Division of Emergency Management 546.0065
 - **Private vehicle of a volunteer firefighter or EMS employee when responding to a fire alarm or medical emergency**
 - The vehicle must be equipped with four alternately flashing red lights, two located on the front at the same level and two located on the rear at the same level; or 546.004(a), 547.702(c-e)
 - With a signal lamp that is temporarily attached to the vehicle roof and flashes a red light
 - Industrial emergency response vehicle, including an industrial ambulance, when responding to an emergency
 - Blood bank or tissue bank vehicle, accredited and approved by Texas or the U.S., when making emergency deliveries of blood, drugs, medicine, or organs
 - Vehicle used for law enforcement purposes that is owned or leased by a federal government entity
- Selling or transferring a law enforcement vehicle 728.022 & Local Govt Code 272.006
 - A person or political subdivision may not sell or transfer a marked patrol car or other law enforcement motor vehicle to the public unless the political subdivision first removes any equipment or insignia that could mislead a reasonable person to believe that the vehicle is a law enforcement motor vehicle including:
 - any police light, siren, amber warning light, spotlight, grill light, antenna, emblem, outline of an emblem, or emergency vehicle equipment.
 - A political subdivision that sells or transfers a marked patrol car or other law enforcement motor vehicle to the public in violation of this section is liable:
 - for damages proximately caused by the use of that vehicle during the commission of a crime; and
 - to this state for a civil penalty of \$1,000.
 - Effective 09/01/2017
- Following within 500ft of a fire truck or ambulance when lights are activated 545.407
- Driving over fire hose 545.408
- Driving onto same block where a fire truck or ambulance has responded to an emergency 545.407
 - Street needs to be clear for first responders
- Fail to obey police escort 546.002
- Fail to yield right-of-way to an emergency vehicle 545.156
 - Vehicle must immediately pull to the right and be clear of any intersection.
 - Vehicle must stop and remain standing until emergency vehicle has passed.
 - Medical examiners and Justices of the Peace may operate a vehicle with red and blue lights while in the performance of their duties for death investigations. Even with red and blue lights, the vehicles are not considered authorized emergency vehicles, but traffic must yield the right-of-way for them. Still cite violations under this section.
- Move Over/Slow Down (Passing a stopped emergency vehicle and certain other vehicles) 545.157
 - Must vacate closest lane; or
 - Drive 20mph under the speed limit
 - If speed limit is 20mph or less, must drive at 5mph
 - Applies to the following:
 - Authorized emergency vehicle – must be stationary with lights activated
 - Tow truck – must be stationary with lights activated
 - Garbage or recycling truck – must be stationary
 - TxDOT vehicle – lights must be activated
 - Construction or highway maintenance vehicle – lights must be activated
 - Service vehicle for a utility (electric, gas, sewer, telephone, etc.) – lights must be activated
 - Tollway assistance vehicle – lights must be activated
 - Animal control vehicle – lights must be activated
 - Parking enforcement vehicle – lights must be activated

- Punishment range
 - 1st Conviction: \$500-\$1,250
 - Subsequent conviction within 5 years: \$1,000-\$2,000
 - Causes bodily injury to another – Class A
 - Causing bodily injury to another and has a previous conviction – SJF
 - Operating a deceptively similar EMS vehicle or ambulance 773.017
 - Unlawful possession or use of law enforcement identification, insignia, or vehicle in a municipality or any of which is deceptively similar. (Class B) Local Govt Code 341.904
- See also:
- Impersonating a Public Servant PC 37.11
 - False Identification as Peace Officer PC 37.12

Bicycles & Scooters

Applicability: 551.001 – *Unless specifically provided otherwise, a provision of this chapter that applies to a person operating a bicycle applies only to a person operating a bicycle on a highway or a path set aside for the exclusive operation of bicycles.*

Keep in mind, a “highway” includes the shoulder, sidewalk, and easement. See the section on “Applicability of the Transportation Code” at the beginning of this guide for a more detailed explanation.

Example: A white light to the front is still required if the bicycle is being ridden on a sidewalk at night as a sidewalk is a “portion of a street” under 541.302(16).

- Bicycles meet the definition of a “sidewalk user” which give them nearly the same protections as a pedestrian when operated on a sidewalk. 541.001(6)
 - When on a sidewalk, may not approach or enter a crosswalk at greater than 8mph 552.0035(c)
- Bicyclists must adhere to essentially the same rules of the road as a vehicle 551.101
 - Must stop at stop signs and red lights, signal turns, etc. 551.106(b)
 - Riding on a sidewalk is not prohibited 545.058(c)(3)
 - Riding on a shoulder is not prohibited 545.107
- Must use hand signals to turn, stop, or decrease speed



- There is no requirement that a bicycle must travel in an available bike lane and may ride on the street next to the bike lane.
 - Must ride on seat 551.102(a)
 - May not carry more persons than it is designed for 551.102(b)
 - May not hold onto a vehicle (violation is the bicyclist, not the driver) 551.102(d)
 - If carrying an object(s), one hand must be on handlebars 551.102(c)
 - Must ride to the right edge of roadway if a two-way street and there are other vehicles behind the bicycle 551.103(a)
 - If it is a one-way street, may ride to the left edge of the roadway 551.103(b)
 - Standing or riding in the middle of the road after dark is enough for a traffic stop
- Green v. State* 892 S.W.2d 217 (Tex. App.–Texarkana 1995)
- Two bicycles (but not more) may ride abreast in a single lane but may not do so if impeding traffic behind them 551.103(c)
 - White light must be equipped at the front visible from 500ft required (at night) 551.104(b)(1)
 - Flashing white light is not a violation
 - A light on the bicyclist’s head or holding a flashlight is a violation as the bicycle is still not equipped.
 - Red light at rear visible to 500ft or red reflector visible to 300ft required (at night) 551.104(b)(2)
 - Flashing red light is not a violation
 - Must be equipped with a brake 551.104(a)
 - Evading with a vehicle (Felony 3) PC 38.04(b)(2)
 - A standard pedal bicycle is considered a “vehicle.” Having a motor and being self-propelled is not an element of the offense for Evading w/ a Vehicle.
 - Under PC 38.04(c)(1), a vehicle is defined under 541.201(23): “Vehicle” means a device that can be used to transport or draw persons or property on a highway.
 - A motor vehicle is defined under 541.201(11): “Motor vehicle” means a self-propelled vehicle or a vehicle that is propelled by electric power from overhead trolley wires.

Gas Powered Bicycles

- Bicycles manufactured or retrofitted with a gas motor/engine are not specifically addressed in the transportation code and should be treated as a regular bicycle. Local governments may regulate their operation.

Electric Bicycles

- Electric bicycles are treated the same as regular bicycles 551.002, 551.107
- A driver's license is not required for electric bicycles 521.021, 541.021(11)
- Electric bicycle definition 664.001(4)
 - equipped with operable pedals
 - has an electric motor of fewer than 750 watts, and
 - a top assisted speed of 28mph or less.
- If the electric bicycle is >750 watts, it is best classified as a mini-motorcycle or "pocket bike" 551.353
 - They cannot be registered
 - May not be operated on a highway, road, street, bike path, or sidewalk
 - May only be operated on private property (e.g., parking lots)
 - Violation is Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle 502.472
- Label Required 664.002
 - A person who manufactures or sells an electric bicycle shall apply a permanent label to the bike in a prominent location stating the class of the bike, the top assisted speed, and the motor wattage.
- Class 1 Electric Bicycle 664.001(1)
 - Equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and stops when the bike reaches 20mph
- Class 2 Electric Bicycle 664.001(2)
 - Equipped with a motor that may be used without pedaling and stops when the bike reaches 20mph
- Class 3 Electric Bicycle 664.001(3)
 - Equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and stops when the rider stops pedaling or when the bike reaches 28mph
 - Must be equipped with a speedometer 664.004
 - Rider must be at least 15 to operate 551.107(c)

Scooters



- Scooters are defined as "motor-assisted scooters" 551.351
 - at least two wheels in contact with the ground during operation;
 - a braking system capable of stopping the device under typical operating conditions;
 - a gas or electric motor not exceeding 40 cubic centimeters;
 - a deck designed to allow a person to stand or sit while operating the device;
 - the ability to be propelled by human power alone; and
 - does not include a pocket bike or a mini-motorbike.
- Scooters meet the definition of a "sidewalk user" which give them nearly the same protections as a pedestrian when operated on a sidewalk. 541.001(6)
 - When operated on a sidewalk, may not approach or enter a crosswalk at greater than 8mph 552.0035(c)

- May only be operated on a street or highway with a speed limit of 35mph or less. 551.352(a)
 - May cross over roads with a speed limit >35mph but only at intersections
 - May be operated on sidewalks, bike lanes, and bike paths 551.352(d)
- Treat scooters as bicycles 551.352(d)
 - e.g., white light required, must signal turns, can have a passenger only if designed to carry two, cannot ride against traffic when on the road, etc.

Boats & Vessels

Click [HERE](#) to run the HIN, registration number, or the outboard motor. This is a public query from the Texas Parks & Wildlife website. It does not tell you if it is stolen. It only provides registration information which can help you determine the owner or if the numbers have been altered or swapped.

(HIN) Hull Identification Number

PWC 31.043

The HIN is a unique serial number similar to a VIN and will be used to report a boat stolen in NCIC/TCIC. It is required for all boats and jet skis that were manufactured after 11/01/1972. There are three formats for a HIN which depends on the year a boat was manufactured.

- **Before 11/01/1972:** Boats have no HIN, only a serial number assigned by the manufacturer. The serial number is not required by law. Could be placed anywhere.
- **11/01/1972–08/01/1984:** Two formats called the Model Year or Straight Year Format for boats manufactured during this time. Affixed to back-right of boat. Confidential HINs were not required. 12 characters long.
- **08/01/1984 – Present:** New format called the Current Format. Affixed to back-right of boat. 12 characters long. Confidential HINs are required (most confidential HINs are in the console and transom area but could be anywhere).



HIN - Current Format

In the Current Format, the first three characters is the MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code) and is used to identify the manufacturer of the boat. The MIC is assigned by the U.S. Coast Guard. To search the MIC database, click [HERE](#).



The above example includes a country code (US). The country code is not considered part of the HIN. Do not run the country code or hyphen when checking for stolen.

Texas Assigned HIN – For homemade boats or boats that have had their HINs tampered, game wardens may assign a Texas Assigned HIN on a mylar sticker. Other states also assign HINs for the same reasons. They may be a metal plate or a mylar sticker.

Registration Number

PWC 31.032 & 31.033

These are on the sides of the boat and are the equivalent of license plates on vehicles. They can be easily changed to conceal a stolen boat. Run the HIN and the registration number separately then cross-reference the returns. Look for ghost lettering which would indicate tampering.

Generally, the first two characters are going to be the state pre-fix, followed by 3-4 numbers, and then 2-3 letters.
Example: Texas is “TX 1234 AB” and Arkansas is “AR 123 ABC”

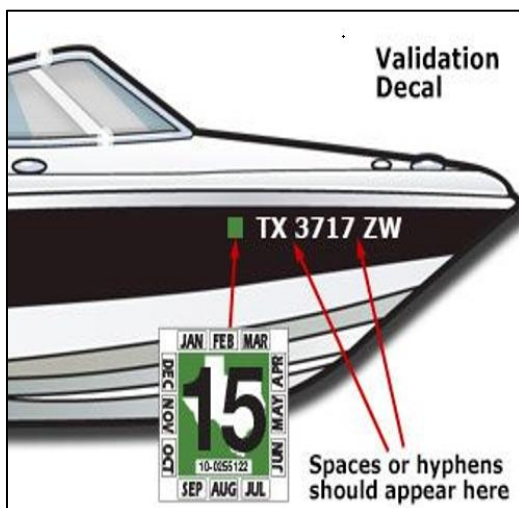


Texas Registration



South Carolina Registration

The validation decal next to the registration number is used to renew the registration and is equivalent to the registration sticker on a vehicle's windshield.



Outboard Motors

Outboard motors can also be run for stolen. Typically, outboard motors have serial numbers located somewhere on the transom bracket. The serial numbers will either be on a metal plate or a sticker.



Trailers

All boat or vessel trailers must have a license plate.

502.040(a) & 504.943(b)

The trailer must have a VIN. The VIN will either be stamped or affixed with a mylar sticker. It is common for the stickers to be damaged or obliterated.



Exemptions

All canoes, kayaks, punts, rowboats, rubber rafts, or other vessels under 14 feet in length when paddled, poled, oared, or windblown are exempt from the HIN and Registration Number requirement. Manufacturers may or may not assign a HIN voluntarily. PWC 31.022(c)

TPWD Marine Theft Investigation Unit

Captain	Capt. Jennifer Weaver	713-705-7734
SE Texas/Upper Coast	Sgt. Robert Waggett	281-414-3440
Lower Coast	Sgt. Ben Bailey	361-571-8876
East Texas	Sgt. Charles Westerman	979-255-4203
Metroplex/NE Texas	Sgt. Clint Borchardt	817-343-8812
Central Texas/South Texas	Sgt. David Prieto	713-691-9054
Central and West Texas/Panhandle	Sgt. Lee Morrison	325-203-8541
Boat/Outboard Motor 28's	TPWD Dispatch	512-389-4848

To have TPWD create a BOLO on a stolen vessel or outboard motor to be distributed to Texas Game Wardens & State Park Police, send information and photos to:

marine.theft@tpwd.texas.gov



Contributing Factors for Crash Reports

From the TxDOT CR-100 Instructions to Police for Reporting Crashes – 1/1/2026 Edition

Just because a factor is present does not mean it contributed to the crash. To assign a factor on a crash report, the answer to both of the following questions should be “Yes.”

1. Was the factor present?
2. Did it contribute to the occurrence of the crash?

If the factor was present but you are unsure if it contributed to the crash, you may assign the factor as “May Have Contributed.”

Example: A driver of a pickup truck is intoxicated and legally stopped at a red light. A sedan rear-ends the intoxicated driver of the pickup. No factor should be assigned to the intoxicated driver of the pickup as the intoxication in no way contributed to this crash.

- If a factor is not on the list, select 98–Other factor and provide an explanation in the narrative.
- Not all contributing factors are law violations. Law violations show a legal reference to the Texas Transportation Code or the Texas Penal Code.
- All factors found must be described in the narrative, even if they have been addressed in another place on the report.

1. ANIMAL ON ROAD, DOMESTIC

When a vehicle receives damage as a result of striking a domestic animal, such as a cow, dog, or chicken or when a domestic animal’s presence on the road contributes to the crash.

2. ANIMAL ON ROAD, WILD

When a vehicle receives damage as a result of striking a wild animal, such as a deer, coyote, turkey, buzzard or when a wild animal’s presence on the road contributes to the crash.

3. BACKED WITHOUT SAFETY

545.415(a)

When a driver makes an unsafe backing movement, and the action contributes to the crash.

4. CHANGED LANE WHEN UNSAFE

545.060(a)

When a vehicle on a multi-lane roadway intentionally moves outside the lane of travel when the movement cannot be made safely.

14. DISABLED IN TRAFFIC LANE

545.301

When the traffic unit is actually disabled in a traffic lane on the main traveled portion of the highway and this contributes to the crash.

15. DISREGARD STOP AND GO SIGNAL

544.007

When a vehicle fails to stop or comply with a traffic light exhibiting alternating red, yellow, or green lights for controlling traffic and the action contributes to the crash.

16. DISREGARD STOP SIGN OR LIGHT

544.008(a), 545.151, 545.153

When a driver fails to stop for a stop sign or a flashing red light used in lieu of or in conjunction with a stop sign and the action contributes to the crash. If a vehicle stops, then fails to yield right-of-way, refer to factor 35.

17. DISREGARD TURN MARKS AT INTERSECTION

545.101

When a vehicle fails to follow the directed course as required by official traffic control devices within or adjacent to an intersection and the action contributes to the crash.

18. DISREGARD WARNING SIGN AT CONSTRUCTION

472.022

When a driver encountering a construction zone disregards warning signs and the action contributes to the crash.

19. DISTRACTION IN VEHICLE (Explain in Narrative)

When the driver’s actions or the actions of others in the vehicle are such that a lack of observance and/or vehicle control occurs to the extent it contributes to the crash. Example: Driver swats at a bee; a dog gets under the driver’s feet.

20. DRIVER INATTENTION (Explain in Narrative)

When a driver’s lack of attention to the roadway, highway, or traffic occurs and contributes to the crash. Examples include when the driver is eating, putting on makeup, and adjusting radio.

21. DROVE WITHOUT HEADLIGHTS

547.302(a)

When lighting conditions or time of day dictates use of headlights for safe operation to perceive

- actual hazards and a lack of compliance contributes to the crash.
22. FAILED TO CONTROL SPEED 545.351(b)
When an operator fails to control the speed of a vehicle as necessary to avoid colliding with another person or vehicle that is on or entering the highway in compliance with law and the duty of each person to use due care. Note: Factors 22, 60 and 61 cannot apply to the same unit.
 23. FAILED TO DRIVE IN A SINGLE LANE 545.060(a)
When a driver on a multi-lane roadway failed to keep their vehicle entirely within their lane of travel and the action contributes to the crash.
 24. FAILED TO GIVE HALF OF ROADWAY 545.052
When a driver is meeting an oncoming vehicle on a roadway wide enough for one lane of traffic in each direction and the driver fails to give the oncoming vehicle fully one-half (1/2) of the roadway and the action contributes to the crash.
 25. FAILED TO HEED WARNING SIGN OR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE 544.004
When failure to use proper caution in obedience to an official traffic control device or a warning sign contributes to the crash.
 26. FAILED TO PASS TO LEFT SAFELY 545.053(a)
When a vehicle passing to the left infringes on the space of the overtaken vehicle and the action contributes to the crash. (Do not confuse with number 53).
 27. FAILED TO PASS TO RIGHT SAFELY 545.057
When a vehicle passing to the right infringes on the space of the overtaken vehicle and the action contributes to the crash.
 28. FAILED TO SIGNAL OR GAVE WRONG SIGNAL 545.104, 545.105, 545.106
When failure to give the appropriate signal or giving a wrong signal contributes to the crash.
 29. FAILED TO STOP AT PROPER PLACE 544.007(d), 544.007(g), 544.008(a), 544.010(c), and 545.251(a)
When a vehicle fails to stop at the required place in compliance with a stop sign, yield sign, flashing red light, traffic control signal, or a R.R. grade crossing, and the action contributes to the crash.
 30. FAILED TO STOP FOR SCHOOL BUS 545.066
When a vehicle fails to stop (or remain stopped) for a school bus stopped on the roadway, with required visual signals in operation to receive or discharge schoolchildren, and the action contributes to the crash.
 31. FAILED TO STOP FOR TRAIN 545.251
A vehicle that disregards a R.R. crossing gate or flagman, R.R. crossing signal, or approaching train that is plainly visible and in hazardous proximity to the crossing and the action contributes to the crash.
 32. FAILED TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY – EMERGENCY VEHICLE 545.156
When a vehicle fails to yield the R.O.W. to a legally authorized emergency vehicle responding to an actual emergency in compliance with statutes and the action contributes to the crash.
 33. FAILED TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY – OPEN INTERSECTION 545.151(b, c, d, e)
When a vehicle fails to yield R.O.W. to a vehicle at an intersection not controlled by traffic signs or signals and the action contributes to the crash.
 34. FAILED TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY – PRIVATE DRIVE 545.155, 545.256
When a driver of a vehicle fails to yield R.O.W. before entering or crossing a roadway from an alley, building, private road, or driveway and the action contributes to the crash.
 35. FAILED TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY – STOP SIGN 545.151(a), 545.153(b)
When a vehicle stops for a stop sign and then fails to yield R.O.W. to a vehicle at an intersection controlled by a stop sign and the action contributes to the crash.
 36. FAILED TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY – TO PEDESTRIAN 544.007, 552.001, 552.002, 552.003(a, c), 552.006(c), 552.008, 552.010.
When a vehicle fails to yield R.O.W. to a pedestrian legally on the highway and the action contributes to the crash.
 37. FAILED TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY – TURNING LEFT 545.152
When a vehicle intending to turn left at an intersection or into an alley, private road or driveway fails to yield R.O.W. to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction and the action contributes to the crash.
 38. FAILED TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY – TURN ON RED 544.007(d)
When a vehicle facing a steady red signal at an intersection stops, then enters the intersection

to turn without yielding R.O.W. to other vehicles or pedestrians lawfully using the intersection and the action contributes to the crash.

39. FAILED TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY – YIELD SIGN 545.151(a), 545.153(c)
When a vehicle fails to yield R.O.W. to another vehicle at an intersection controlled by a yield sign and the action contributes to the crash.
40. FATIGUED OR ASLEEP
When, due to exhaustion or weariness, the driver of a vehicle goes to sleep or into a period of mental inactivity, that impairs his reaction time or perception, and the condition contributes to the crash.
41. FAULTY EVASIVE ACTION (Explain in Narrative):
When a driver takes no evasive action at all when it is reasonable to assume they should have, and when the action could have prevented the collision; or in an effort to avoid a collision, the driver takes improper or unreasonable evasive action, and the action contributes to the crash.
42. FIRE IN VEHICLE
When a fire is accidentally ignited in a vehicle or a fire is started by some mechanical failure, or after collision, but before events have stabilized.
43. FLEEING OR EVADING POLICE 545.421
When an individual intentionally flees from a person that they know is a peace officer attempting to arrest them, and the fleeing results in any type of collision.
44. FOLLOWED TOO CLOSELY 545.062(a)
When a vehicle fails to maintain an assured clear following distance that allows the operator to safely stop without colliding with the preceding vehicle or veering into another vehicle, object, or person.
45. HAD BEEN DRINKING
When, in the investigator's opinion, the driver of a vehicle, pedestrian or pedalcyclist in the crash had been drinking an alcoholic beverage, but not to the extent to be considered intoxicated. (Show in May Have Contributed section). Note: Both factors 45 and 67 should not be indicated for one driver. If any of the contributing factors is 45-Had been drinking or 67-Intoxicated or if Alcohol Result is greater than 0, then Alcohol related must be Yes.
46. HANDICAPPED DRIVER (Explain in Narrative):
When a driver of a vehicle in the crash has a physical handicap and the condition contributes to the crash.
47. ILL (Explain in Narrative):
When a driver of a vehicle in the crash has a physical or mental illness and the condition contributed to the crash.
48. IMPAIRED VISIBILITY (Explain in Narrative):
When a driver's view is obstructed by the vehicle's load or occupants, or when vehicles and/or objects on or near the highway obstruct a driver's view of pedestrians and/or traffic. This also includes impaired visibility due to weather, lighting conditions, or objects/material placed over windows.
49. IMPROPER START FROM A STOPPED, STANDING, OR PARKED POSITION 545.402
When a driver makes an unsafe movement from a stopped, standing, or parked position and the action contributes to the crash.
50. LOAD NOT SECURED 725.003
When an unsecured or improperly secured load shifts or falls from a vehicle and contributes to the crash.
51. OPENED DOOR INTO TRAFFIC LANE 545.418
When a door of a vehicle is opened into a traffic lane and the door contributes to the crash.
52. OVERSIZE VEHICLE OR LOAD Chapter 621
A vehicle with an oversize load or an oversize vehicle, or manufactured housing, because of its oversize, contributes to the crash.
53. OVERTAKE AND PASS INSUFFICIENT CLEARANCE 545.054(a)
When an overtaking vehicle does not have sufficient space to return to the right side of the roadway safely, because of oncoming traffic, and the action contributes to the crash by interfering with the oncoming vehicle or the vehicle overtaken.
54. PARKED AND FAILED TO SET BRAKES 545.404(a)(4)

- When failure to set the brakes on a vehicle that was parked and left unattended contributes to the crash.
55. PARKED IN TRAFFIC LANE 545.301(a), 545.302, 545.303
When any vehicle is not legally stopped, standing, or parked and the action contributes to the crash.
56. PARKED WITHOUT LIGHTS 547.383
When a vehicle is parked without lights in violation of any provision of Section 547.383 and the action contributes to the crash.
57. PASSED IN NO PASSING ZONE 545.055
When a vehicle overtakes and passes another vehicle in a no passing zone and the action contributes to the crash.
58. PASSED ON SHOULDER 545.057, 545.058
When a vehicle is illegally overtaking or passing another vehicle on the left or right shoulder and the action contributes to the crash.
59. PEDESTRIAN FAILED TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY TO VEHICLE 552.003, 552.004, 552.005
When a pedestrian, fails to yield to vehicular traffic and the action contributes to the crash.
60. UNSAFE SPEED 545.351(c)
When an operator fails to drive at an appropriate reduced speed that is reasonable and prudent under existing circumstances with regard to traffic, including pedestrians, weather or roadway conditions. Note: Factors 22, 60, and 61 cannot apply to the same unit.
61. SPEEDING – OVER LIMIT 545.352, 545.353(h–1), 545.353(h)
When an operator is traveling over the posted speed limit and it contributes to the crash. Note: Factors 22, 60, and 61 cannot apply to the same unit.
62. TAKING MEDICATION (Explain in Narrative):
When a driver is taking medication (prescription or over the counter) and the medication contributes to the crash. List the medications in the officer’s narrative. Note: If any of the contributing factors is 62-Taking Medication or 68-Intoxicated-Drug or Drug Test Result is Positive, then Drug Related must be Yes
63. TURNED IMPROPERLY – CUT CORNER ON LEFT 545.101(b)
When a vehicle turning left at an intersection starts or ends its left turn too soon and the action contributes to the crash.
64. TURNED IMPROPERLY – WIDE RIGHT 545.101(a)
A vehicle turning right at an intersection and fails to keep as near as practical to the right curb or edge of roadway, but not to the degree that it could be called “turn from wrong lane,” and the action contributes to the crash.
65. TURNED IMPROPERLY – WRONG LANE 545.101
A vehicle turning at an intersection turns right or left from the wrong lane and the action contributes to the crash.
66. TURNED WHEN UNSAFE 545.103
When a vehicle turns right or left or moves from a direct course when the turn or movement could not be made safely, and the action contributes to the crash.
67. INTOXICATED - ALCOHOL
When the intoxicated condition of the driver, pedestrian, or pedalcyclist, due to consuming alcoholic beverages, is a factor that contributes to the crash. Note: Both factors 45 and 67 should not be indicated for one driver. This crash qualifies for TRACE Notification at TABC due to alcohol involvement and injury severity of Suspected Serious Injury or Fatal Injury. If any of the contributing factors is 45-Had been drinking or 67-Intoxicated or if Alcohol Result is greater than 0, then Alcohol related must be Yes.
68. UNDER INFLUENCE – DRUG
When the driver, pedestrian, or pedalcyclist is under the influence of a drug and that factor contributes to the crash. Note: If any of the contributing factors is 62-Taking Medication or 68-Intoxicated-Drug or Drug Test Result is Positive, then Drug Related must be Yes.
69. WRONG SIDE – APPROACH OR IN INTERSECTION 545.056(a)(1, 2)
When a vehicle is illegally overtaking and passing another vehicle left of the center of the roadway, either approaching or traversing an intersection and the action contributes to the crash.

70. WRONG SIDE – NOT PASSING 545.051
When a vehicle is driven on the wrong side of the roadway not in the act of overtaking and passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction and the action contributes to the crash.
71. WRONG WAY – ONE-WAY ROAD 545.059
When a vehicle is driven the wrong way on a one-way roadway or the wrong way on a divided highway and the action contributes to the crash.
73. ROAD RAGE
An assault with a motor vehicle or other dangerous weapon by the operator or passenger(s) of another motor vehicle or an assault precipitated by an incident that occurred on a roadway.
74. CELL/MOBILE DEVICE USE – TALKING
When the driver's actions, while using or handling a cell/mobile device for talking, are such that lack of observance and/or control of the vehicle occur to the extent that it contributes to the crash. Also, includes the use of a hands-free device.
75. CELL/MOBILE DEVICE USE – TEXTING
When the driver's actions, while using or handling a cell/mobile device for texting, are such that lack of observance and/or control of the vehicle occur to the extent that it contributes to the crash. Also, includes the use of a hands-free device.
76. CELL/MOBILE DEVICE USE – OTHER
When the driver's actions, while using or handling a cell/mobile device for uses such as internet, gaming, or emailing, are such that lack of observance and/or control of the vehicle occur to the extent that it contributes to the crash. Also, includes the use of a hands-free device.
77. CELL/MOBILE DEVICE USE – UNKNOWN
When the driver's actions, while using or handling a cell/mobile device for undetermined reasons, are such that lack of observance and/or control of the vehicle occur to the extent that it contributes to the crash. Also, includes the use of a hands-free device.
78. FAIL TO SLOW OR MOVE OVER FOR VEHICLES DISPLAYING EMERGENCY LIGHTS
When a vehicle approaching a vehicle described by Texas Transportation Code 545.157(a) fail to vacate the closest lane or slow to a speed 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit and the action contributes to the crash.
79. DROVE ON IMPROVED SHOULDER 545.058
When a vehicle is illegally driven on the improved shoulder not in the act of passing and the action contributes to the crash. For illegal passing on the improved shoulder, see Factor 58.
98. OTHER FACTOR (Explain in Narrative)
Additional other factors must be explained in the narrative.

Driver's License

TIP: If an out-of-state resident's identity is in question and you cannot obtain a picture through your in-car computer, call the respective state's highway patrol to obtain a DL or ID picture.

TIP: Always run out-of-state licenses by name and date of birth. Not all NCIC/TCIC warrants or protective orders will hit on the out-of-state DL number alone.

Note: Run a name and DOB with a hyphenated last name, or two last names, three different ways:

1. **LAST-LAST, FIRST**
2. **LAST LAST, FIRST**
3. **LASTLAST, FIRST**

Note: In Ch. 521, the term "License" includes not only a driver's license but also, "the privilege of a person to operate a motor vehicle regardless of whether the person holds a driver's license." 521.001(6)(B)

- No DL 521.021
 - Juveniles 10-16 should be cited under 729.002
 - Employ an unlicensed person to drive 521.459
- Fail to provide DL on demand 521.025
- Fail to ID (Class C) PC 38.02(b-1)
 - Operates a motor vehicle and refuses to identify when lawfully stopped
 - This includes the operator of a bicycle or scooter as it falls under the definition of a motor vehicle under PC 32.34(a)(2) PC 38.02(b-1)(1)
- Fail to change address/name within 30 days on DL or ID 521.054
- Fail to obtain Texas DL within 90 days 521.029
- Violate license restrictions 521.221
- Expired DL 521.271
 - If the expiration date is blank on the return, the person has never been issued a DL. They started the process to obtain a DL but never completed all the requirements.
 - Non-commercial DLs are valid for 8 years and expire on the driver's birthday 521.271(a)(1)
 - DLs for drivers 85 or older are valid for 2 years and expire on the driver's birthday 521.2711
- Driving While License Invalid 521.457
 - The "REC STATUS" shows a driver's eligibility to drive. "NOT ELIGIBLE" means they are not eligible to drive and there is at least one active enforcement action against the driver.
 - Enforcement Actions:
 - Revoked
 - Dept Suspension
 - Disqualified
 - ALR Suspension
 - Mandatory Suspension
 - SR Suspension
 - Deny Issuance/Denied Renewal
 - Cancelled
 - Click [HERE](#) for a complete list of enforcement actions with explanations
 - A driver can still be charged with DWLI even if they have only been issued an ID card or a driver who has never been issued a DL or ID card. This section extends to the driver's "privilege to operate a motor vehicle regardless of whether the person holds a driver's license" under TRC 521.001(6)(B). Read [THIS ARTICLE](#) from the TDCAA for a detailed explanation of DWLI.
 - Suspended out-of-state DLs
 - Cite for No DL
 - DWLI does not apply to out-of-state licenses. The DWLI statute specifies the, "...driver's license has been canceled under this chapter..." and "...suspended or revoked under any law of this state."
- Driving While License Invalid – Enhanced (Class B) 521.457
 - "Not Eligible" DL or ID card and:
 - 1) a previous conviction for DWLI; or
 - 2) no insurance/financial responsibility; or

- 3) previous suspension for an “offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle while intoxicated;” or
- 4) no insurance, at fault in a crash, and caused SBI or death. (Class A) 521.457(f-2)
- DPS Failure to Appear / Failure to Pay Program
 - Cities and counties report to DPS if someone has not resolved a citation. The person’s DL or ID may be suspended or DPS may not allow a renewal.
 - You can search by Texas DL# and DOB for any outstanding violations.
 - This is also a way to search for open warrants in that jurisdiction.
 - www.texasfailuretoappear.com
- Presents out-of-state DL but was previously issued a Texas DL which is currently suspended or revoked 521.316
 - If a driver was previously issued a Texas DL, and it is currently suspended or revoked, the driver may not drive with an out-of-state DL, even if it is currently valid.
 - Cite for DWLI
- Possessing 2 or more valid (unexpired) driver’s licenses OR 2 or more valid ID cards (Class A) 521.451(a)(4)
 - If issued a Texas DL, must surrender DL from other state 521.182
- Occupational License
 - Must possess physical copy of court order granting the occupational license 521.250
 - The court order specifies reasons, times, and routes the person may drive. Officer must analyze the court order to determine if the driver is in compliance. 521.248
 - The person may operate a vehicle with only the court order until the 45th day after the date the order was granted. The driver must be in possession of the physical occupational license issued by DPS after the 45th day the court order was signed. 521.249
 - It is an offense (Class B) the driver violates a restriction imposed on the court order. 521.253
 - It is an offense (Class B) if the driver provides the physical occupational license but fails to provide a copy of the court order.
 - If the driver cannot provide the physical occupational license but provides a copy of the court order that was signed more than 45 days ago, the violation is DWLI.
 - Commercial motor vehicles cannot be operated with an occupational license. 521.2424
- Persons exempt from DL requirement 521.027
 - Service members operating an official motor vehicle in the scope of their service
 - A non-resident service member on active duty who holds a DL from their state
 - A non-resident spouse of a service member who holds a DL from their state
 - While a person is operating a road machine, farm tractor, or implement of husbandry
 - Road machine – a self-propelled vehicle that was originally and permanently designed as machinery, is not designed or used primarily to transport persons or property, and is only incidentally operated on a highway 547.001(5-a)
 - Farm tractor – motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement to draw an implement of husbandry, including a plow or a mowing machine 541.201(4)
 - Implement of husbandry – a vehicle, other than a passenger car or truck, that is designed and adapted for use as a farm implement, machinery, or tool for tilling the soil; a towed vehicle that transports to the field and spreads fertilizer or agricultural chemicals; or a motor vehicle designed and adapted to deliver feed to livestock 541.201(6)
- Fictitious DL (three different charging options)
 - 1. Display or mere possession of a fictitious or altered DL (Class A) 521.451
 - **You can use this charge for a person that possesses or displays a fictitious DL and all their identifiers (name and date of birth) are correct. They are not hiding their identity from law enforcement and may be trying to avoid an arrest/citation for No DL or using it for a job that requires a driver’s license.**
 - 2. Forgery (Felony 2) PC 32.21
 - Mere possession is an offense under Forgery. According to CCP 38.19, the state is not required to prove the suspect intended to defraud any particular person. Mere possession is defrauding the government as there is no lawful purpose to possess a fictitious ID. Ensure you cite CCP 38.19 in your PCA and report as the magistrate and/or prosecutor may be unaware of this statute.

- Charge under – FORGERY GOVT/NATIONAL INST/MONEY/SECURITY – PC 32.21(e)
- It is also a crime under Tampering with a Governmental Record PC 37.10 (Class A), but it is harder to prosecute under this statute. *State v. Allen*, 346 S.W.3d 713 (Tex. App.–Austin 2011)
Alfaro-Jimenez v. State, 577 S.W.3d 240 (Tex. Crim. App. 2019)
- **This charge is an option when you believe someone is using a fictitious DL for more nefarious purposes such as avoiding proper identification by law enforcement or engaging in fraudulent financial activity (e.g., passing forged or altered checks, using stolen credit cards, etc.).**
- 3. If under 21 and used to represent they are 21 or over (Class C) 521.453, 521.451(c), TABC 106.07
 - **Use this charge for someone under 21 and you believe the fake ID's only purpose is it to get into bars or purchase alcohol. The Texas legislature does not want us to arrest and create a criminal history for young adults who may otherwise be lawful citizens.**
- Use someone else's DL (Class A) 521.451(a)(3)
 - If under 21 and used to represent they are 21 or over (Class C) 521.451(c), TABC 106.07
- Hardship License 521.223
 - Issued to >14yoa
- Falsified an application for a new DL, duplicate, or renewal (Class A) 521.451(a)(5) or 521.454
- Using a DL obtained by falsifying an application to harm or defraud another (Class A) 521.455
 - May also be charged with Tampering with a Governmental Record PC 37.10
- Foreign Driver Licenses – The U.S. recognizes most [foreign driver licenses](#) for up to one year 521.0305 after lawful entry into the country. Once they are in the country over a year or become a resident of Texas, they must apply for a “Limited Term” Driver License. If there is a violation, the offense is No Driver's License TRC 521.021.
- Limited Term Driver License or ID card – Formerly titled “Temporary Visitor.” These are only issued to people in the country legally. The expiration date is when their lawful status in the country has expired. 521.271(a-2)
- International Driving Permit – This is not a valid driver license/permit nor is it a valid form of ID. This is only used to translate the foreign driver license into English, and they should also provide the license from their home country. Some rental car companies require one for foreigners to rent a vehicle. Fake IDP's are sold online and at flea markets.
- [Medical Advisory Board](#) (MAB) – If you believe someone cannot safely operate a motor vehicle and they have been issued a Texas driver's license, you may refer them to the MAB. The MAB makes a recommendation to DPS to have a person's driver's license revoked or keep it valid. Any person, not just law enforcement, may refer someone to the MAB. Utilize DPS Form [DL-76](#) for referrals.

Driver's License Class

- ❖ GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) – The max weight the vehicle is rated to carry and includes the weight of the vehicle. 522.003 (18)
- ❖ GCWR (Gross Combination Weight Rating) – The total GVWR of the vehicle and the GVWR of the towed unit(s).
- ❖ GVWR and GCWR are found on the VIN plates
- Class A 521.081
 - Required when operating a vehicle with a GVWR of >26,000 lbs and towing a unit >10,000 lbs
 - **Example: Grandpa is driving an RV with a GVWR of 41,000 lbs and towing a Hummer with a GVWR of 10,500 lbs.**
 - Required when a GCWR of >26,000 lbs when the towed unit is >10,000 lbs.
 - **Example: Grandpa is driving a Ram 3500 with a GVWR of 11,400 lbs and towing a fifth wheel trailer with a GVWR of 15,000 lbs. This puts the GCWR at 26,400.**
 - Not required for a single vehicle not towing anything as a Class B will suffice
 - Not required when the towed unit is <10,001 lbs
- Class B 521.082
 - Required for operating a single vehicle >26,000 lbs
 - **Example: Grandpa is driving an RV with a GVWR of 41,000 lbs**

- Required for operating a single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more that is towing a unit with a GVWR of <10,000 pounds or a farm trailer with a GVWR of <20,000 pounds.
 - **Example: Grandpa is driving an RV with a GVWR of 41,000 lbs and towing a Jeep Wrangler with a GVWR of 5,500 lbs**
- Required for operating a bus with a seating capacity of 24 passengers or more including the driver

- Class C

521.083

- Single vehicle or combination of vehicles that are not included in Class A or B
- Single vehicle with a GVWR of <26,001 lbs towing a trailer with a GVWR of <10,000 lbs
- Single vehicle with a GVWR of <26,001 lbs towing a farm trailer with a GVWR <20,000 lbs
- Vehicle designed to transport 23 or less passengers including the driver (Note: Vehicles rated for the transport of 16-23 passengers, including the driver, require a Class C CDL unless exempt)
- An autocycle

Note: Be aware of the maximum length allowed by law when there are multiple units being towed. The max length is 65ft measured from the front of the first vehicle to the rear of the last.

Example: If you have a pickup that is 21ft, a camper at 30ft, and a boat (to include the tongue of the trailer) at 18ft, the total length is 69ft.

621.205

Equipment

- If the owner is a passenger or shows up on scene, citations for any equipment, insurance, or registration violations may be issued to the owner or the driver, but not both. 542.302, 547.004
- Texas adopted all lighting and reflective device requirements in the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) [49 CFR 571.108](#). Texas adopted the FMVSS in 1997 and retroactively applies to vehicles 1968-present. Most, but not all, of the requirements in the FMVSS and the transportation code overlap. If they are in conflict, the federal standard supersedes state law. 547.3215
- Any violation of the FMVSS should be cited under 547.3215.
- The FMVSS are referenced below in boxes along with the transportation code requirements. The standards are required for all passenger cars and pickups unless otherwise noted.
- How to measure the height of a lamp 547.301
 - Measure from the ground to the center of the lamp
 - Measure as if it were unloaded and on level ground
- Non-regulated equipment (after-market parts and accessories) is permitted by law unless there is a specific prohibition. 547.003(2)
 - Example: Ground effects on passenger vehicles are permissible. Flashing red, white, or blue lights are prohibited. 547.305(c)
 - Example: Halo lights around headlamps are permissible but cannot be red. 547.305(b)
- Smoked Covers (after-market blackouts) prohibited FMVSS 571.108 (S6.2.1)
 - The FMVSS prohibits the installation of anything that impairs the effectiveness of required lighting equipment.
- Headlamps 547.321

○ Must be white FMVSS 571.108 Table 1-A ○ Two headlamps required ▪ Mounted at a height of 22-54 inches ▪ Mounted at the same height and as far apart as practicable ▪ Must be steady burning. May flash for signaling purposes
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 - Two headlamps required 547.321
 - Mounted at a height of 24-54 inches
 - Shall be mounted at each side of the front of the vehicle
 - Not more than 4 headlamps may be activated. Does not apply if they are all factory lights as they meet the FMVSS. Must include auxiliary or aftermarket lamps for a violation. 547.302(d)
 - Drove w/o headlamps. Headlamps must be activated: 547.302
 - at night, when sunlight is insufficient, or atmospheric conditions are such that a vehicle is not clearly discernible 1000ft ahead
 - Fail to dim headlamps 547.333
 - Within 500ft of oncoming traffic
 - Within 300ft from the rear of a vehicle
 - Daytime – 30 min before sunrise until 30 min after sunset 541.401(1)
 - Nighttime – 30 min after sunset until 30 min before sunrise 541.401(5)
 - Defective headlamps, even in daytime, is an offense because they are “required” and “shall be equipped” to be operated on a highway. 547.321
- LED light bars 547.330, 547.333
 - They are considered auxiliary lamps (high beams)
 - May only be used in the same manner high beams are used
 - May only be mounted in the front at a height of 16-42 inches
 - May be equipped with no more than two
 - Cannot be activated without activated headlamps
 - Cannot be activated in conjunction with the standard high beams

- Tail Lamps 547.322

○ Must be red FMVSS 571.108 Table 1-A ○ Two tail lamps required ▪ Mounted at a height of 15-72 inches ▪ Mounted at the same height and as far apart as practicable ▪ Must be steady burning and activate when the headlamps are activated ○ Red tape covering a damaged tail lamp impairs the effectiveness of the light 571.108 (S6.2.1) and is prohibited
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 - Defective tail lamps, even in daytime, is an offense because they are “required” and “shall be equipped” to be operated on a highway.
 - Must be red 547.322(d)
 - Must be visible 1000ft at night
 - Mounted at a height of 15-72 inches 547.322(c)(1)
 - Mounted at same level and spaced as widely apart for width of vehicle
 - Must activate when the headlamps are activated 547.322(g)
 - *Vicknair v. State*, 751 S.W.2d 180 (Tex. Crim. App. 1986) – Stated a cracked tail lamp that displays a small amount of white light is not illegal, but this was decided in 1988. Texas adopted the FMVSS in 1997 which would make any amount of white light emitting from a tail lamp illegal. You must articulate this in your case report to survive a suppression hearing.
- Stop Lamps (Brake Lights) 547.323

○ Must be red FMVSS 571.108 Table 1-A ○ Two stop lamps required ▪ Mounted at a height of 15-72 inches ▪ Mounted on the rear ▪ Mounted at the same height and as far apart as practicable ▪ Must be steady burning ○ Stop lamp cannot be activated on the same side a turn signal is flashing (when stop lamp and turn signal lamps are built into the same assembly)

 - Must be red or amber 547.323(d)
 - Must be mounted on the rear of the vehicle
 - Must be visible 300ft in normal sunlight
- Center High-Mounted Stop Lamp (Third Brake Light)

○ Must be red FMVSS 571.108 Table 1-A ○ Mounted at a height of at least 34 inches (exception for convertibles) ○ Must be steady burning ○ Applies only to passenger cars built after 9/1/1985 ○ Applies only to pickups built after 9/1/1993 ○ Required for passenger cars, multi-purpose passenger vehicles, trucks and buses less than 80 inches (6.6ft) wide and with a GVWR <10,000lbs (**this will exclude most dually trucks**) ○ If the stop lamp is behind the back window, after-market tint will obscure the lamp in violation of FMVSS 571.108 (S6.2.1). The tint must be modified around the lamp.

 - The transportation code does not require a high-mounted stop lamp, but it is required by the administrative code. TX Admin Code Title 37, Part 1, §21.2(a)(1)(O)
 - The transportation code was amended in 2025 that the high-mounted stop lamp does not have to be steady burning which is required in the FMVSS. It is not illegal if the high-mounted stop lamp flashes four or fewer times in a two second period upon application of the brakes. 547.323(g)
 - The following cases affirm the high-mounted stop lamp is required.
 - *Saenz v. State*, 564 S.W.3d 469 (Tex. App.–El Paso 2018)
 - *Morin v. State*, No. 07-14-00101-CR (Tex. App.–Amarillo 2015)
 - *Schwintz v. State*, 413 S.W.3d 192 (Tex. App.–Beaumont 2013)
 - Proper articulation of this violation in your probable cause affidavits and reports is essential. Magistrates and prosecutors are not experts in the transportation code. We must educate them, or they may dismiss good cases for lack of PC. See below for an example.

- “I was traveling behind a tan 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe (TXLP DTM8905). I observed the center high-mounted stop lamp was inoperable in violation of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 571.108 Table 1-A as adopted in TRC 547.3215. This is also a violation of the Texas Administrative Code Title 37, Part 1, §21.2(a)(1)(O).”
- Turn Signals 547.324

○ Amber in front FMVSS 571.108 Table 1-A ○ Amber or red in rear ○ Mounted at a height of 15-83 inches ○ Mounted at the same height and as far apart as practicable
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 - White or amber in front 547.324(d)
 - Must be red or amber in rear
 - Mounted at same level and spaced as widely apart for width of vehicle
- Reflectors 547.325

○ 2 red on the rear, mounted at the same height as far apart as practicable FMVSS 571.108 Table 1-A ○ 2 red, one on each side, as far to the rear as practicable ○ 2 amber, one on each side, as far to the rear as practicable
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 - 2 red on the rear
 - Mounted at a height of 15-60 inches

Many reflectors are built into the head lamp and/or tail lamp assembly. If an assembly was damaged, covering it with tape, covers the reflector and is a violation.
- Backup Lamp (reverse lights) 547.332

○ Must be white FMVSS 571.108 Table 1-A ○ Only 1 required but additional lamps are permitted ○ Must activate when reverse gear is engaged. Cannot be activated when vehicle is in forward motion

 - May be amber or white 547.332
 - A backup lamp is a permitted lamp in the transportation code under 547.332(3) but is required under the FMVSS and the administrative code. TX Admin Code Title 37, Part 1, §21.2(a)(1)(A)
 - Noticing defective, or lack of, backup lamps on private property and then observing the vehicle on a public street is a violation since it is a required lamp.
- License Plate Lamp 547.322(f)

○ Must be white FMVSS 571.108 Table 1-A ○ Only 1 required but additional lamps are permitted ○ Lamp(s) can be mounted above or to the sides of the plate but cannot be mounted from the bottom ○ Must be steady burning ○ Must be activated when headlamps or parking lamps are activated ○ Lamp must provide illumination on all parts of a license plate FMVSS 571.108 - S7.7.15.1 ○ The FMVSS doesn't have a distance requirement for license plate visibility, such as the 50ft requirement in the transportation code, only that the lamp(s) provide illumination to “all parts” of a license plate.

 - Must be white 547.322(f)
 - Must be clearly legible 50ft away
- Fog Lamps 547.328
 - Permitted equipment, not required. Not a violation if one is defective but number of lamps, height, and color are regulated.
 - May equip no more than 2 fog lamps
 - Mounted at a height between 12-30 inches
 - May only be white or yellow TX Admin Code Title 37, Part 1, §21.2(b)(1)(c)
 - The administrative code defers to the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) standard in document SAE J583.
- Horn
 - Use permitted only when necessary for safe operation 547.501(c)
 - Unreasonable loud or harsh sound prohibited 547.501(d)
 - May be used to indicate an intention to pass a slower vehicle 545.053(b)
- Siren, whistle or bell 547.501(b)

- Private vehicles may not use or have equipped (even if only for anti-theft alarm)
- Mirrors 547.602
 - One mirror required to reflect the rear view
- Mud flaps 547.606 & TX Admin Code Title 37, Part 1, §21.4
 - Required on trucks with 4 tires (or two super single tires) on the rear axle
 - A super single tire is a wide tire designed to be used in place of two
 - Must be within 8-12 inches from the surface of the highway and cover the entire width of the tires
 - No exceptions for out-of-state vehicles
 - Not required for buses, motor homes, pole trailers, or truck tractors operated alone
- Muffler 547.604
 - Must be equipped in good working order to continually prevent excessive or unusual noise
 - A muffler cutout, bypass or similar device may not be equipped
 - A muffler's purpose is to reduce noise, not increase it 541.203(3)
- Visible exhaust 547.605(d)
 - Emitting from vehicle for >10 seconds
 - Emitting from vehicle that lingers in air for >10 seconds
- Tint 547.609, 547.613 & TX Admin Code Title 37, Part 1, §21.3
 - Front side windows – to right and left of driver
 - Must have a light transmittance value of 25% or more
 - Must have a luminous reflectance value of 25% or less
 - Sticker required if the front side windows are tinted TX Admin Code Title 37, Part 1, §21.3(f)
 - Must be installed between the window and tint to make it permanent
 - Only one sticker is required on the bottom of driver side window
 - The content of the label shall include “Complies with TRC Chapter 547” or “Complies with TTC 547.613(b).” Any other information on the label, including the installer’s name, is optional.
 - Rear passenger windows
 - Not regulated
 - Windshield
 - Cannot extend more than 5 inches from top of windshield (AS-1 line)
 - No tint may be applied below the AS-1 line
 - Cannot be red, blue, or amber
 - Back window
 - If both side rearview mirrors are present, not regulated
 - If a side rearview mirror is not present, same tint regulation as front side windows
 - Exemptions and/or defenses to prosecution:
 - Vehicles registered out-of-state 547.613(b)(12)
 - Vehicles for hire (taxis, limousines, buses etc.)
 - Vehicles used by person with a medical condition. DPS formerly issued permits but stopped in 2019. Must present a signed letter from a physician or optometrist the tint is medically necessary. Windshield cannot be tinted. TX Admin Code Title 37, Part 1, §21.3(e)
 - “The fact that the officer ultimately determined the tint was legal does not automatically render the stop unreasonable.” *Kirkland v. State*, 400 S.W.3d 625 (Tex. App.–Beaumont 2013)
Johnson v. State, 237 S.W.3d 390, 394 (Tex.App.-Waco 2007, pet. ref'd)
- Operate a motor vehicle in an unsafe condition (e.g., driving on a flat tire or having a severely cracked windshield) 547.004
- Red light visible from directly in front of the center of vehicle prohibited 547.305(b)
- Flashing or alternating red, white, or blue lights may not be equipped 547.305(c)
- Security patrol vehicle may only be equipped with green, amber, or white lights 547.305(e-1)
- Slow-moving emblem may only be used on vehicles designed to operate at 25mph or less 547.005
- “White light to the rear” is not specifically prohibited
 - Equipping additional lights to the rear must be red and cannot be any other color, including white 547.303
 - Driving with the truck bed cargo light on is not a violation
 - Other violations may apply such as defective/improper color for a stop lamp, turn signal, etc.

Foreign License Plates, Driver's Licenses, and IDs

License Plates

- Visit www.worldlicenseplates.com for a collection of current and historical plates for other countries.
- There are two websites to obtain information for Mexican license plates or VINs.
 1. repuvemx.com
 2. repuve-consultar.com/consulta-ciudadana
- Mexican plated vehicles must have a vehicle registration card to present to law enforcement called the “Tarjeta de Circulacion Vehicular.” It lists the registered owner, vehicle information, and when the registration expires. The driver may have the physical card or a digital copy on their phone. Failure to provide the registration card is a violation for Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle 502.472.
- Foreign country plate during military service 502.090
 - Service members stationed overseas may have been issued plates by the host country.
 - The foreign country plate is valid for 90 days.

Foreign Driver's Licenses

- Foreign Driver Licenses – The U.S. recognizes most [foreign driver licenses](#) for up to one year 521.0305 after lawful entry into the country. Once they are in the country over a year or become a resident of Texas, they must apply for a “Limited Term” Driver License. If there is a violation, the offense is No Driver's License 521.021.
- Limited Term Driver License or ID card – Formerly titled “Temporary Visitor.” These are only 521.271(a-2) supposed to be issued to people in the country legally. The expiration date is when their lawful status in the country has expired. Over the last several years, DPS has been issuing limited term driver's licenses to people illegally present in the country. Don't assume the person has legal status to be in the country just because they have a Limited Term driver's license.
- International Driving Permit – This is not a valid driver license/permit nor is it a valid form of ID. This is only used to translate the foreign driver license into English, and they should also provide the license from their home country. Some rental car companies require one for foreigners to rent a vehicle. Fake IDP's are sold online and at flea markets.

Mexican IDs

In Mexico, citizens and legal residents are assigned a unique [CURP](#) (Clave Única de Registro de Población) which stands for Unique Population Registry Code. This is similar to a social security number in the United States as it uniquely identifies a single person. You can find the CURP on passports, consular cards, and voter ID cards. Visit the below website to help verify a CURP. This should not be your only means by which to determine if the document is authentic.

- www.gob.mx/curp/

ID Checking Guide

[Docutector](#) is an online ID verification tool used by law enforcement, government agencies, and financial institutions. It is a comprehensive tool that helps you to analyze domestic and international identification documents to verify authenticity. They sell [physical books](#) as well, but the online tool is continually updated and the most comprehensive.

There are two open-source websites to verify various foreign documents, but Docutector is far superior.

1. www.edisontd.nl/about
2. www.consilium.europa.eu/prado/en/search-by-document-country.html

Fake Foreign IDs

- Fictitious consular cards, driver licenses, ID cards, etc. – (Felony 2) PC 32.21
 - Mere possession is an offense under Forgery. According to CCP 38.19, the state is not required to prove the suspect intended to defraud any particular person. Mere possession is defrauding the government as there is no lawful purpose to possess a fictitious ID. Ensure you cite CCP 38.19 in your PCA and report as the magistrate and/or prosecutor may be unaware of this statute.
 - Charge under – FORGERY GOVT/NATIONAL INST/MONEY/SECURITY – PC 32.21(e)
 - It is also a crime under Tampering with a Governmental Record PC 37.10 (Class A), but it is harder to prosecute under this statute.
State v. Allen, 346 S.W.3d 713 (Tex. App.–Austin 2011)
Alfaro-Jimenez v. State, 577 S.W.3d 240 (Tex. Crim. App. 2019)
- You may submit suspected fictitious IDs to one of the following:
 1. The Texas DPS Crime Lab and request a Forensic Document Examination (FDE). DPS has very limited knowledge and expertise with foreign IDs. You may want to send it directly to the HSI laboratory instead.
 2. The [HSI Forensic Laboratory](#). Call (800) 973-2867 and ask to speak to the HSI duty agent in your area for assistance.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

The legislature banned sanctuary cities and jurisdictions in 2017. Agencies cannot prohibit peace officers or detention officers from contacting ICE or inquiring into someone’s immigration status if they are lawfully detained or arrested. Govt Code 752.053

- The ICE Law Enforcement Service Center (LESC) is available 24/7 to assist law enforcement.
 - Phone: (802) 872-6020
 - Email: lsc.ncic@ice.dhs.gov
- Reach out to your local ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations field office to establish relationships and to stay current with their internal enforcement directives for when they want to be notified about an illegal immigrant you may have detained or in custody.
 - www.ice.gov/contact/field-offices

Driver’s Licenses for Illegal Aliens

The following states issue driver’s licenses to illegal aliens.

California	New Jersey
Colorado	New Mexico
Connecticut	New York
Delaware	Oregon
Hawaii	Rhode Island
Illinois	Utah
Maryland	Vermont
Massachusetts	Virginia
Minnesota	Washington
Nevada	Washington D.C.

All states are now issuing Real ID driver’s licenses and ID cards as required by the federal [Real ID Act](#). This is required to allow for air travel and entrance to certain federal facilities. One way to tell if someone is possibly an illegal immigrant is if the driver’s license or ID card is missing the star at the top right and displays one of the following disclaimers:

- Not Intended for Federal Purposes
- Not for Real ID Purposes
- Federal Limits Apply
- Not Valid for Federal Identification

Insurance/Financial Responsibility Requirements

Note: It is best to always ask for, “Proof of insurance or financial responsibility.” Only asking for insurance may result in a citation being dismissed due to not asking for the “proof of financial responsibility” since there are several forms of financial responsibility other than an insurance policy.

Sanchez v. State, 137 S.W.3d 860 (Tex. App.–Houston [1st Dist.] 2004)

Note: The transportation code generally only applies to public highways and streets (see the Applicability of the Transportation Code chapter for a detailed explanation). The financial responsibility requirement also applies to private roads and parking lots as the statute under 601.051 states, “A person may not operate a motor vehicle in this state unless financial responsibility is established for that vehicle...” When compared to the language in the driver’s license requirement statute under 521.021, it is clear financial responsibility is required on private roads and parking lots. “A person, other than a person expressly exempted under this chapter, may not operate a motor vehicle on a highway in this state unless the person holds a driver’s license issued under this chapter.” It is common for collisions to occur in private parking lots and private roads within business districts. The legislature has not overlooked this fact.

- If the owner is a passenger or shows up on scene, citations for any equipment, insurance, or registration violations may be issued to the owner or the driver, but not both. 542.302, 547.004
- Fail to Maintain Financial Responsibility 601.191
- Fail to Maintain Financial Responsibility – subsequent violation 601.191(c)
 - After conviction for a subsequent violation, the driver must provide proof of insurance ([SR-22](#)) to DPS or their DL/ID will be suspended. The SR-22 must stay in effect for two years. If the SR-22 lapses, the insurance company notifies DPS and then the DL/ID will be suspended. 601.231
- Fictitious or alteration of an insurance document (Class B)
 - Tampering with a Governmental Record PC 37.10(d)(1)
 - See definition under PC 37.01(2)(D)
 - Also a violation under TRC 548.603
- Forms of Financial Responsibility 601.051
 - Insurance policy
 - Surety bond 601.121
 - Certificate of self-insurance 601.124
 - Certificate of deposit with comptroller or county judge 601.122, 601.123
- Exceptions to the financial responsibility requirement 601.052
 - Former military vehicle or vehicle at least 25 years old and is only used for exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest and not for regular transportation (e.g. Antique Vehicle Plates)

Due to many drivers purchasing an insurance policy, getting the proof of insurance and then canceling the policy, the state created TexasSure, a vehicle insurance verification database, in 2008. All insurance companies conducting business in the state are required to report if a vehicle is covered. The database is updated weekly and is only for private vehicles, not fleet vehicles. If someone bought a policy out-of-state, then moves to Texas and continues with the same policy, the vehicle will show an “Unconfirmed” insurance status. If the database is showing “Unconfirmed” and the driver provides proof of insurance, law enforcement should attempt to contact the insurance company to verify but this is not required by law. Visit TexasSure.com for more information.

It is reasonable suspicion to stop a vehicle if the database shows an “Unconfirmed” insurance status. It is not reasonable suspicion if the status shows “No Record” or “Verify Manually.” The Texas 1st District Court of Appeals (2015) and the 5th Circuit (2017) have affirmed validity of traffic stops based on the “Unconfirmed” insurance status. It is imperative officers read these cases if making stops for an unconfirmed insurance status. “Vehicle Coverage Expired: Last Match Not Within 45 days” further builds reasonable suspicion but is not required before stopping a vehicle. Keep in mind the policy dates are for when the policy was purchased, but if the driver cancels the policy, the policy dates do not change and the return will show an “Unconfirmed” status.

Ultimately, the ability to stop for an unconfirmed insurance status will rest with your local district attorney’s office and/or agency policy.

United States v. Broca-Martinez, 855 F.3d 675 (2017)

Oliva-Arita v. State, No. 01-15-00140-CR (Tex. App.–Houston [1st Dist.] 2015)

License Plates

- If the owner is a passenger or shows up on scene, citations for any equipment, insurance, or registration violations may be issued to the owner or the driver, but not both. 542.302, 547.004
- Registration Sticker (officially called a registration insignia)
 - Expired registration/license plates 502.407
 - Expires after 5 business days into the next month
 - Displaying an expired sticker along with the new sticker is a violation 502.475(a)(3)
 - Expired out-of-state registration is a violation 502.145
 - Wrong, Fictitious or Obscured registration sticker 502.475
 - Wrong – sticker is assigned to another vehicle (Class C)
 - Altered – or made anything illegible (Class B)
 - Fictitious – two options for mere possession
 - (Class C) 502.4755
 - (Class B) 502.475(d)
 - Fictitious – manufactures or sells (Felony 3) 502.4755
 - Sticker must be affixed inside to the lower left of windshield 502.059(c)
 - Missing registration sticker on windshield or license plate 502.473
- Emission inspections are required in the following [counties](#): 548.256

Bexar (eff. 11/1/2026)	El Paso	Johnson	Tarrant
Brazoria	Ellis	Kaufman	Travis
Collin	Fort Bend	Montgomery	Williamson
Dallas	Galveston	Parker	
Denton	Harris	Rockwall	

 - The DMV allows people to renew their registration without obtaining an emissions inspection if the vehicle is temporarily outside the state in accordance with 548.256(b). This makes it very easy for someone to falsely claim the vehicle is not in the state to avoid the emissions inspection. The owner must obtain an emissions inspection as soon as the vehicle returns to Texas. You may see a remark on the return that states “Verify Inspection” indicating the inspection is expired even if the registration is not expired. You can go to mytxcar.org and enter the vehicle’s VIN to verify the last time the vehicle was inspected. If the inspection is expired, you have probable cause to stop the vehicle and cite under 548.605. The inspection for a new vehicle is good for two years and older models are good for one year. Vehicles older than 24 years are exempt from inspection.

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LIC RWT5676 MAY/2026 OLD # RWT5676 MAY/2025 EWT 3600 GWT 3600
PASSENGER-TRUCK PLT, STKR REG CLASS 25 $ 74.50 TRAVIS CNTY
TITLE 22738044710104255 ISSUED 06/08/2022 ODOMETER 108617 REG DT 06/12/2025
2015,FORD,FUS,4D,3FA6P0K98FR268701,PASS,COLOR: GRY,COMM IMPED: N PRICE $ 0.00
PREV TTL: JUR TX TTL # 27426044640104242 ISSUE 03/22/2022
PREV OWN DISCOVERY AUTO SALES,AUSTIN,TX
OWNER LENIN MEJIA PAZ, ID#=N/A,,
, AUSTIN, TX, 78758
RNWL RCP LENIN MEJIA PAZ SR, 5701 , AUSTIN, TX, 78724
LIEN 04/30/2022, ZEUS FINANCIAL SERVICES, , PO BOX 200607, , AUSTIN, TX, 78720
PLATE AGE: 3 LAST ACTIVITY 06/21/2025 IRENEW OFC: 227
REMARKS ACTUAL MILEAGE.DATE OF ASSIGNMENT:2022/04/30.VERIFY INSPECTION.PAPER
TITLE.FUEL TYPE: GAS.
  
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- Fail to register out-of-state vehicle or trailer within 30 days 502.040
- After purchasing a used vehicle through a private sale, the new owner must transfer the registration into their name within 30 days. 501.145
 - Active-duty service members have 60 days
 - Under PC 31.03(c)(7), a purchaser has 20 days to notify the county tax office of the sale. If the vehicle is stolen and the purchaser failed to notify the tax office within the 20 days, it is presumed the purchaser knew the vehicle was stolen.
- Operating an unregistered vehicle 502.472
- Wrong – the wrong license plate is attached to a vehicle (Class C) 504.944 or 504.945(a)

- Fictitious – (Class B) 504.945(a)(4)
- Deceptively similar license plate 504.946
 - This is separate from fictitious plates in that people use their real license plate number on personalized plates not authorized by the state. See the DMV flyer on How to Spot a Fake Plate.
 - Mere possession (Class C)
 - With previous conviction (Class B)
 - Manufactures or sells a deceptively similar license plate (Felony 3)
- Stolen license plate or stolen registration sticker (Class A)
 - Possession is considered Tampering w/ a Govt Record - PC 37.10(a)(3)(4)(6) since the governmental record was obtained unlawfully.
 - Charge under PC 37.10(c)(1)
- Altered – (Class B) 504.945(b)
 - Knowingly altered or made illegible any letters or numbers
- Obscured license plate – (Class C) 504.945
 - If 50% or more of the name of the state is covered, it is a violation (e.g. dealer frames)
 - After-market back-up cameras are frequently installed incorrectly and cover the state
 - Luggage racks are a violation. The plate must be mounted to the exterior of the rack.
 - Exceptions – trailer hitch, wheelchair lift, trailer, bike rack, transponder issued by a tollway
- Obscured license plate – (Class B) 504.945(b)
 - Knowingly alter or make anything on the plate illegible.
 - Examples: Using electrical tape to alter the letters or numbers, using a shirt to cover the plate, having an [anti-camera license plate cover](#) installed, having an [automated license plate](#) cover installed, etc.
- Dirty or mutilated license plate
 - The violation is TRC 504.943(a)(2) in accordance with TX Admin Code Title 43, Part 10, Subchapter B, §217.27(b)(1) if the plate is not, "...clearly visible, readable, and legible...)
- Unauthorized coating or covering 504.945(a)(7)
 - Any protective covering will statutorily obscure the plate. Coverings prevent license plate readers and security cameras from capturing the plate as it "distorts angular visibility or detection." Coverings also make it difficult for witnesses to report the plates of vehicles, especially those operated by intoxicated drivers at night.
 - If the covering alters the color in any way, it is also a violation
 - Third offense (Class B) 504.945(f)
- No license plates 504.943
- Two license plates required 504.943 & TX Admin Code Title 43, Part 10, Subchapter B, §217.27(b)
 - Must be securely fastened to exterior front and rear
 - Must be horizontal. Does not apply to motorcycles or trailers
 - Must be at least 12 inches from the ground
 - Note: It is common for criminals to steal front license plates and attach them to the rear of stolen vehicles that are of the same make and model. Always verify the VIN with vehicles missing a front plate. Drivers commonly assume their front plate fell off and generally do not report them missing or stolen. Issuing a citation for no front plate encourages drivers to report the plate as missing or stolen to the DMV or tax office so they can be issued new plates. Citations for no front plate can be dismissed at a driver's court appearance with just a \$10 fee under 504.943(d) if they reattached the missing plate or took the necessary steps to obtain new plates. TX Admin Code Title 43, Part 10, Subchapter B, §217.32
 - Note: Many people mistakenly attach both license plates to the rear without realizing it. Double check the displayed plate to ensure the second plate isn't behind it.
 - Only one plate is issued for the following:

▪ Antique Auto	▪ Antique Motorcycle
▪ Antique Truck	▪ Antique Bus
▪ Classic Travel Trailer	▪ Golf Cart
▪ Rental Trailer	▪ Log Loader
▪ Travel Trailer	▪ Military Vehicle
▪ Cotton Vehicle	▪ Package Delivery Vehicle
▪ Disaster Relief	▪ Fertilizer

- Forestry Vehicle

- Off-Highway Vehicle

TX Admin Code Title 43, Part 10, Subchapter B, §217.45(c)(3)

- License plate light 547.322(f)

○ Must be white FMVSS 571.108 Table 1-A ○ Only 1 required but additional lamps are permitted ○ Lamp(s) can be mounted above or to the sides of the plate but cannot be mounted from the bottom ○ Must be steady burning ○ Must be activated when headlamps or parking lamps are activated ○ Lamp must provide illumination on all parts of a license plate FMVSS 571.108 - S7.7.15.1 ○ The FMVSS doesn't have a distance requirement for license plate visibility, such as the 50ft requirement in the transportation code, only that the lamp(s) provide illumination to "all parts" of a license plate
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 - Must be white 547.322(f)
 - Must be clearly legible 50ft away
- Missing registration insignia on license plate 502.473
 - Applies to motorcycle, trailer, and antique plates
- License plate flipper 504.9465
 - Mere possession (Class B)
 - Manufactures, sells, offers to sell, or distributes (Class A)
 - It is more typical to come across an [automatic license plate curtain](#). This is not technically a plate flipper but meets the intent of the legislature that one cannot hide their license plate at will. The automatic roller could also be considered an Obscured License Plate TRC 504.945(b) – Class B or a Criminal Instrument PC 16.01(a)(2) – SJF. Consult your local prosecutor.
- Foreign country plate during military service 502.090
 - Service members stationed overseas may have been issued plates by the host country.
 - The foreign country plate is valid for 90 days.
- www.licenseplates.cc – collection of every state plate and the current number/letter sequence being issued.
- www.worldlicenseplates.com – collection of current and historical plates for other countries

Specialty License Plates

- Click [HERE](#) for a comprehensive guide to all specialty plates in Texas

Distinguishing License Plates

- ANTIQUE AUTO, ANTIQUE TRUCK, ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLE, ANTIQUE BUS, or MILITARY VEHICLE 504.502
 - Must be at least 25 years old and a collector's item
 - Can only be used for exhibitions, club activities, parades, other functions of public interest and to/from vehicle maintenance
 - Vehicle cannot be used for regular personal use or carry advertising
 - The registered owner cannot claim ignorance as the owner must sign two forms (SR-2 & VTR-54) certifying the vehicle will only be used as stated above.
 - Insurance is not required
 - Cite a violation under 504.941
 - Only required to have one plate on the rear 504.502(h)
 - Plate cannot be transferred to a new owner after vehicle has been sold
 - Registration is good for 5 years
 - Registration sticker is affixed to the plate (the sticker for military vehicles is carried in the cab)
 - The owner has the option of displaying a set of previously issued Texas license plates on the vehicle in lieu of department issued Antique Vehicle License Plates if the previously issued plates are issued in the same year as the year model of the antique vehicle.
- APPORTIONED 502.001(2)
 - Issued to motor carriers. Pays a portion of registration fees in each state the motor carrier intends to do business. Truck tractors will only have one plate (starts with an R) affixed to the front. Buses and

- pickups will have two plates (starts with a K).
 - No registration sticker required. Instead, the driver will have a registration cab card listing the states the vehicle is authorized to operate in. If Texas is not listed on the cab card, the violation is operating an unregistered motor vehicle.
- CLASSIC 504.501
 - Must be at least 25 years old.
 - There are no limited use restrictions with this plate.
 - Insurance is required.
 - Certain items of may or may not be required, depending on the age of the car. (e.g. seatbelts are only required if the vehicle was originally manufactured with them)
 - Registration must be renewed every year.
 - An owner has the option of displaying a set of previously issued Texas license plates on the vehicle in lieu of Classic plates. The previously issued plates must be the same year as the year model of the vehicle, be in good readable condition, and have that year's correct color scheme. The plates must be embossed.
 - Plate cannot be transferred to a new owner after vehicle has been sold.
- COMBINATION 502.001(4)
 - Issued to trucks or truck-tractors with a gross weight more than 10,000 lbs that pull a semi-trailer of more than 6,000 lbs. May be used on a vehicle towing a Token Trailer.
 - Vehicle operates only in Texas.
- CONVERTER TX Admin Code Title 43, Part 10, Ch. 215, Subchapter E, §215.146
 - Must be used in the same manner as a DEALER plate.
- EXEMPT 502.451, 502.452, TX Admin Code Title 43, Ch. 217, Subchapter B, §217.55
 - To display EXEMPT license plates, government agencies must mark the vehicles with the agency name on each side of the vehicle.
 - The letters must be at least two inches high or have an emblem that is at least 100 inches square, of a color sufficiently different from the body, and clearly legible from 100ft away.
 - Agencies do not have to mark vehicles but must use normal plates if vehicles are unmarked.
- FARM TRAILER 502.146(b)
 - A farm trailer plate is required for trailers 4,000-34,000 lbs
 - A farm trailer under 4,000 lbs is not required to be registered or display a plate if:
 - it is used only temporarily on a highway; and
 - used exclusively to transport agricultural products, livestock, farm supplies, or equine related items.
 - Definition of “operate temporarily on the highways” – to travel between different farms, 502.001(30) a place of supply or storage and a farm, or an owner's farm and the place at which the owner's farm produce is prepared for market or is marketed.
 - May be pulled by a normally registered vehicle
 - Cannot be used to haul anything that is not related to ranch or farm. Example: Using a farm trailer to help move a friend's furniture to a new residence. Violation is unregistered trailer 502.040(a)
- FARM TRUCK 502.433
 - May be used for any purpose except on the way to or from gainful employment 502.433(c) not related to farming or ranching.
 - May be displayed on passenger cars and SUVs.
 - A violation is considered to be operating an unregistered vehicle. 502.146(f)
 - Cite a violation under 502.433 or 502.472
- FERTILIZER TRK 502.431
 - Vehicle designed or modified and used exclusively to transport to the field and spread fertilizer, including agricultural limestone.
- FRAC TANK 502.146(i)
 - Assigned to frac tanks – portable or stationary high-volume holding vessels designed and constructed for use in separating, storing, or temporarily holding materials used in fracturing techniques in oil and gas
 - Plate does not expire and registration receipt is not required to be carried with the vehicle
- FORESTRY 502.001(17), 504.507
 - A vehicle designed and used exclusively for transporting forest products in their natural state

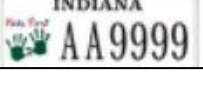
- **MACHINERY** 502.001(8), 502.146(b)(2)(3)(4)
 - All machinery type vehicles, except farm tractors and implements of husbandry, when operated over any public highway, will be required to display a current registration plate or a "MACHINERY" license plate.
 - Only issued one plate
- **MANUFACTURER** 503.064
 - Displayed on a new vehicle a manufacturer intends to test on a public street; or
 - On a loaner to a customer while their vehicle is being repaired Texas Occupations Code 2301.605(c)
 - If attached to a commercial motor vehicle, cannot carry a load
- **PERMIT** 502.146(3), 623.142, TX Admin Code Title 43, Part 10, Ch. 219, Subchapter A, §219.2(b)(48)
 - Issued to a crane or an oil well servicing vehicle
- **SEASONAL PERMIT** 502.432
 - Issued to a truck-tractor or a commercial motor vehicle that is used to exclusively transport a seasonal agricultural product.
 - Registration period is in months, not annually
- **TOKEN TRAILER** 502.001(40), TX Admin Code Title 43, Part 10, Ch. 217, Subchapter B, §217.46(b)(8)
 - Issued only to semi-trailers with a gross weight over 6,000 lbs.
 - Cannot be on a full trailer.
 - May only be towed by a truck or truck-tractor that has been issued an apportioned plate, combination plate, forestry plate, or seasonal permit.
 - Does not expire and not required to be in possession of the registration receipt 502.0023(d-1)
- **TRAVEL TRAILER** 501.002(30)
 - Issued for a house trailer type vehicle or camper trailer. Must be designed primarily for use as temporary living quarters in connection with recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.
 - Cannot be used as a permanent dwelling
 - Cannot be a utility trailer, enclosed trailer, or other trailer that does not have human habitation as its primary function
- **TRUCK** 502.0023
 - Fleet plates for trucks
 - Allows a fleet registered vehicle to be registered up to 8 years



- **DEAF DRIVER AWARENESS** 504.204
 - This plate is an indicator to law enforcement the driver is deaf or hard of hearing. "Communication Impediment" may be noted on the driver's license

Indiana License Plate Codes

- Indiana plates are notoriously difficult to get a return.
- Enter the following codes for “LP Type” to obtain returns. You may have to type in the license plate expiration year as well. (You’ll have to play a game of “Guess the Year This Plate Expires”)
- For trailers use the code TL or AP.
- If none of the codes work, try ZZ.

PC (Passenger Car plate, Bicentennial/Covered Bridge)  		VF (Military Veteran plate)    	DV (Disabled Veteran plate)    
CM (In God We Trust plate) 	TK (Truck plate) 	MC (Motorcycle plate) 	
DX (Handicapped plate) 	TM or DL (temp tag) 	MP (Moped plate) 	
CL (College plate) 	DL (Dealer plate) 	OR (Organization plates, mult. types) 	
AQ (Antique or Historic plate) 	PS (Professional Sports plate) 	CN (Environmental plate) 	

HOW TO SPOT A FAKE PLATE IN TEXAS

DECEPTIVELY SIMILAR LICENSE PLATES

A law passed by the 83rd Legislature that went into effect on September 1, 2013, Section 504.946, *Deceptively Similar License Plate*, in the Texas Transportation Code, makes it an offense to manufacture, sell, or possess a license plate that is deceptively similar to a license plate created by the TxDMV.

COMMON FAKE PLATES – WHAT TO LOOK FOR

COLOR ON COLOR

All official Texas plate designs are required to meet reflectivity and legibility standards. Reflective, white alphanumeric characters will contrast with the plate background color.

PLATES FEATURING A COLORED ALPHANUMERIC CHARACTER PATTERN AGAINST A COLORED BACKGROUND ARE FAKE.

Common examples currently found on Texas streets are fake plates with red or pink characters on a black background.

FAKE



HOUSTON TEXANS

The Houston Texans have licensed their blue/white/red bull's head logo for use on two Texas license plates. Both of the real plates say "Houston Texans" in the bottom legend area. **ANY SINGLE-COLORED TEXANS LOGO, OR PLATES THAT DO NOT HAVE "HOUSTON TEXANS" IN THE BOTTOM LEGEND AREA ARE FAKE.**

REAL



FAKE



WHAT ABOUT THE PLATE NUMBER?

Many FAKE plates are made with the vehicle's correct plate number printed on a fake plate design. **THESE ARE STILL ILLEGAL.**

FAKE



EURO-AND ODD-SIZED PLATES

Texas passenger, truck, and trailer license plates measure 6x12". Motorcycle plates measure 4x7". **PLATES OF ANY OTHER SIZE ARE EITHER FAKE OR VINTAGE (ISSUED BEFORE 1956).** Texas does not issue European-sized plates.

FAKE



OFFICIAL TEXAS PLATES

When in doubt, you can find images of official Texas license plates at this website:

www.txdmv.gov/motorists/license-plates/specialty-license-plates

You may also contact My Plates, Mon-Fri 8a-5p, at 888-769-7528 with any questions.

EMBEDDED SECURITY FEATURES

As of August 2012, two vertical threads joined the existing round holograms on all Texas license plates. These features make it easier for law enforcement to spot legitimate plates.



LONE STAR BLACK - BLUE - PINK - SILVER - WHITE - RED

This plate series with the Large Star on left-hand side of plate holds a maximum of 6 characters. **ANY 7-CHARACTER PATTERN ON A LARGE STAR PLATE IS FAKE.**

REAL



FAKE



Law Enforcement - Permitted Uses for Metal License Plates*



GENERAL ISSUE PLATE	STANDARD DEALER PLATE	DEALER TEMPORARY PLATE	OUT-OF-STATE BUYER	BUYER PROVISIONAL PLATE	TEMPORARY REGISTRATION PLATE
Issued to a retail purchaser at time of sale by Dealer	USES: 1. Vehicle demonstration and personal use	USES: 1. Vehicle demonstration	Replaces buyer temp tag	Same uses as General Issue Metal Plate	Replaces the 30-Day and the One-Trip permits
MUST keep purchase receipt in vehicle until registered	2. Transit from dealer, auction, mechanic or body shop, etc.	2. Transit from dealer, auction, mechanic or body shop, etc.	Provided to Out-of-State Buyers	Plate shall only be assigned once and may not be used a second time	Must be purchased at a RSC or TAC office
Dealer is required to submit title transaction in WebDealer within 30 calendar days of the date of sale or 45 calendar days if Seller financed	3. May be used on a loaner vehicle for customers	3. May be used on a loaner vehicle for customers	CANNOT be used for export sales	Used if buyer needs a plate type not in dealer's plate inventory.	To be used for export sales
	4. Vehicle use by charitable organization	4. Vehicle use by charitable organization	Only one plate provided. Must be secured in rear plate holder	NOT used for export sales	Must be displayed in rear plate holder
Must be properly secured in rear and front plate holders	Only one plate is issued. Must be properly secured in rear plate holder	CANNOT be used by dealership personnel for personal use	Valid for 60-Days	Only one plate provided. Must be secured in rear plate holder.	Must purchase in person and have valid insurance
If plate is stolen or lost, replacement is provided using the original sales date	CANNOT be displayed on a commercial vehicle carrying a load	Must be displayed and secured in rear plate holder	Exempt from Emissions Inspection	Valid until a permanent plate is assigned (expires 7 days after assignment)	Exempt from emission inspection
Must have current Emission inspection if applicable	Title must be in name of OR assigned to dealership	CANNOT be used for carrying a load unless vehicle is carrying another vehicle with a dealer temporary plate to or from a point of sale	Contains 8 character alphanumeric plate pattern where OSB may appear in numerous positions within the pattern	Must have current Emission inspection if applicable	Valid between 15-30 days depending on its use
	There is a special provision for independent motor vehicle dealers carrying vehicles to and from the auction	Valid until the next renewal of the dealer's license. Dealer will need to request renewal stickers.		Contains 8 character alphanumeric plate pattern where BYR may appear in numerous positions within the pattern	Valid for a trip that ends or begins in Texas
	Must have current Emission inspection if applicable	Exempt from Emissions Inspection			Contains 8 character alphanumeric plate pattern where TMP may appear in numerous positions within the pattern
	CANNOT display signs on vehicle	Contains 8 character alphanumeric plate pattern where DLR may appear in numerous positions within the pattern			

NOTE: Plate validity can be confirmed through TLETS/NLETS



Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

* This guide contains general information and does not comprehensively cover the subject matter. For more details and exceptions, please see applicable statutes and rules, such as Texas Transportation Code Section 501.0234 and Chapter 503, Subchapter C; Occupations Code Chapter 2301; and Title 43 of the Texas Administrative Code, Section 217.4 and Chapter 215, Subchapter D.

Dealer Plates



- Personal use permitted
- Emission inspection required in required counties
- Must be displayed in rear plate holder



- Personal use prohibited
- Emission inspection not required
- Must be displayed in rear plate holder

Click [HERE](#) for a list of all licensed dealers in Texas

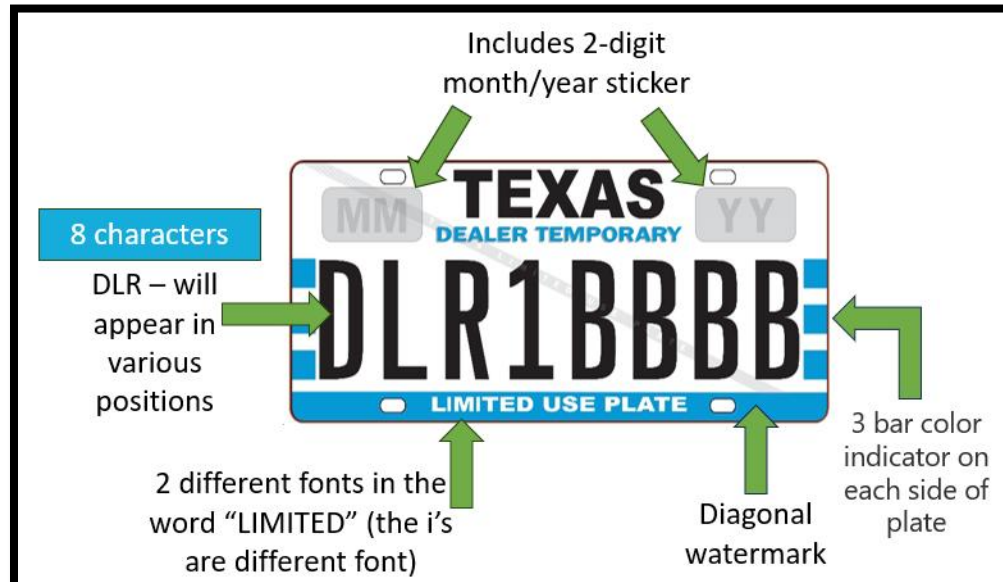
Approved Uses

- Vehicle test drive
- Loaner to customer
- Transit dealer to dealer
- Transit to and from auction
- Transit to and from repair facility

Prohibited Uses

- On a vehicle sold to a buyer
- On a rental or leased vehicle
- On a commercial vehicle w/ a load
- *[TRC 503.062](#) & [TRC 503.068](#)
- *Texas Administrative Code [§215.138](#)

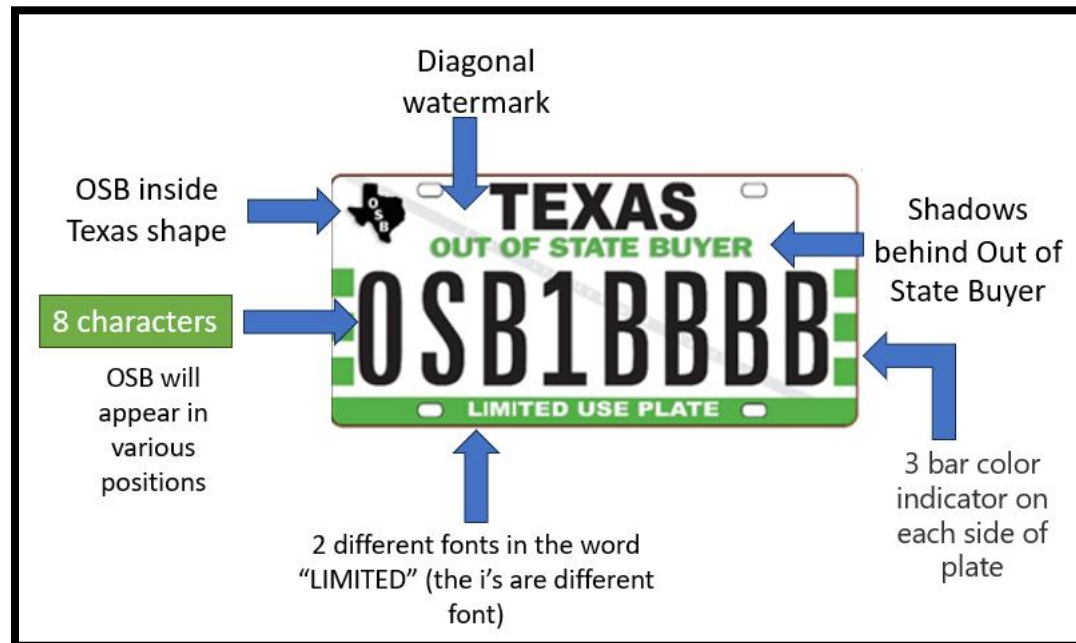
Click [HERE](#) to file a complaint against a licensed dealer



Out-of-State Buyer



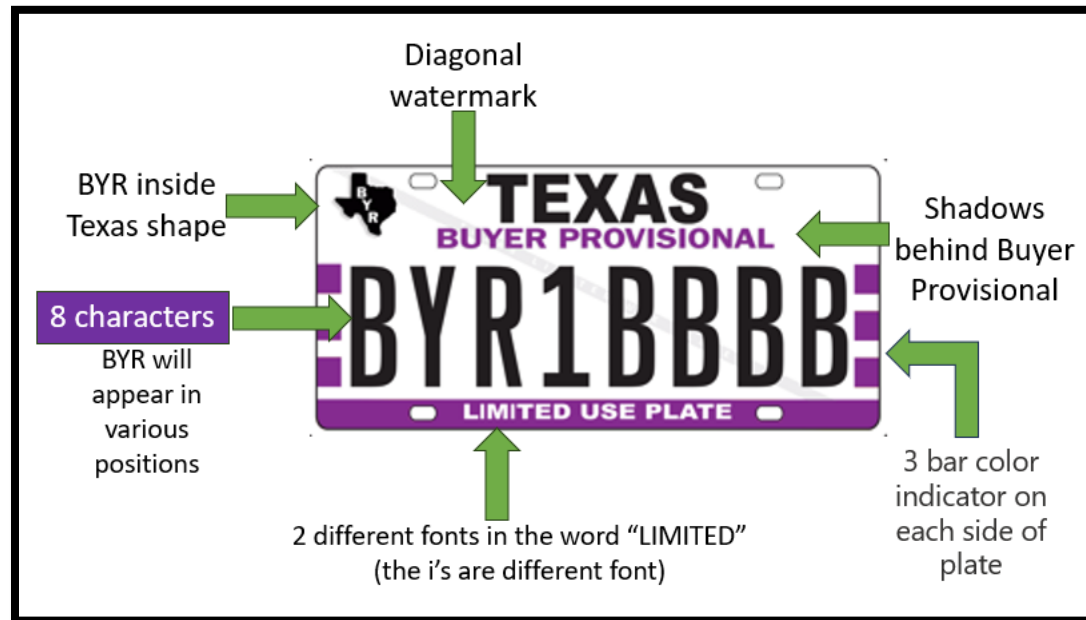
- Provided to out-of-state buyers who purchase a vehicle in Texas and intends on taking it out of state – [TRC 503.065](#)
- Valid for 60 days
- Exempt from emission inspection
- Must be displayed in rear plate holder
- Buyer's receipt is required to be kept in the vehicle - Texas Administrative Code [§215.156](#)



Buyer Provisional



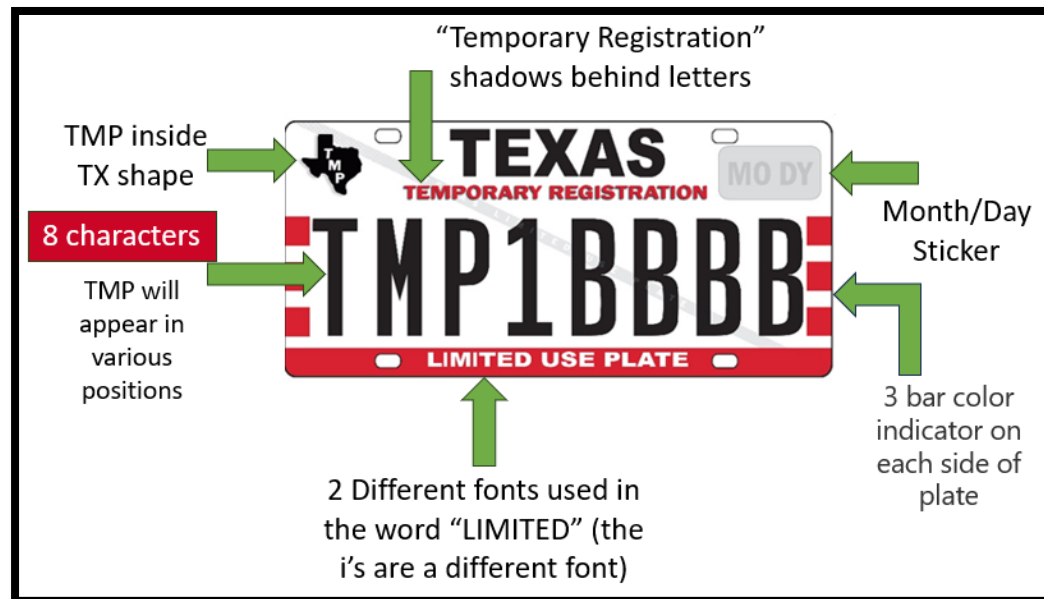
- Issued for temporary use while waiting for specialty plates to be processed (e.g., farm, disabled veteran, etc.)
- Expires 7 days after specialty plate has been assigned
- Emissions inspection required in required counties
- Must be displayed in rear plate holder
- Buyer's receipt is required to be kept in the vehicle - Texas Administrative Code [§215.156](#)



Temporary Registration



- Used for temporary registration, replacing 30-Day and One-Trip permits – Texas Administrative Code [§217.40\(b\)\(5\)\(6\)](#)
- Emission inspection not required
- Issued by county tax office or the DMV
- One-Trip valid up to 15 days. Trip must begin or end in Texas.
- Temporary Registration valid up to 30 days.
- Must be displayed in rear plate holder
- Registration receipt is required to be kept in the vehicle – [TRC 502.095\(f\)](#)



Temporary Paper Permits

VEHICLE TRANSIT PERMIT RECEIPT

PERMIT NO: 0562B4 DATE: 03/19/2026
APPLICANT NAME AND ADDRESS START DATE: 03/19/2026 EXPIRATION DATE: 03/24/2026
JOHN DOE
5805 N LAMAR BLVD
AUSTIN, TX 78752

ORIGINATION POINT
AUSTIN

INTERMEDIATE POINT(S) (IF APPLICABLE)
WACO

DESTINATION POINT
DALLAS

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO: 1FM5K8AC88GB05060
YR/MAKE: 2023/FORD BODY STYLE: LL
TITLE/DOCUMENT NUMBER: 22750245699105012

TEXAS 72-HOUR PERMIT THE VEHICLE TEMPORARILY REGISTERED WITH PERMIT

27V000V

2007 MCI

Expires **JAN 29, 2023**

VIN: 2M93JMDA87W063818

ISSUED BY: FLOYD CTY

VALID IN TEXAS ONLY

USDOT: 3619617

TEXAS FACTORY DELIVERY PERMIT THE VEHICLE TEMPORARILY REGISTERED WITH PERMIT

103472F

2018 CHEV

Expires **JUN 30, 2023**

VIN: 3GCRKSE34AG224286

ISSUED BY: FLOYD CTY

TEXAS 144-HOUR PERMIT THE VEHICLE TEMPORARILY REGISTERED WITH PERMIT

21M000M

2018 MCI

Expires **FEB 01, 2023**

VIN: 2MG3JMB3JW068721

ISSUED BY: FLOYD CTY

VALID IN TEXAS ONLY

USDOT: 3619617

TEXAS TEMPORARY INSIGNIA VALID FOR 60 CALENDAR DAYS ONLY. ANY ALTERATION VOIDS THIS INSIGNIA.

EARKL

2018 FORD

Expires **JUL 14, 2018**

VIN: 1FTEW1E53JKC81607

Issued By: COLLIN CTY

THIS PERSONALIZED MESSAGE IS PENDING APPROVAL BY THE TxDMV.

TEXAS INTRASTATE-FLEET VEHICLE

THIS VEHICLE TEMPORARILY REGISTERED WITH LICENSE PLATE #

TEMP

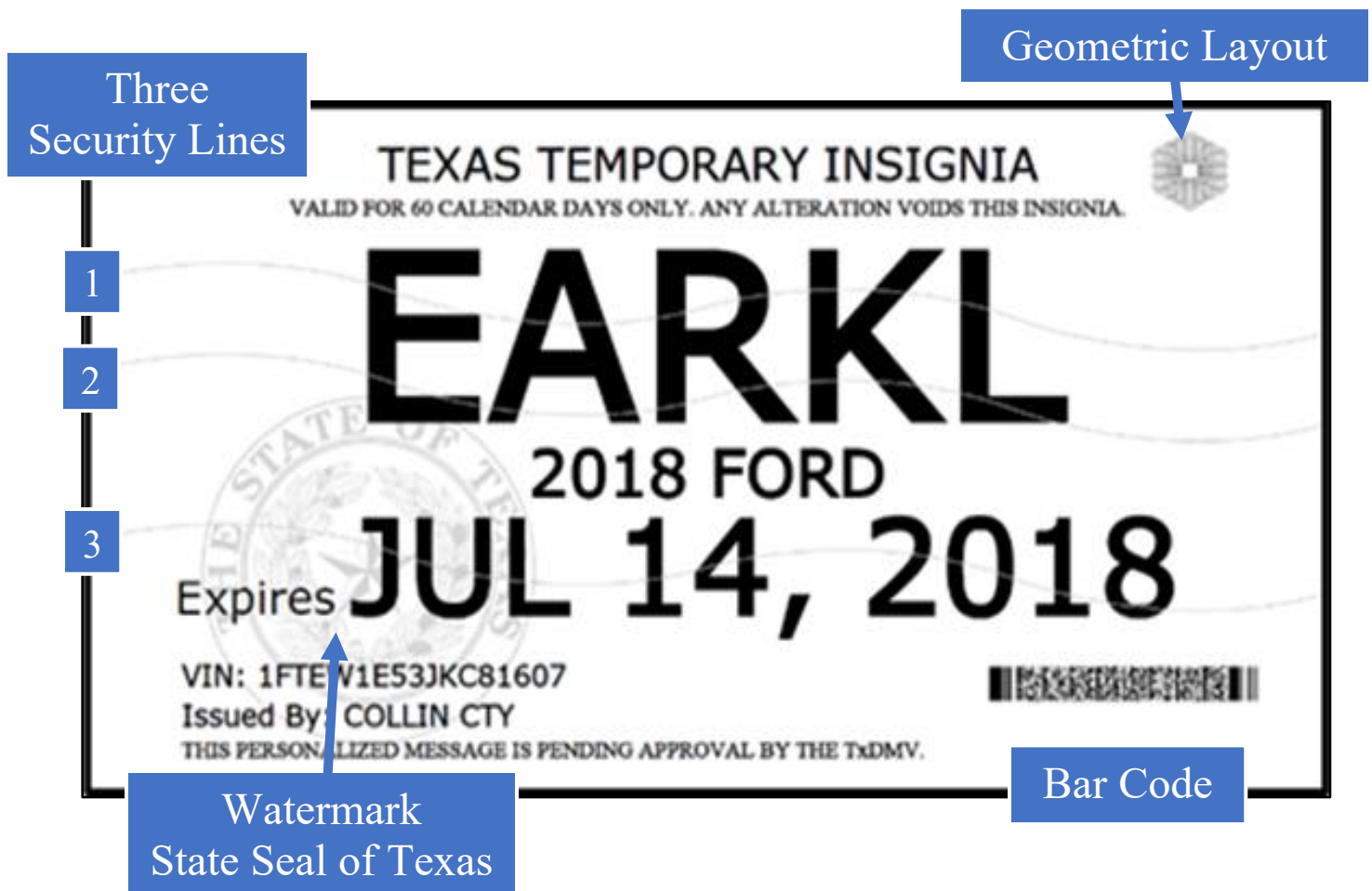
EXPIRES **04-20-26**

2023 FORD

VIN 1FTYE1Y83PKC13477

Company O'REILLY AUTO ENTERPRISES, LLC

Security Features for Paper Permits



- There are 4 countermeasures on all tags/permits to prevent counterfeiting or alterations
 - Geometric Layout in the top right corner
 - 3 Security Lines
 - State Seal Watermark
 - Barcode – Scannable with any cell phone bar code scanning app
- The first four letters of the vehicle make will be displayed
 - e.g. CHEV, DODG, NISS, ACUR, INFI, TOYT, FORD
- Fleet Vehicle Permits will not have these security features.

Vehicle Transit Permit

VEHICLE TRANSIT PERMIT RECEIPT	
PERMIT NO: 0562B4	DATE: 03/19/2026
APPLICANT NAME AND ADDRESS JOHN DOE 5805 N LAMAR BLVD AUSTIN, TX 78752	START DATE: 03/19/2026 EXPIRATION DATE: 03/24/2026
ORIGINATION POINT AUSTIN	
INTERMEDIATE POINT(S) (IF APPLICABLE) WACO	
DESTINATION POINT DALLAS	
VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO: 1FMSK8AC8SGB05060	
YR/MAKE: 2025/FORD	BODY STYLE: LL
TITLE/DOCUMENT NUMBER:	22750245699105012

- This is used for private party vehicle sales in which the original owner retains the license plates.
- The purchaser enters in the information, prints it out, and presents to law enforcement.
- This allows someone to legally operate the vehicle without license plates.
- It is valid for one trip from point of origin to destination. There should be an intermediate point for law enforcement to ensure the driver is not off route.
- Valid for 5 days

72 & 144-Hour Permit

TEXAS 72-HOUR PERMIT	
THE VEHICLE TEMPORARILY REGISTERED WITH PERMIT #	
27V000V	
2007 MCI	
Expires JAN 29, 2023	
VIN: 2M93JMDA87W063818	
ISSUED BY: FLOYD CTY	
VALID IN TEXAS ONLY	
USDOT: 3619617	

- Only issued to buses and commercial vehicles – TRC 502.094
- May be purchased online
- Valid only in Texas
- The online system cannot distinguish between commercial and passenger VINs so you may see these permits on a passenger vehicle.

Factory Delivery Permit



- Used to bring a new and unregistered vehicle into the state that was purchased from an out-of-state dealer; or
- Used to bring a new and unregistered vehicle into the state from an out-of-state manufacturer that was purchased from an in-state dealer
- Valid for 30 days
- Permit must be registered to the buyer
- Prohibited for dealer use, manufacturer use, or on a vehicle transporting property

Temporary Insignia Permit



- Issued by the county tax assessor-collector or DMV Regional Service Center
- The TLETS return should return to a metal plate
- Issued for personalized and specialty plates (e.g., Disabled Veteran plates)

Fleet Vehicle Permit



- Fleet Vehicle permits are for commercial vehicles engaged in interstate travel and will be registered with Apportioned metal license plates through the International Registration Plan (IRP). They do not have the same security features as the other tags.
- IntraState Fleet Vehicle permits are for in-state travel only and will be issued the standard general issue license plates. The driver should have a “Texas Intrastate-Fleet Registration Card”

Misc. Violations

- Hitting or driving on a curb may be considered Fail to Maintain a Single Lane 545.060 or Driving on Divided Highway 545.063 (the curb is considered a barrier)
Hadley v. State, 223 S.W.3d 421 (Tex. App.–Amarillo 2006)
HSC 365.012
- Littering
 - Cigarettes, lit or unlit, discarded from a vehicle is littering
State v. Wood, 575 S.W.3d 929 (Tex. App.–Austin 2019)
HSC 365.011(6)(B)
 - Ashing a cigarette from a vehicle is not littering
- Operating an unregistered vehicle
502.472
- Operating or permitting the operation of a salvage or nonrepairable motor vehicle (Class A)
501.09111
 - A salvage motor vehicle (pink or green title) cannot be operated on a highway. Vehicle must be towed to its destination. Re-built salvage (blue title) vehicles have been repaired and can be operated on a highway. Nonrepairable vehicles cannot be rebuilt and may only be used for parts or scrap metal.
 - Charge under 501.157(b)
 - If your prosecutor won't accept this charge, issuing a citation under TRC 547.004 for operating a motor vehicle in an unsafe condition may be an option.
- Open Container
PC 49.031
 - Applies to any alcoholic container in which the seal is broken or any amount of liquid is missing.
 - Vehicle must be on a public road, shoulder or right-of-way. Still a violation if the vehicle is parked or stopped.
 - Only one citation may be issued regardless if there were numerous containers unless the other occupants claim an open container.
 - Exceptions are vehicles for hire (Uber, bus, limo, etc.), living quarters of an RV or camper, in a locked glove box, trunk or truck bed.
 - Seeing an open container in plain view or by an occupant's admission of one inside the vehicle is sufficient PC to search the vehicle for more open containers. The search may only extend to the places where it would be illegal to possess an open container. A trunk, for example, would be off limits for a search. *Elrod v. State*, 533 S.W.3d 52 (Tex. App.–Texarkana 2017)
- Leaving a child in a vehicle (Class C)
PC 22.10
 - Intentionally or knowingly leaves a child younger than 7 years of age for more than 5 minutes in a vehicle and not attended by an individual 14 years of age or older.
- Permit unlicensed person to drive
 - Parent allows child <18 to drive
521.458(a)
 - Parent does not need to be present to be cited under this statute. If parent is unlicensed, can still be cited under this statute.
 - Vehicle owner, or the person a vehicle has been entrusted to, allows an unlicensed person to drive
521.458(b)
 - Owner or the person a vehicle has been entrusted to does not need to be present to be cited under this statute. If the vehicle owner is unlicensed, can still be cited.
- Obstructed View
547.613(a)
 - Object or material that is placed on or attached to the windshield, side windows or rear window that obstructs or reduces operator's clear view
 - Does not apply to side windows behind driver, rear window if they have a side mirror, a motor vehicle not registered in Texas or a vehicle for hire.
 - The vehicle is loaded in such a way that it obstructs the front or side view
545.417
 - Front seat has more than 3 passengers and obstructs driver's view to the side or front of vehicle
545.417
 - A passenger rides in a position that obstructs driver's view or control
545.417
 - Example: sitting in the driver's lap
 - A *severely* cracked windshield would be an offense under TRC 547.004 for operating a motor vehicle in an unsafe condition.

- There is no specific statute preventing an operator from hanging something from the rearview mirror.
- Tamper or move warning devices for construction or detour (signs, barricades, cones, barrels) 472.021
 - Class C or Class B. Offense is a fine only or up to 2 years in county jail.
 - Officer should use a reasonableness standard based on the severity of the offense whether to issue a citation or arrest for a Class B. May want to consult your prosecutor if making an arrest.
- Damaging a traffic control device (Felony 3) PC 28.03(g)(7) & PC 28.03(j)(1)
 - Includes traffic-control signals, signs, and railroad signals/signs 541.304
 - Must be intentionally or knowingly
- Passenger <18 yoa in open bed of pickup or trailer 545.414
- Passenger <18 yoa in a boat that is being towed 545.4145
- Passengers prohibited in a trailer or semi-trailer towed by a big rig (Class B) 545.4191
 - This statute is intended for human smugglers
- Cell phone use in a school zone 545.425
 - May use cell phone if stopped or is hands-free
- Texting and Driving 545.4251
 - If texting and driving and causes SBI or death (Class A) 545.4251(f)
 - Driver may text if stopped
 - May use GPS
 - May not inspect the cell phone to verify unless consent is given
 - If stopped or driving slowly AND blocking traffic because driver is looking at their cell phone (they don't have to be texting), cite under 545.363
- Green v. State*, 773 S.W.2d 816 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 1989)
- Videos playing inside vehicle may not be within view of driver unless vehicle is in park 547.611
- During a power failure with deactivated traffic signal lights and no signal is being given, drivers must stop at intersection as if the intersection had stop signs 544.007(i)
- Counterfeit inspection report
 - Presents to a government official (Class B) 548.603(a)
 - Possesses or makes with intent to sell (Felony 3) 548.603(b)
- Fictitious government issued ID – (Felony 2) PC 32.21
 - e.g., social security card, permanent resident card, foreign government ID or DL, etc.
 - Mere possession is an offense under Forgery. According to CCP 38.19, the state is not required to prove the suspect intended to defraud any particular person. Mere possession is defrauding the government as there is no lawful purpose to possess a fictitious ID. Ensure you cite CCP 38.19 in your PCA and report as the magistrate and/or prosecutor may be unaware of this statute.
 - Charge under – FORGERY GOVT/NATIONAL INST/MONEY/SECURITY – PC 32.21(e)
 - It is also a crime under Tampering with a Governmental Record PC 37.10 (Class A), but it is harder to prosecute under this statute.
- State v. Allen*, 346 S.W.3d 713 (Tex. App.–Austin 2011)
- Alfaro-Jimenez v. State*, 577 S.W.3d 240 (Tex. Crim. App. 2019)
- You may submit suspected fictitious IDs to one of the following:
 - The Texas DPS Crime Lab and request a Forensic Document Examination (FDE).
 - The [HSI Forensic Laboratory](#). Call (800) 973-2867 and ask to speak to the HSI duty agent in your area for assistance.
- Violate promise to appear 543.009
 - May arrest if violator refuses to sign the citation.
 - Officer may write “Refused to Sign” and still issue the citation, but a judge may not issue a warrant later for Failure to Appear as the violator did not “promise” to appear.
 - Tearing up a citation after signing or adding protest words does not permit further detention or an arrest.
- Op. Tex. Att’y Gen.* JC-0317
- Sedani v. State*, 848 S.W.2d 314 (Tex. App.–Houston [1st Dist.] 1993)
- Placing or maintaining a deceptively similar sign, signal or marking that 544.006
 - imitates or resembles an official traffic-control device or railroad sign/signal that attempts to direct the movement of traffic; or
 - hides from view or hinders the effectiveness of an official traffic-control device

- Placing or maintaining private signs on a highway right-of-way prohibited 392.032
 - Political signs are not exempt 392.036
 - Purpose is for beautification of the highways, potential safety hazard if there is a crash, and interferes with mowing, maintenance, and construction
 - Law enforcement may remove signs or other personal property 545.3051
- Radar jammers prohibited 547.616
- Possessing or selling a traffic signal preemption device (also a federal crime) 544.0055
- Tampering with Identification Numbers (Class A) PC 31.11
 - Knowingly or intentionally removes, alters, or obliterates the serial number or other permanent identification markings
 - Possesses, sells or offers for sale property he knows that the serial number or other permanent identification marking has been removed, altered, or obliterated; or
 - A reasonable person would have known that the serial number or other permanent identification marking has been removed, altered or obliterated
- Re-VIN vehicle or vehicle part to change identity (Felony 3) 501.151
- If the VIN is obscured by papers or other items on the dash, officers may enter the vehicle to remove the obstruction. *New York v. Class*, 475 U.S. 106 (1986)
- Serial Numbers or Owner Applied Numbers required on Special Mobile Equipment 622.072
 - Special mobile equipment is generally road construction equipment such as a tractor, earth-moving equipment, bucket loader, asphalt spreader, etc. 541.201(18)
 - Owners must apply a number visible at least 50ft away by the 31st day of ownership
 - It is an offense to transport unmarked special mobile equipment on a highway (Class C) 622.073(a)
 - Failure or refusal to exhibit, on demand of a peace officer, a document that contains the following: (Class B) 622.073(c)
 - name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the special mobile equip;
 - the place of origin of the equip, including address and telephone number of the; origin and the date the equip was picked up;
 - the destination of the equip, including the address and telephone number;
 - a description of the motor vehicle transporting the equip; and
 - the name, address, and telephone number of the person operating the motor vehicle transporting the equip.
- Radioactive material HSC 401.383 & TX Admin Code Title 25, Part 1, §289
 - Must be licensed by the state to transport, receive, possess, use, transfer, own or acquire radioactive material.
 - Officers will most likely encounter radioactive material during the transport of medical devices and construction equipment (e.g. soil density gauge).
- Animals running at-large on highways Texas Agriculture Code 143.102
 - Does not apply to farm-to-market roads
 - A person who owns or has responsibility for the control of a horse, mule, donkey, cow, bull, steer, hog, sheep, or goat may not knowingly permit the animal to traverse or roam at large, unattended, on the right-of-way of a highway.

Motorcycles & Autocycles

Motorcycles

- Mini-motorcycles or “pocket bikes” prohibited 551.353
 - They cannot be registered
 - May not be operated on a highway, road, street, bike path or sidewalk
 - May only be operated on private property (e.g., parking lots)
 - Violation is Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle 502.472
- Class M license required 521.084
 - Not required to operate a moped
- Wheelies and other exhibitions - There is not a specific prohibition on wheelies and trick-riding, but it may fall under other statutes.
 - Operator of a motorcycle must ride on the seat 545.416(a)
 - e.g., standing on the footrests, standing on the seat, sitting on the gas tank
 - Reckless driving (Class B)
- Lane splitting prohibited 545.0605(a)(3)
- No more than two motorcycles abreast in a single lane 545.0605(a)(3)
- Headlamp must be activated at all times (including during the day) 547.801(d)
 - Does not apply to motorcycles before 1975
- Riding double on a motorcycle designed for one person prohibited 545.416
- If there is a passenger, the motorcycle must be equipped with footrests and handholds for the passenger 545.416(b) or 547.617
- Passenger must be at least 5yoa and sitting on a seat designed for a passenger 545.416(d)
(same for 3-wheeled autocycles). No age requirement for sidecars
- Ground effects (lights that illuminate the body of the motorcycle or the ground below) 547.306
 - Must be non-flashing
 - May only be amber or white light
- Equipped with not more than 2 headlamps, have at least one tail lamp, license plate light, a stop lamp, one rear reflector. Does not apply to a motorcycle older than 1975. Turn signals are not required by state law as an operator may still signal turns with hands. Turn signals are still required under the FMVSS 571.108. 547.801
- License plate TX Admin Code Title 43, Part 10, §217.27(b)
 - Must be at least 12 inches from the ground
 - May have the license plate vertical
- Missing registration insignia on license plate 502.473
- If under 21yoa, operator and passenger, must have a DOT approved helmet 661.003(a)
- Motorcycles may use preferential lanes 680.013
 - HOV, bus or car pool lanes 680.011(2)
- Class M license required to operate a motorcycle 521.084
- Restricted M license issued to 15-17yoa 521.224
 - See endorsements for various restrictions

Autocycles

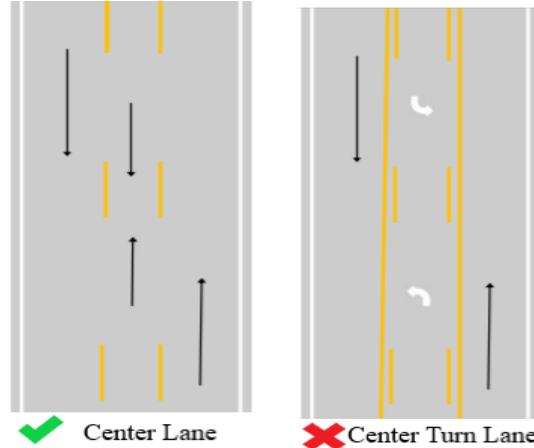


- Autocycle – a motor vehicle, other than a tractor, that is: 501.008 & 502.005

- designed to have when propelled not more than three wheels on the ground;
- equipped with seat belts and a steering mechanism;
- equipped with seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride the seat; and
- manufactured and certified to comply with federal safety requirements for a motorcycle.
- Registered and titled as a motorcycle (one plate only) 501.008 & 502.005
- Class M license is not required 521.084
- Passenger must be at least 5yoa and sitting on a seat designed for a passenger 545.416(f)
- Helmets
 - If driver or passenger is under 21yoa, must have a DOT approved helmet 661.003(a)
 - Not required if the autocycle is partially or fully enclosed 661.0015(d)
- Seat belts and child safety seats not required 545.412(f)(2) & 545.413(h)
 - Although autocycles are equipped with seat belts, they are not required to be worn as an autocycle is not considered a “passenger vehicle” under these sections.
- Ground effects are permitted. Flashing red, white, or blue lights are prohibited. 547.305(c)

Movement

- Backing safely required 545.415
 - May not back up unless movement can be made safely
 - May not back up on a controlled-access highway, even if on shoulder.
- Brake checking 545.401
 - Brake checking is considered reckless driving or deadly conduct depending upon the circumstances. *Zuliani v. State*, 338 S.W.3d 289 (Tex. App.–Austin 2012)
 - There isn't a class C violation but 545.105 may be an option for a citation instead of an arrest. Consult your city prosecutor, JP, or DA's office.
- Crossing property
 - Using a parking lot as a shortcut between highways to avoid an intersection is prohibited 545.423(b)
 - Using a parking lot to assist in making a U-turn is prohibited. Not a violation if the vehicle comes to a complete stop before re-entering the street. Statute does not specify where a vehicle must stop, only that a stop must occur. 545.423(a)
- Disobey police officer's order of direction 542.501
 - Also applies to school crossing guards and escorts for oversized/overweight vehicles
- Driving in Center Lane 545.060(b), TMUTCD 3B.01 & 3B.03
 - This section references the diagram to the left. By adding traffic control devices such as the solid yellow line and the left-turn directional arrows, it creates a "Two-Way Left-Turn Lane," also known as a "Center Turn Lane," which is not specifically addressed in the transportation code, only the TMUTCD.
 - On a Center Lane, an offense occurs when a vehicle is in the center lane and is not passing or making a left turn. There is no distance in the statute. Officer should use a reasonableness standard.
 - On a Center Turn Lane, the addition of the solid yellow line and the left-turn directional arrows makes it a violation to use the Center Turn Lane to pass. The Center Turn Lane is intended for vehicles that are slowing to turn left. If a vehicle is accelerating to turn left, this is a violation. There is no prohibition on vehicles using this lane to come from a side street, wait for traffic, and then enter the main lanes. Cannot use this lane as an acceleration lane. Cite violations under Disregard Official Traffic Control Device.



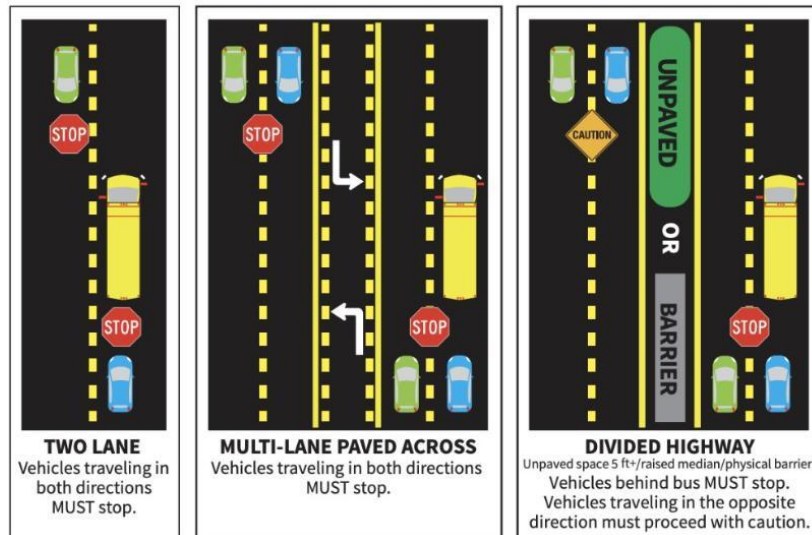
- Driving across a median 545.063
- Driving around barricade, disobey warning signs, driving between construction cones/barrels 472.022
 - Includes driving over or between flares and cones
 - A person working as a flagger is considered a warning sign. 472.022(e)(3)
 - Disregard a sign or barricade for high water (Class B)
- Driving on a sidewalk, sidewalk area or hike and bike trail 545.422
- Driving on improved shoulder 545.058
 - Generally, prohibits the following:
 1. Using the inside or outside shoulder to pass slower traffic
 2. Accelerating to turn right (decelerating to turn right is permitted)
 - "Pass" definition – to overtake and proceed past another vehicle moving in the same direction as the passing vehicle and return to the original lane of travel 545.001(2)

- Exceptions for driving on the right shoulder: 545.058(a)
 - To stop, stand, or park
 - To accelerate before entering main lane
 - To decelerate before turning right (driving a good distance on the shoulder to turn right would be a violation as the vehicle is not decelerating)
 - To pass another vehicle that is actively slowing (not just because it is driving slowly)
 - To pass another vehicle that is stopped, disabled, or preparing to turn left
 - To allow another vehicle to pass on the left
 - To avoid a collision
- Exceptions for driving on the left shoulder: 545.058(b)
 - To slow or stop when the vehicle is disabled and traffic or other circumstances prohibit movement to the right shoulder
 - As permitted or required by an official traffic control device
 - To avoid a collision
- Prohibitions for driving on an improved shoulder do not apply to: 545.058(c)
 - An authorized emergency vehicle responding to a call
 - A police patrol
 - A bicycle
 - A slow-moving vehicle (vehicle designed for a max speed of 25 mph or vehicle pulled by an animal) 547.001(7)
- Must completely cross the fog or edge line for a violation.
- State v. Cortez, 543 S.W.3d 198 (Tex. Crim. App. 2018)
 - Driving too slowly (generally) 545.363
 - This violation occurs when the vehicle is traveling below the posted speed limit and is slowing or impeding traffic behind them. Green v. State, 773 S.W.2d 816 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 1989)
 - It is not an offense if there were no other vehicles on the highway.
 - Driving too slow in fast lane (when other vehicles are present) 545.051(b)
 - If a vehicle is moving slower than the normal speed of other vehicles, the vehicle must move to the right.
 - “It is common knowledge that the inside lane on a freeway is the passing, or “fast,” lane.” Delafuente v. State, 414 S.W.3d 173 (Tex. Crim. App. 2013)
 - This is possibly true even if the vehicle is traveling at or near the speed limit and other vehicles are speeding. The slower vehicle in the left lane is a hazard and should move to the right.
 - Officers confuse the finding in Abney v. State, 394 S.W.3d 542 (Tex. Crim. App. 2013) with this violation. The Abney case was for a violation of 544.004 Disregard Official Traffic Control Device in which the defendant was operating the only vehicle on the highway and a traffic stop was conducted for disregarding a traffic control device, specifically a “Left Lane for Passing Only” sign.
 - Drove wrong way down a one-way roadway 545.059(b)
 - Drove wrong way down a two-way roadway 545.051
 - Drove wrong way in a roundabout/traffic circle 545.059(c)
 - Exiting interstate/control-access highway without using ramps 545.064
 - Evading w/ a vehicle (Felony 3) PC 38.04(b)(2)
 - The first offense is a 3rd degree felony but is mistakenly believed to be a SJF. See the following case for a detailed analysis. Adetomiwa v. State, 421 S.W.3d 922 (Tex. App.—Ft. Worth 2014)
 - If the suspect unintentionally crashes into another vehicle and causes bodily injury (pain), an additional charge for PC 22.02(a)(2) - Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon (Felony 2) may be appropriate. Moore v. State, 520 S.W.3d 906 (Tex. Crim. App. 2017)
 - Fleeing/Eluding or failing to stop for a police officer (Class B) 545.421
 - This charge is an option if it was a slow pursuit over a relatively short distance and the suspect obeyed most traffic laws.
 - If driver is found to be intoxicated (Class A)
 - Fail to comply with a traffic control device 541.304, 544.004
 - Signs (No U-Turns, One Way, Do Not Enter, etc.)

- Signals (traffic lights)
 - Markings (painted roadway markings. e.g. arrows)
 - The Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD) is the standard for all traffic control device design and application. 544.001
- Fail to obey flashing signals 544.008
 - Caution for yellow, stop for red
- Fail to maintain a single lane 545.060(a)
 - Must be at least two lanes and be clearly marked.
 - The vehicle must completely cross the lane-marker for a violation.
 - State v. Cortez*, 543 S.W.3d 198 (Tex. Crim. App. 2018)
 - Briefly crossing the lane line into an adjacent lane (of the same direction of travel) must be considered “unsafe” for a violation. If there were no other vehicles on the road, it is unlikely it would be considered unsafe.
 - State v. Hardin*, NO. PD-0799-19 (Tex. Crim. App. 2022)
 - Crossing over a white fog line to the right or a solid yellow line to the left is a violation for Driving on Improved Shoulder under 545.058
 - If a vehicle crosses over on to the wrong side of the road in a no passing zone and returns, it is a violation for Wrong Side Road – No Passing Zone under 545.055
 - If a vehicle crosses over on to the wrong side of the road in a passing zone and returns, it is a violation for Wrong Side Road – Not Passing under 545.051
- Fail to signal 545.104
 - Signal lane change – no distance requirement
 - Signal turn – 100ft before turn
 - Must signal turn from a public street onto private drive or parking lot. (not required from private road or parking lot onto a public street)
 - Must signal even if in a left-turn or right-turn only lane.
 - Venegas v. State*, No. 08-09-00243-CR (Tex. App.–El Paso 2011)
 - Wehring v. State*, 276 S.W.3d 666 (Tex. App.–Texarkana 2008)
 - 100ft requirement is still compulsory if the vehicle comes to a complete stop at a red light or stop sign.
 - State v. Elias*, 339 S.W.3d 667 (Tex. Crim. App. 2011)
 - Peterson v. State*, No. 01-14-00228-CR (Tex. App.–Houston [1st Dist.] 2015)
 - Must use turn signal if starting from a parked position on a public street. 545.104
 - Must signal entrance/exit from or onto a highway required from the outermost lane connected to an optional exit ramp
 - Speck v. State*, 564 S.W.3d 497 (Tex. App.–Houston [14th Dist.] 2018)
 - A signal is not required for merging when there is a “Lane Ends Merge Left” (or right) sign AND the vehicle does not cross over any lane markers or dividers
 - Mahaffey v. State*, 364 S.W.3d 908 (Tex. Crim. App. 2012)
 - Activating the hazard lamps renders turn signals inoperable. Driver must signal turns and lane changes by hand signals. 545.107
- Fail to stop at designated point
 - Red light 544.007(d)
 - Stop sign or Yield sign 544.010
 - Vehicle must stop completely behind the solid white line. TMUTCD 3B.16.01
 - If the solid white line is absent, must stop before the crosswalk.
 - If a crosswalk marking is absent, must stop at the place nearest (not in) the intersecting street. (Note: This may require a lawful stop to occur beyond a stop sign)
- Moving from a stopped or standing position must be made safely 545.402
- Must come to stop before moving across a sidewalk 545.256 or 545.423
- Running a red light 544.007(d)
- Stopped on a highway or street 545.301 & 545.363
 - Must be impeding traffic
 - Green v. State*, 773 S.W.2d 816 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 1989)
 - Can be used to cite motorists who are staring at their phone at an intersection and the light has changed.
- Unsafe lane change/changed lanes when unsafe 545.060(a)(2)
 - Violation occurs when there is a crash or another vehicle must take evasive action.

- Fail to stop for school bus
 - If causes SBI (Class A)
 - Second offense for causing SBI (SJF)

545.066

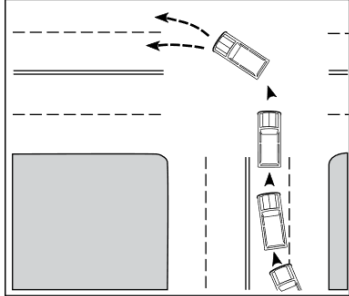
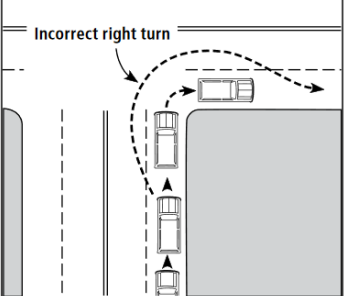


- Obstructing/Impeding a Highway PC 42.03
 - Obstruct means – “to render impassible or to render passage unreasonably inconvenient or hazardous”
 - Obstructs a highway, street, sidewalk, railway, waterway, elevator, aisle hallway, or any place used for passage of persons or vehicles (Class B)
 - This is generally meant for persons engaged in a protest intentionally blocking persons or vehicles.
 - Obstructs passage of an authorized emergency vehicle or access to a hospital or other emergency care facilities (SJF) PC 42.03(c-1)
 - Fleeing on foot after a crash and leaving the vehicle in the roadway is not considered obstructing/impeding a highway. Proper violation may be failure to immediately report a crash under 550.026 or other relevant statutes under chapter 550.

Bailey v. State, 304 S.W.3d 544 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2009)
- Passing prohibited (left of center)
 - In a no passing zone 545.055
 - Within 100ft of an intersection (in a municipality) 545.056
 - Within 100ft of a railroad crossing (in a municipality) 545.056
 - Within 100ft of a bridge or tunnel 545.056
 - Cannot be left of center on a bridge even if the painted roadway markings indicate passing is authorized
- Passing to the left
 - Must pass and re-enter right lane before coming within 200ft of an approaching vehicle 545.054
 - There is no specific prohibition on passing two or more vehicles at the same time
 - Cut after pass. Cutting off the passed vehicle without providing a safe distance 545.053
- Racing (Class B) 545.420
 - Class A if one previous conviction, is intoxicated, or has an open container
 - SJF if two previous convictions
 - Felony 3 if bodily injury occurs
 - Felony 2 if SBI
 - Spinning tires alone, without other factors present, may not establish reasonable suspicion or probable cause for a stop for Racing. Including other factors may provide reasonable suspicion or probable cause for Reckless Driving, DWI, or a Reckless Driving Exhibition PC 42.03(f).

State v. Guzman, 240 S.W.3d 362 (Tex. App.–Austin 2007)

- State v. Clark*, 315 S.W.3d 561 (Tex. App.–Eastland 2010)
- Officers shall tow any vehicles used in a race unless it is seized for evidence 545.420(i)
 - Interference with a peace officer's investigation of racing or reckless driving exhibition. (Class B) 545.4205
 - Applies to drivers and spectators
 - Railroad crossing 545.251
 - Must stop before the stop line
 - If no stop line, stop no closer than 15ft or no further than 50ft from the nearest rail.
 - Driving around railroad gate/barrier prohibited
 - Vehicle must have sufficient undercarriage clearance when driving over a railroad crossing. 545.427
 - Reckless driving (Class B) 545.401
 - Person drives a vehicle in a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.
 - "'Willful and wanton disregard' means the deliberate conscious indifference to the safety of others. Proof of evil or malicious intent is not an element of reckless driving." *White v. State*, 647 S.W.2d 751 (Tex. App.–Fort Worth 1983)
 - Can occur in any public place including private parking lots or private streets (but not private residential property).
 - Applies to construction workers operating vehicles or equipment engaged in work on a street or highway 545.401(d)
 - Speed alone is not inherently reckless. Officer must articulate other factors were present (e.g., heavy traffic, driving on the shoulder, weaving in and out of traffic, tailgating, weather conditions, etc.) *Flores v. State*, 536 SW 3d 560 (Tex. App.–San Antonio 2017)
 - Reckless driving exhibition (Class A) PC 42.03(d)
 - An operator of a motor vehicle, on a highway or street and in the presence of two or more persons assembled for the purpose of spectating the conduct, intentionally:
 - breaking the traction of the vehicle's rear tires;
 - spinning the vehicle's rear tires continuously by pressing the accelerator and increasing the engine speed; and
 - steering the vehicle in a manner designed to rotate the vehicle.
 - Previous conviction, was intoxicated, or causes bodily injury (SJF) PC 42.03(e)
 - Officers shall tow any vehicles used in a reckless driving exhibition unless it is seized for evidence 545.420(i)
 - Interference with a peace officer's investigation of racing or reckless driving exhibition. (Class B) 545.4205
 - Applies to drivers and spectators
 - Speeding 545.351
 - Fail to Control Speed 545.351(b)
 - Only applies if the driver of a vehicle is at fault and collides with a vehicle or a person
 - Unsafe Speed – losing control of a vehicle due to unsafe speed (e.g., vehicle yaw) 545.351(c)
 - A driver's speed may be considered excessive even if going below the posted speed limit. 545.351(c) *Hokr v. Burgett*, 489 S.W.2d 928 (Fort Worth Tex. Civ. App. 1973)
 - Officer does not need to know the exact speed vehicle was traveling to prove a speeding violation. *Dillard v. State*, 550 S.W.2d 45 (Tex. Crim. App. 1977) *Yoda v. State*, 630 S.W.3d (Tex. App.–Eastland 2021) 545.365
 - Exceptions to speed limits
 - A physician responding to an emergency call
 - A vehicle operated by a blood/tissue bank
 - A police patrol – statute does not state an officer must be in an authorized emergency vehicle or responding to a call
 - Vehicles on the service/access/feeder road must yield to vehicles exiting the highway. 545.154
 - Vehicles entering the highway must yield to traffic already on the highway. 545.154

- Tailgating or following too closely 545.062
 - No distance requirement. Officer should use a reasonableness standard 545.062(c)
Stoker v. State, 170 S.W.3d 807 (Tex. App.–Tyler 2005)
 - Does not apply to a funeral procession
 - General rule of thumb on a highway is at least three seconds of distance. Utilize a stationary object on the side of the road. Once the first vehicle passes the object, the follow vehicle should take three seconds before passing the same object.
 - Articulation: A vehicle traveling at 70mph will travel 102 ft per second. The average response time for a driver to start braking is 1.5 seconds. At this speed, a vehicle will travel 153 ft before the driver can even begin to brake.
 - Turning at an intersection 545.101
 - Left Turn 545.101(b)
 - On a two-way roadway, must turn from the far-left lane and may turn left into any lane
 - On a one-way roadway, must turn from the far-left lane and must turn left into the far-left lane 545.101(d)
 - Right Turn 545.101(a)
 - From the far-right lane, must turn right into the far-right lane
- 

- Signs and/or painted roadway markings in the intersection (lane extensions) may indicate a deviation from the above requirements. 545.101(e) TMUTCD Section 3B.08
 - Above requirements do not apply when turning from or onto a private drive/lot, only intersections. (e.g. When leaving a parking lot, turning right immediately into the inside lane is not a violation.) 545.103
 - Intersection definition – the common area at the junction of two highways or streets 541.303
 - U-Turns 545.102
 - Prohibited on a curve or grade if vehicle is not visible within 500ft of approaching traffic
 - Prohibited in a passing zone 545.055(b)
 - U-turns are generally allowed unless signs prohibit
 - Must have a green/yellow light for a U-turn at an intersection
 - Using a parking lot to assist in making a U-turn is prohibited. Not a violation if the vehicle comes to a complete stop before re-entering the roadway. Statute does not specify where a vehicle must stop, only that a stop must occur. 545.423(a)
 - With 3 or more lanes, when two cars in separate lanes are trying to change lanes into the same center lane, the vehicle on the right must yield to the vehicle on the left. 545.061
 - In this circumstance, the preference is to give the vehicle on the left the right-of-way since the driver of the vehicle on the right has a clearer view and can more easily see the vehicle on the left attempting to change lanes.



Off-Highway Vehicles



ATV



ROV



UTV



Sand Rail

- Off-highway vehicles are: 551A.001
 - All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)
 - Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles (ROV)
 - Utility Vehicles (UTV)
 - Sand Rails
 - Has a tubular frame, integrated roll cage, engine that is rear mounted or midway between the axles, and weighs 700-2,000 lbs
- Go-Karts are not considered off-highway vehicles and not specifically mentioned in the transportation code. They cannot be registered or issued plates. Violation for driving on a highway, street, sidewalk, or easement is Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle 502.472
- Kei Class mini-trucks and vans were formerly classified as a UTV but are now considered a Miniature Vehicle – 502.001(21-a) as of 9/1/2025. They can now be registered and operated on a public highway/street 545.429. Miniature Vehicles are not custom vehicles, golf carts, neighborhood electric vehicles, or off-highway vehicles.



Kei Class Mini-Truck

- Operating an Off-Highway Vehicle on a street or highway prohibited 551A.052
 - Charge under Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle 502.472
 - Cannot operate on a sidewalk, culvert, or easement next to the road. See the “Applicability of the Transportation Code” at the beginning of this guide
- Off-Highway vehicles cannot obtain registration for operation on a highway. 502.140, 551A.052
 - Even with modifications, still cannot obtain registration or operate on a highway.
 - Occasionally, a local tax office will improperly register an Off-highway vehicle and issue passenger car or motorcycle plates. Take a picture of the Off-highway vehicle and email the DMV at ENF_LE_Assist@txdmv.gov to have the registration and plates revoked.
 - Out-of-state plates do not provide authorization to operate on a street or highway.
 - The state, a county, or a municipality may register an ATV or ROV for govt use 502.140(c)
- May obtain an off-highway vehicle license plate for operation on a highway only if a municipality or county (in the unincorporated areas) expressly authorizes operation on roads with a speed limit of 35mph or less. 551A.052(c)
 - Plate does not expire. If vehicle is sold, the plate cannot be transferred.
 - The plate is not considered registration. It is for identification purposes.
- Exceptions for operating on a highway, but not an interstate or controlled access highway, without a license plate: 551A.057
 - operated by a farmer or a rancher and operation is during the daytime and does not exceed a distance of 25 miles from point of origin to the destination, and use of the vehicle is in connection with the production, cultivation, harvesting, etc. of agricultural products;

- operated by a public utility worker for utility work and operation is during the daytime and does not exceed a distance of 25 miles from point of origin to the destination; or 551A.057
 - operated by a law enforcement officer, or other person who provides law enforcement, firefighting (includes volunteer), ambulance, medical, or other emergency services, and does not exceed a distance of 10 miles from point of origin to the destination. 551A.058
- If the vehicle qualifies as indicated above and is operated on a highway: 551A.059
 - it must display a triangular orange flag mounted to the back of the vehicle that is 8-9ft from the mounting surface to the tip and it must have headlights and taillamps illuminated. TX Admin Code Title 16, Part 4, §99.100
- Crossing a highway permitted without a plate 551A.034
 - Permitted to cross highways and streets, regardless of the speed limit but may never cross an interstate or controlled access highway
 - The operator shall:
 - bring the vehicle to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main lane;
 - yield the right-of-way to oncoming traffic;
 - cross at a 90 degree angle;
 - be clear of any obstruction which would prevent a quick and safe crossing;
 - have the vehicle's headlights and taillamps activated.
 - Orange flag is not required.

Parking

Note: Using hazard lights while parking, standing, or stopping illegally doesn't make it legal.

- Definitions 541.401
 - No Parking – may park temporarily only to load or unload passengers and cargo
 - No Standing – may stand temporarily only to load or unload passengers, not cargo
 - No Stopping – is the most restrictive. May not stop, even briefly, for any reason unless to avoid hitting a pedestrian or another vehicle
- The registered owner is presumed to be the person who stopped, stood or parked 545.308, 681.011(e)
- May not stop, stand or park (occupied or not) 545.302(a)
 - The following does not apply if necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or complying with an official traffic control device. 545.302(f)
 - On a sidewalk
 - In an intersection
 - Stopping in an intersection to wait for a clearing in traffic to turn left is not a violation. If still in the intersection when the light turns red, it is a violation (Disregard Red Light 544.007(d)). 545.302(f)
 - Will typically apply to vehicles blocking intersections during heavy traffic. *State v. Colby*, 604 S.W.3d 232 (Tex. App.–Austin 2020)
 - On a crosswalk (crosswalk is not required to be marked 541.302(2)(B))
 - On a bridge
 - On a railroad
 - Where a sign prohibits stopping
 - On a main traveled part of a highway or street 545.301
- May not stand or park except to momentarily pick up or drop off a passenger 545.302(b)
 - The following does not apply if necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or complying with an official traffic control device. 545.302(f)
 - In front of a public or private driveway
 - 15ft of a fire hydrant
 - 20ft of a crosswalk at an intersection (crosswalk is not required to be marked 541.302(2)(B))
 - 30ft of a stop sign
 - 30ft of a yield sign
 - 30ft of a traffic light
 - 50ft of the nearest rail or railroad crossing
 - Where a sign prohibits standing
- Parking in a fire lane prohibited Texas Occupations Code 2308.251
 - State law requires the vehicle to be unattended for a violation
 - Local ordinances may be more restrictive
- When parked or stopped on a roadway, passenger tires must be within 18 inches of the curb or edge of roadway 545.303
- When parked or stopped on a one-way roadway: 545.303(b)
 - Must be facing the same direction as traffic; and
 - Tires must be within 18 inches from the curb or edge of the roadway.
 - May park on the left or right side.
- When parked or stopped on a two-way roadway: 545.303(a)
 - Must be facing traffic to where the right-hand tires are within 18 inches from the curb or edge of the roadway.
- Parked on a shoulder at night 547.383
 - Vehicle must display a white or amber lamp from the front and a red light from the rear so it is visible at a distance of 1,000ft unless there is enough ambient light to reveal the vehicle
- Moving from a parked position must be made safely 545.402
- Unattended motor vehicle on a highway or street. Operator must: 545.404
 - Turn off engine

- Remove key from ignition
 - The two requirements above are exempt when someone uses a remote start
- Set the parking brake
- If on a grade, turn the wheels to the curb or side of the street
- Must use turn signal if starting from a parked position on a public street 545.104
- Opening door into traffic causing damage or leaving it open longer than necessary to load or unload 545.418
- Parking prohibited on the same block where a fire truck has responded to an emergency 545.407

Disabled Parking

- Park in disabled parking 681.011
 - Not displaying a placard or handicap plates 681.011(b)
 - Displays a placard or handicap plates but disabled person was never present 681.011(a)
 - Has disabled veteran (DV) plates but the plates do not have the handicap symbol, known as the international symbol of access (ISA), and does not display a placard 681.011(m)
- Park blocking disabled parking or access 681.011(c)
 - May not block an architectural improvement including ramps, aisles, etc.
- Lends a disabled placard to another 681.011(d)
- Disabled placard
 - Blue is for Texas residents with a permanent disability. Good for up to 4 years 681.002(b)
 - Red is for Texas residents with a temporary disability (recent surgery). Good for 6 months or less
 - Service members or out-of-state residents obtaining treatment in Texas are eligible for a placard 681.0031
 - Placards can be run through TLETS to determine who it has been issued to
 - TIP: For out-of-state placards, call that state's highway patrol to determine who it has been issued to.
 - Must be displayed on the rearview mirror, not the dashboard, with expiration visible 681.006
 - May not drive with the placard attached to rearview mirror. There is no law specifically prohibiting this and no case law exists, but the directions on the back of the placard state it is prohibited
 - Manufactures, sells or mere possession of a deceptively similar placard (Class A) 681.0111(a)
 - Alters a genuine placard (Class A)
 - Parks a vehicle using the deceptively similar or altered placard (Class C) 681.0111(b)
 - Vehicles displaying a placard or handicap plates may park for free in metered parking. 681.011(l)
 - If the disabled person was never present, it is a violation.
- Seizure of disabled placard – if used by the wrong person, officer may seize and destroy placard. Notify the DMV by fax (512-465-4127) or email (VDM_Mailbox@TxDMV.gov) within 5 days. Provide the following info: 681.012
 - Placard holder's name and address
 - Number of seized placard and, if available, an image of the seized placard
 - A copy or picture of the citation issued under 681.011(a) or (d)
 - A brief summary explaining why the citation was issued

Pedestrians

Note: A crosswalk is not required to be marked and still exists as though it were marked	541.302(2)(B)
• Sidewalk User (New definition as of 9/1/2025). This new law gives non-pedestrian sidewalk users nearly the same protections as a pedestrian. ○ An individual lawfully operating one of the following on a sidewalk: ▪ bicycle ▪ motor-assisted scooter (e.g., Lime or Bird scooters) ▪ electric personal assistive mobility device (e.g., Segways or hoverboards) ▪ skateboard ▪ roller skates; or ▪ a similar device. ○ A sidewalk user may not approach or enter a sidewalk greater than 8mph.	541.001(6)
• Disobey police officer's order of direction ○ Also applies to school crossing guards and escorts for oversized/overweight vehicles	552.0035(c) 542.501
• Must walk on the side of roadway or shoulder facing oncoming traffic ○ Unless the roadway or shoulder facing oncoming traffic is obstructed or unsafe	552.006(b)
• Walking on roadway where sidewalk provided	552.006(a)
• Solicitation prohibited on roadway (includes hitchhiking) ○ Must step foot on the roadway to be illegal. "Roadway" does not include the improved shoulder 541.302(11) or median.	552.007
• Traffic control signals apply to pedestrians unless there are pedestrian control signals present ○ May only proceed in a marked or unmarked crosswalk with a green light. May not proceed across a roadway under a yellow or red light ○ Pedestrians may not proceed with a "Don't Walk" or "Wait" signal ○ If they have partially crossed, pedestrians must proceed to sidewalk or safety island while the "Don't Walk" or "Wait" signal is displayed if they have partially crossed	552.001 552.002 552.002
• Vehicles must yield right of way to pedestrians in a crosswalk ○ Pedestrians don't have to be completely out of the crosswalk before vehicle may proceed ○ Pedestrians may not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and proceed in a crosswalk in the path of a vehicle so close that it is impossible for the vehicle to yield ○ A vehicle approaching from the rear of another vehicle stopped at a crosswalk for a pedestrian to cross, may not pass the stopped vehicle ○ Striking a pedestrian or a person operating a bicycle, motor-assisted scooter, electronic personal assistive mobility device, neighborhood electric vehicle, or golf cart in a crosswalk and causes bodily injury (Class A) ▪ If causes SBI (SJF)	552.003(a) 552.003(b) 552.003(c) 545.428
• Must stay on the right-half of crosswalk	552.004
• May not cross an intersection diagonally unless a traffic control device is present and designed for diagonal crossing	552.005
• Jaywalking ○ If there are adjacent intersections with traffic control signals, pedestrians must use crosswalk ○ If crossing anywhere other than a crosswalk, pedestrian must yield right of way to vehicles	552.005
• Driver must exercise due care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian on a roadway	552.008
• Obstructing/Impeding ○ Obstruct means – "to render impassible or to render passage unreasonably inconvenient or hazardous" ○ Obstructs a highway, street, sidewalk, railway, waterway, elevator, aisle hallway, or any place used for passage of persons or vehicles (Class B) ○ Obstructs passage of an authorized emergency vehicle or access to a hospital or	PC 42.03 PC 42.03(c-1)

other emergency care facilities (SJF)

- Walking on railroad tracks is prohibited PC 28.07(b)(2)(A)
- At a railroad crossing, a pedestrian may not move in front of, under, between, or through the cars of a moving or stationary train 552.011
- No person may carry a white cane on a public street or highway unless the person is totally or partially blind 552.010
Human Resources Code 121.002
 - “White cane” means a cane or walking stick that is metallic or white in color, or white tipped with a contrasting color, and that is carried by a blind person to assist the blind person in traveling from place to place.
- Shopping Carts Business & Commerce Code 17.31(f)
 - May not remove a shopping cart or a laundry cart from the premises or parking lot of a business
 - Must have written authorization from the owner to remove the shopping cart
 - Many retailers are also willing to pursue charges for theft for anyone in possession of their carts

Remarks on Registration Returns

The chart below lists all the remarks that may be found in the Registration and Title System (i.e., the registration return), printed on the title, or any combination thereof. From the [TxDMV Motor Vehicle Title Manual – October 2025 edition](#).

The descriptions for “LEGAL RESTRAINT-CONTACT TXDMV (#ORSAL)” and “LEGAL RESTRAINT-CONTACT TXDMV (#ORNR)” are explanations written by the author of this guide.

REMARK	DESCRIPTION
ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE	The vehicle has been deemed “abandoned” in accordance with Chapter 683 of the Transportation Code. This vehicle cannot be transferred or rebuilt and operated on public roads if issued a Certificate of Authority to Demolish.
ACTUAL MILEAGE	The mileage indicated on the vehicle’s odometer at the time of title transfer was the actual distance in miles that the vehicle had been driven.
ADDITIONAL LIENS RECORDED	More than one lien is listed on the motor vehicle record.
APPREHENDED	The gross weight of the vehicle exceeds the registered weight, and the Motor Carrier was apprehended by law enforcement for the weight violation in the county number listed.
BENEFICIARY	The sole individual to whom the owner’s interest in the motor vehicle transfers to on the owner’s death.
BONDED TITLE	Title was secured by the posting of a certificate of title surety bond.
BONDED TITLE – SUSPENDED	The bonded title transaction has been suspended.
BONDED TITLE – AWAITING REMOVAL	Three-year bond period has ended.
BRAND HOLD DATE MM/DD/YYYY	This remark appears on a record for which an NMVTIS inquiry has been conducted and a brand error has been identified. This remark can only be removed by the TxDMV.
CCO ISSUED (MM/DD/YYYY)	A certified copy of the original title was issued on the date specified.
CHILD SUPPORT	Family Code, Chapter 232, authorizes the DMV to suspend or deny the renewal of motor vehicle registration for non-payment of child support.
CITY SCOFFLAW: (CITY)	This remark indicates that the vehicle owner has an outstanding fine for a traffic law violation in the named city or municipality.
COA ISSUED (MM/DD/YYYY)	A Certificate of Authority to Demolish a Motor Vehicle has been issued. This vehicle cannot be rebuilt and operated on public roads.
COUNTY SCOFFLAW: (3-DIGIT COUNTY #)	This remark indicates that the vehicle owner owes the county money for a fine, fee, or tax that is past due.
CREDIT VOUCHER ISSUED	The vehicle was totally destroyed. A registration fee credit may be applied toward the registration of another vehicle owned by the same person. A registration refund could not be authorized since the vehicle had been operated on a public highway during a portion of the current registration year.
DATE OF ASSIGNMENT	The date of sale of a motor vehicle as shown on the ownership transfer document.
DIESEL	The vehicle is diesel-powered.
DOT PROOF REQUIRED	Indicates that proof of compliance with US Department of Transportation (DOT) safety regulations is required before title can be issued. If this remark is indicated on an RPO record, the vehicle may not be titled in the US and the registration cannot be renewed. (Same as DOT STANDARDS in Core)
DPS-EMISSIONS PRGM NON-COMPLIANCE EMISSIONS TEST: (D)	Indicates the vehicle did not pass an emissions test as required by an emissions testing county for vehicles 2 through 24 years old and gasoline-powered.
DPS SAFETY SUSPENSION	The Department of Public Safety has placed a suspension on the motor vehicle registration due to the owner’s failure to maintain financial responsibility.
DUPLICATE NONREPAIRABLE VEHICLE TITLE ISSUED	The original Nonrepairable Vehicle Title (NVT) was lost, stolen or mutilated and a Duplicate NVT was issued.
DUPLICATE SALVAGE VEHICLE TITLE ISSUED	The original Salvage Vehicle Title (SVT), Title or Certificate was lost, stolen or mutilated and a Duplicate SVT was issued.

E-TITLE	A title record that is held in an electronic status, which includes a title record with an electronic lien. E-Titles support only one lien entry. A paper title is not printed.
E-TITLE PRINT DATE: [MM/DD/YYYY]	As of February 13, 2012, when an e-lienholder releases an ELT, a paper title is automatically printed and mailed to the owner's address or a third party as specified by the e-lienholder. Upon releasing the ELT, this remark is added.
EVIDENCE SURRENDERED BY OWNER	The department has received the title or some other valid evidence of ownership on this vehicle from the owner of the vehicle. The title record has been canceled.
EVIDENCE SURR BY SALVAGE YARD: (#, date)	On (date), salvage yard (#) surrendered the Certificate of Title or other evidence of ownership to the vehicle with a Form VTR-340 or Form VTR-340-M to the department. The title record has been cancelled and marked "JUNKED."
EXEMPT	Vehicle is owned, or leased by an agency of the State, City, County, school district or Federal Government. The vehicle may display a license plate with the legend "Exempt" along with six or seven numbers.
EXPORT ONLY	An export-only motor vehicle is a nonrepairable or salvage motor vehicle that is offered for sale in this state to a person who resides in a jurisdiction outside the United States (non-US resident).
FIXED WEIGHT	A commercial vehicle has been registered for the actual weight of the empty vehicle plus the weight of the permanently mounted machinery or equipment which must cover at least two-thirds (2/3) of the bed.
FLOOD DAMAGED	The vehicle has been damaged exclusively by flood water to the extent that it meets the definition of a salvage vehicle.
FMCSA RESTRICTED UNIT (PRISM LEVEL CODE)	Data provided by TxIRP. A carrier account is out of compliance with Performance and Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM). The vehicle belongs to an unfit carrier, and the carrier is considered a risk.
FMCSA RESTRICTED UNIT – UNSAFE	Data provided by TxIRP. This vehicle has been found unsafe to drive by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Repairs or modifications and FMCSA inspection required before it can be operated again.
HEAVY VEHICLE USE TAX VERIFIED	Indicates that the clerk verified proof of payment of the Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax or that the vehicle is exempt from payment.
JUNKED on (YYYY/MM/DD)	The vehicle described on the motor vehicle record is salvage, scrapped, destroyed, or dismantled in such a manner that it loses its character as a motor vehicle. The title or other legal evidence of ownership was surrendered to TxDMV on (date) to advise the vehicle has been junked and the title has been cancelled. <i>Obsolete, but may still display on old records.</i>
LEGAL RESTRAINT-CONTACT TxDMV (file #)	This remark includes a file number used to reference documentation associated with an owner retained vehicle (OR#/ORSAL/ORNR) or other administrative stops (CR#, OP# or DC).
LEGAL RESTRAINT-CONTACT TXDMV (#ORSAL)	ORSAL stands for Owner Retained Salvage vehicle. This occurs when the vehicle is declared a salvage, but the owner retains possession of the vehicle instead of an insurance company. The owner of record must first apply for a salvage vehicle title and subsequently complete the rebuilt vehicle process before the vehicle can be titled as a rebuilt salvage and/or registered. The owner is supposed to turn in their (blue) title and obtain the (pink or green) salvage title, but it is common for the original owner to keep the blue title and sell it to an innocent purchaser who doesn't realize they are purchasing a salvage.
LEGAL RESTRAINT-CONTACT TXDMV (#ORNR)	ORNR stands for Owner Retained Non-Repairable vehicle. This occurs when the vehicle is declared a nonrepairable (junk) vehicle, but the owner retains possession of the vehicle instead of an insurance company. The body and frame of an otherwise nonrepairable (junk) vehicle cannot be used to repair, rebuild, reconstruct, or assemble another vehicle. Nonrepairable vehicles may only be used for parts or scrap metal.
LIEN NOT RELEASED	The first lien was not released. (Only applies to JUNKED vehicles.)
LIEN2 NOT RELEASED	The second lien was not released. (Only applies to JUNKED vehicles.)
LIEN3 NOT RELEASED	The third lien was not released. (Only applies to JUNKED vehicles.)

MAIL RETURNED	The registration renewal mailed to the vehicle owner or registered owner's original or duplicate title (if issued prior to 9-01-01) was returned by the post office to the department as being undeliverable. <i>Obsolete, but may still display on old records.</i>
MANUFACTURER BUYBACK	This motor vehicle was returned to the manufacturer because of unresolved warranty defects or a title brand has been carried forward from an out of state title or evidence of ownership (Lemon Law).
MILEAGE EXCEEDS MECHANICAL LIMITS	The odometer reading has exceeded the mechanical limits of the odometer. For example, if the mechanical limitation of an odometer is a 5-digit reading, it cannot record more than 99,999 miles.
MULTIPLE SURVIVORS	This remark will accompany the "SURVIVORSHIP" brand. The "MULTIPLE SURVIVORS" brand may appear below the "SURVIVORSHIP RIGHTS" brand when there are more than 2 persons in the agreement.
NMVTIS HOLD MM/DD/YYYY	This remark appears on a record for which an NMVTIS inquiry has been conducted and an error has been identified. This remark can be removed by processing the transaction through the Correct Title Rejection event in RTS.
NONREPAIRABLE CERTIFICATE OF TITLE ISSUED	A Nonrepairable Certificate of Title (NRCOT) was issued prior to 9/2003 on the motor vehicle indicating the estimated cost of repair was 95% or more of the vehicle's pre-damaged actual cash value. The vehicle may be rebuilt and operated on public roads. Once rebuilt, new titles are branded "Rebuilt Salvage – Damaged." <i>Obsolete, but may still display on old title.</i>
NONREPAIRABLE VEHICLE TITLE ISSUED	A Nonrepairable Vehicle Title (NVT) was issued on or after 9/2003 on the motor vehicle indicating the only residual value of the vehicle is as a source of parts or scrap metal. The vehicle may not be rebuilt or operated on public roads.
NOT ACTUAL MILEAGE	The mileage indicated on the vehicle's odometer at the time of title transfer or application filing was not the actual distance in miles that the vehicle has been driven.
NOT FOR DEALER RESALE	This remark appears on the vehicle record of an assembled vehicle that is not a replica or reconstructed. The remark indicates to a licensed motor vehicle dealer they cannot purchase or sell the assembled vehicle. In addition, the remark indicates to a licensed salvage dealer and independent motor vehicle dealer they cannot rebuild the assembled vehicle.
NO REGISTRATION – ATV/UTV	Non street legal mini-bikes including 3 and 4-wheel all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles that are required to be titled but cannot be registered with or without modifications.
NO REG/TTL GC	Golf carts cannot be titled or registered; however, they can display a golf cart license plate as set forth by Transportation Code, Section 551.402. They may be operated under restricted circumstances.
ON LOAN TO EXEMPT AGENCY	The vehicle is not owned by the user, such as a Driver Education vehicle, and is registered by the user with Exempt License Plates but is not required to be titled.
OWNED BY US GOVERNMENT	The vehicle is leased from the U.S. Government and shall be registered with regular registration, and a RPO receipt shall be issued in the name of the lessee.
PAPER TITLE	A paper title has been issued.
PERMIT REQUIRED TO MOVE (PARK MODEL TRAILER)	The vehicle information selected on the Class/Plate/Sticker screen qualifies this vehicle as a Park Model Trailer that exceeds length and/or width limitations. An oversize and/or overweight permit will be required to move the vehicle on public roads. <i>Obsolete, but still displays on old records.</i>
PLATE AGE	Reflects the number of years the license plates have been assigned for display on the vehicle for which the plates were originally issued. This will vary from the word "ANNUAL" to a numeric character.
PLATES SEIZED	Law enforcement has removed the license plates.
PRIOR CCO ISSUED	A Certified Copy of An Original Texas Certificate of Title (CCO) was used to file for a corrected title with no change of ownership. This remark will show on the vehicle record but it will not print on the title document.

PRIVATE LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE	Any vehicle that is owned or leased by a governmental entity, a police department of an educational institution that commissions peace officers, or a peace officer authorized to use a personal vehicle for law enforcement purposes.
REBUILT SALVAGE – DAMAGED	The title transaction was supported by a Texas Salvage ownership document, or was carried forward from the previous Texas motor vehicle record. If titled prior to 9-1-2003, then SCOT was issued. If titled on or after 9-1-2003, then SVT was issued.
REBUILT SALVAGE – ISSUED BY: (STATE)	This remark includes the 2-letter abbreviation for the other state or country which issued a salvage certificate/certificate of title and supported the title transaction, or was carried forward from the previous Texas motor vehicle record.
REBUILT SALVAGE – LOSS UNKNOWN	The title transaction was supported by a Texas Salvage Certificate, or was carried forward from the previous Texas motor vehicle record. Degree of damage is unknown. <i>Obsolete, but still displays on old records.</i>
REBUILT SALVAGE – 95% PLUS LOSS	The title transaction was supported by a Texas Nonrepairable Certificate of Title, or was carried forward from the previous Texas motor vehicle record. <i>Obsolete, but still displays on old records.</i>
REBUILT SALVAGE 75-94% LOSS	The title transaction was supported by a Texas Salvage Certificate of Title, or was carried forward from the previous Texas motor vehicle record. <i>Obsolete, but still displays on old records.</i>
RECONDITIONED	The vehicle was damaged by collision, fire, hail, or other types of damage (other than by flood) and rendered a total loss by an insurance company. The vehicle was later placed in operable condition, the salvage title was surrendered and application for Texas title was filed. A valid Texas title was issued, and the notation “RECONDITIONED” was reflected on the new title and carried forward on all subsequent Texas titles. <i>Obsolete but still displays on old records.</i> (NOTE: This remark was replaced with a “REBUILT SALVAGE-DAMAGED” remark for Texas titles issued on and after 8-1-97.)
RECONSTRUCTED	The vehicle has been converted in such a manner that it no longer resembles the vehicle as originally manufactured.
REFUND PENDING REGIS REFUND REFUND: Y/N	A refund has been authorized by a Regional Office but has not been claimed by the owner of record. (The vehicle cannot be transferred unless the vehicle is reregistered or the refund is voided.)
REG INSUFFICIENT FUNDS	A check in payment of registration related fees was not honored by the bank on which it was drawn, and such check was returned to the payee unpaid.
REGISTERED BY	This remark is used for the name of an individual or business other than the owner, who is registering the vehicle.
REGISTRATION INVALID	The registration is not valid. Example – After a refund is processed or a Salvage Vehicle Title is issued, the registration is invalid.
REGISTRATION PURPOSES ONLY	Texas issued registration only. The negotiable title for the vehicle was issued by another state, and remains the negotiable evidence of ownership.
REPLICA	An established make of a previous year model vehicle has been assembled as a new vehicle or built by a motor vehicle manufacturer.
RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP	A survivorship agreement signed by two or more eligible persons indicating that the vehicle is held jointly was filed with the title transaction. As of April 2012, this was renamed “SURVIVORSHIP RIGHTS”, however existing records may still display this remark. (Same as SURVIVORSHIP RIGHTS)
SALVAGE CERTIFICATE ISSUED	Indicates that a salvage certificate was issued on the motor vehicle. Discontinued remark 9-1-03. <i>Obsolete but still displays on old records.</i>
SALVAGE CERTIFICATE OF TITLE ISSUED	Indicates that a Salvage Certificate of Title (SCOT) was issued on the motor vehicle because the estimated cost of repair was 75% or more of the vehicle’s pre-damaged actual cash value. <i>Obsolete but still displays on old records,</i> (Became SALVAGE VEHICLE TITLE ISSUED).
SALVAGE VEHICLE TITLE ISSUED	Indicates that a Salvage Vehicle Title (SVT) was issued on the motor vehicle because the estimated cost of repair was greater than the vehicle’s pre-damaged actual cash value. Implemented 9-1-03.
SALVAGED ON YYYY/MM/DD and SALVAGE YARD #####	When a licensed salvage dealer surrenders a title to the department the vehicle record will show these two remarks.

SCHEDULED FOR DELETION	Upon request from a county tax assessor-collector's office, a record may be deleted by the department prior to issuance if record was incorrectly accessed or a customer does not return to the county tax assessor-collector to correct a rejected transaction.
SOLID TIRES	The vehicle is equipped with solid rubber tires.
SPECIAL EXAMINATION REQUIRED	Transactions marked for special handling that a county tax assessor-collector's office considers "questionable" and are requesting headquarters to re-examine.
STICKER SEIZED	The county tax assessor-collector's office was notified by law enforcement that the registration sticker has been seized.
STOLEN – VERIFY TCIC BY VIN	DPS has notified the department that the vehicle has been reported stolen. Check with reporting police agency that placed the remark in the NCIC-TCIC (National Crime Information Center-Texas Crime Information Center) files to see if the vehicle is still stolen or if a recovery notice has been received within the past few days. The placing and removal of stolen remarks in the department's system is done weekly by the Texas Department of Public Safety.
SURVIVORSHIP RIGHTS	A survivorship agreement signed by two or more eligible persons indicating that the vehicle is held jointly was filed with the title transaction. (Same as above). (SAME AS RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP). However this brand may be accompanied by up to two printed names (of the persons) or the "MULTIPLE SURVIVORS" brand if more than two persons are involved.
TCEQ-EMISSION PRGM NON-COMPLIANCE EMISSIONS TEST: (T)	The vehicle was a) detected as a potential gross polluter while being operated in a county in which emission testing is required, and has not passed an emissions test; or b) qualified as part of a low-income accelerated vehicle retirement program (LIRAP), and its required parts must be destroyed or removed in accordance with state and federal regulations.
TITLE APPLICATION AWAITING RELEASE	This remark indicates that a Texas titled vehicle has been transferred and an application for a new title by the new owner has been received by the department. A new title is in the process of being issued.
TITLE HELD AWAITING DPS OK	A title transaction is awaiting confirmation from the Department of Public Safety that the vehicle is not a stolen vehicle.
TITLE REJECTED	The title transaction has been rejected and returned to the county tax assessor-collector's office that originally processed the transaction for correction.
TITLE REVOKED	The title document number shown on the motor vehicle record has been revoked as a result of fraudulent evidence, false information, a stolen or converted vehicle, failure to provide proper evidence of ownership and documentation, revoked ownership and documentation, or revoked registration.
TITLE SUPERSEDED	A title transaction is in process on this motor vehicle record. The superseded record is no longer valid. A new transaction (record) has taken the place of the previous record.
TITLE SURRENDERED TO: (2-letter STATE ABBREVIATION) ON (MM/DD/YYYY)	A Texas-titled vehicle has been taken to another state, and its owner applied for a title in the new state. The new state returned the Texas title to the department with a "surrendered" notice. Date on remark is date the department received the notice.
TITLE WAITING TO PRINT	A title transaction is in process.
TITLE WAITING TO PRINT (REPRINT)	A title transaction is in process.
TOLL SCOFFLAW: (TOLL ROAD AUTHORITY)	This remark indicates that the vehicle owner has an outstanding toll road violation from the named toll road authority.
VEHICLE CRUSHED MM/DD/YYYY	Indicates that a metal recycler has reported this vehicle as destroyed (crushed).
VEHICLE TRANSFERRED: (MM/DD/YYYY)	The recorded owner notified TxDMV that on a specific date they sold, donated or traded their vehicle.

VERIFY INSPECTION	This remark is placed on the vehicle record when “OUT ST” is selected by an individual self-certifying the vehicle is out of state and unable to return for an inspection or selected by the county tax assessor-collector’s office when an applicant completes a Vehicle Identification Number Certification (Form VTR-270). The remark is for law enforcement purposes only and counties are not required to take any action as a result of this remark.
VIN CERTIFICATION WAIVED	The remark is applied when a Vehicle Identification Number Certification (Form VTR-270) is used to verify the vehicle identification number (VIN). Remark is used to advise the county tax assessor-collectors’ offices to require a new title application with an acceptable form of VIN verification if the vehicle subject to a Texas vehicle safety inspection and located in Texas.
VIN IN ERROR	The vehicle identification number (VIN) is in error or the year model is 1980 or older and the VIN is not a 17-digit VIN.
WEBDEALER (P#) (MM/DD/YYYY)	The remark is placed on the vehicle record when an electronic title (eTitle) record exists in eTITLE. The remark indicates the dealer that has possession of the eTitle record by displaying their general distinguishing number and the date of possession.

Rental Vehicles

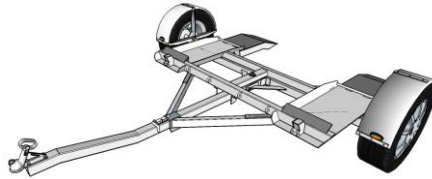
- Car rental law enforcement contacts
 - carrentalsecurity.com
 - truckrentalsecurity.com
 - EAN Holdings: Enterprise/Alamo/National
 - PV Holding: Avis/Budget
 - Rental Car Finance: Dollar/Thrifty
- Car rental companies must provide rental information to law enforcement, such as: 521.460
 - the license plate
 - name and address of the person to whom rented the vehicle
 - the license number of the person to whom the vehicle is rented
 - date the license was issued
 - the place where the license was issued
- Car rental companies cannot rent a vehicle to a person who has not been issued a DL 521.460
- Entering an overdue rental as stolen through NCIC/TCIC can take 4-6 weeks, or longer, depending on the requirements from the DA's office and/or company policy.
- An overdue rental is not simply a civil matter. It is an offense under Theft of Service PC 31.04(a)(3).
- Officers may utilize the Theft of Service statute and the provision for Preventing the Consequences of Theft CCP 18.16 to return overdue rentals even if they have not been entered as stolen through NCIC/TCIC.
- Online Search for Past Rental Receipts
 - Many rental car companies allow you to look up rental receipts which show the renter, pickup and drop-off locations, dates, times, cost, license plates, and miles driven. Most companies require you have the driver's license number of the person who rented the vehicle.
 - Conduct a google search for "past rental receipt" and the name of the car rental company.
- TIP: Most people do not move in the middle of the night. U-Haul vehicles are commonly used to commit burglaries. During the daytime, observing a dirty U-Haul may indicate the vehicle is stolen or way past due.

Seat Belts & Child Seats

- Seat Belts 545.413
 - Putting the shoulder strap behind the body is a violation. The seat belt must be worn in the manner the manufacturer intended it to be worn. 545.413(h)
 - Applies to all occupants in a vehicle
 - Occupants 15 and older may be cited
 - May cite the driver for passengers under 17 not wearing a seat belt. If a 16 year old passenger is not wearing a seat belt, the driver and passenger may both be cited for the single violation.
 - All occupants may be cited if a driver is behind the wheel, the vehicle is running and is parked on a public highway or street. *Dempsey v. State*, 857 S.W.2d 759 (Tex. App.–Houston [14th Dist.] 1993)
 - After initiating a traffic stop in which the vehicle stops on the shoulder and then observing, for the first time, an occupant not wearing a seat belt is still an offense. The statute does not specify the offense occurs on a roadway, so it applies in which a vehicle is being operated on highways and streets under 542.001. A highway or street includes the improved and unimproved shoulder under 541.302(5).
 - Exemptions and/or defenses to prosecution:
 - Mail and newspaper deliverers
 - Letter from a physician stating the person cannot wear one due to a medical condition
 - Utility meter reader
 - Operating a commercial vehicle registered as a farm vehicle <48,000 lbs
 - Driver or passengers of a vehicle exclusively used to transport solid waste and performing duties that require frequent exit from the vehicle.
- Child Seat 545.412
 - Children under 8 must be secured in a child seat unless child is taller than 4'9"
 - Statute defines "secured" if the seat is being used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Driver is the violator even if the parent/guardian is a passenger in the vehicle.
 - Exceptions: 545.412(e)
 - In a vehicle for hire (e.g. Uber, limousine, or bus)
 - If all the seats are taken by other passengers

Trailers/Towing/Hauling (passenger vehicles, not CMV or tow trucks)

- Every semi-trailer and trailer, regardless of size, must display a license plate 502.040(a) & 504.943(b)
 - Includes boat trailers, kayak trailers, BBQ pits, and construction equipment (welders, etc.)
 - Exceptions
 - Farm trailer under 4,000lbs gross weight is not required to be registered or display a plate if it is used only temporarily on a highway; and used exclusively to transport agricultural products, livestock, farm supplies, or equine related items. 502.146(b)
 - Implements of husbandry - a vehicle, other than a passenger car or truck, that is designed and adapted for use as a farm implement, machinery, or tool for tilling the soil, a towed vehicle that transports to the field and spreads fertilizer or agricultural chemicals; or a motor vehicle designed and adapted to deliver feed to livestock. 541.201(6)
 - Vehicle tow dolly is a “towing device,” not a trailer, and does not need a plate. 621.205(d)(2)



Tow Dolly

- Tow dolly may not be used to tow another vehicle if the towing unit weighs <2,500 lbs 621.205(b)
- Manufactured trailers
 - Required to have a legible VIN
 - If VIN cannot be located, trailer is subject to seizure. Follow your agency policy.
 - Farm Trailers are exempt.
- Homemade/Assembled trailers TX Admin Code Title 43, Part 10, Ch. 217, Subchapter L
 - As of 6/22/2020, all new homemade/assembled trailers, regardless of weight, must be assigned a VIN and registered.
 - If the homemade/assembled trailer was registered before 6/22/2020, it is not required to have a VIN and is grandfathered. Some owners stamp their driver's license number on the frame as an owner applied number. The owner applied number will not be on the registration return.
 - If the trailer does not have a license plate and a VIN or owner applied number cannot be found, the trailer is subject to seizure. Follow your agency policy.
 - If the plate denotes the assembly after 6/22/2020 and the VIN cannot be located, the trailer is subject to seizure. Follow your agency policy.
 - Farm Trailers are exempt.
- Boat trailers (See Boat chapter)
- Fail to register out-of-state vehicle or trailer within 30 days 502.040
- License plate may be vertical 504.943 & TX Admin Code Title 43, Part 10, §217.27(b)
- Missing registration insignia on license plate 502.473
- Two safety chains are required to tow a trailer or another vehicle 545.410
 - Two separate chains of equal length TX Admin Code Title 37, Part 1, §21.5
 - Long enough to turn freely w/o placing stress on chains
 - Chains may not touch the road at any time
 - Must be of a sufficient length that if the tongue becomes detached, the chains will prevent it from coming in contact with the ground.
 - Safety chains do not have to be crossed
 - Exceptions for farm trailers, fifth wheel, goose neck trailers, and trailers built before 08/18/1994
- Riding in a trailer or boat that is being towed – must be at least 18 545.414 & 545.4145
- No one may occupy a house trailer (e.g., construction office, camper is OK) being towed 545.419
- Fail to immediately remove dropped destructive or injurious materials 600.001(a)
- Fail to secure loose materials (dirt, sand, gravel, refuse, wood chips) 725.021
 - A vehicle bed or trailer carrying loose material must be made to prevent spilling or blowing. Must be enclosed on all four sides with panels and a tailgate.

- Must have a cover unless the load is completely enclosed by the compartment or the loose materials does not blow from or spill over the top
- Towing a vehicle
 - Distance between the towing vehicle and the towed vehicle cannot exceed 15ft 545.409(a)(2)
 - The chain, rope or cable being used to tow a vehicle must have a white flag or cloth in the middle at least 12x12" in size 545.409(b)
 - May not draw more than 3 vehicles by the saddle mount method 545.409
 - If towing another vehicle using the full mount, saddle mount or two bar method, the towed vehicle(s) must have a temporary tag 503.069 & TX Admin Code Title 43, Part 10, §215.151
- Maximum number of vehicles in a combination is three 621.205(a)
 - Maximum length is 65ft
- Passenger vehicles, even if properly marked, cannot have a load extending beyond 3ft to the front and 4ft to the rear. 621.206
- Maximum height of the vehicle and its load is 14ft 621.207
- Passenger vehicles cannot have a load extending more than 3 inches to left or 6 inches to the right of the vehicle's fenders 621.201(c)
- Maximum width of a passenger vehicle and its load is 8ft 621.201(b)
 - Width of the vehicle does not include safety devices (e.g., mirrors)
 - Wide rims (elbow rims/slabs/swangas) are not safety devices and are included in the measurement.



Elbow Rims

Under 18 Drivers

- Learner License (Phase One – lasts for 6 months) 521.222
 - Issued to 15-17yoa
 - May not use a cell phone in any way except for emergencies
 - Must have license in possession
 - Must be accompanied by a licensed driver 21yoa or older in the front passenger seat
 - The 21yoa or older passenger commits an offense if the passenger is asleep or intoxicated (intoxication as defined in Penal Code Ch. 49) 521.222(g)
- Provisional License (Phase Two – lasts until 18th birthday)
 - May not use a cell phone in any way except for emergencies 545.424(a)
 - May not drive between 12am-5am. Exceptions are for work, school or medical emergency 545.424(a-1)
 - No more than one passenger in the vehicle under 21yoa who is not a family member 545.424(a-1)
- Violate license restrictions 521.221
- Hardship License 521.223
 - Issued to >14yoa
 - Phase One restrictions do not apply
- Restricted M license issued to 15-17yoa 521.224
 - May only operate a motorcycle 250cc or less
 - See the endorsement for various restrictions
- Operating without a DL (for drivers 10-16yoa) 729.002
- Authority to take possession of a child (younger than 18) FC 262.104 & FC 262.110
 - Law enforcement may take possession without a court order in an emergency if the officer believes:
 - there is a danger to the physical health or safety of the child
 - the child has been the victim of sexual abuse or trafficking
 - the person in possession of the child is currently using a controlled substance and the use constitutes an immediate danger to the physical health or safety of the child
 - Law enforcement shall take possession of a child reported missing CCP 63.009(g)
 - If a child is skipping school, may take into custody to return to school (6-18yoa) FC 52.01(e)

FYI

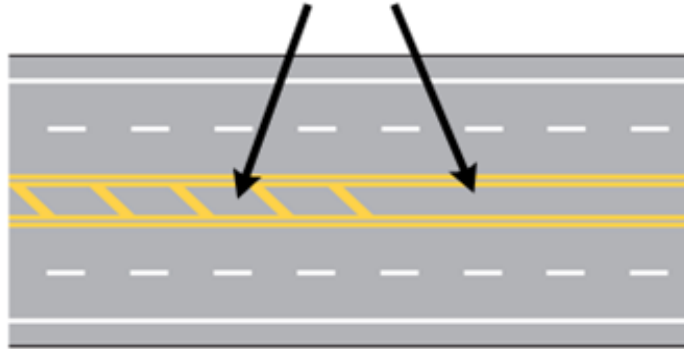
- Operation of a Motor Vehicle explained:
The following is from *Wilkins v. State*, No. 02-19-00324-CR (Tex. App.—Fort Worth 2021)
“The Penal Code does not define the term ‘operating.’ Id.; see *Kirsch v. State*, 357 S.W.3d 645, 650 (Tex. Crim. App. 2012). The court of criminal appeals, however, has held that to find operation of a motor vehicle, ‘the totality of the circumstances must demonstrate that the defendant took action to affect the functioning of his vehicle in a manner that would enable the vehicle’s use.’ *Denton v. State*, 911 S.W.2d 388, 390 (Tex. Crim. App. 1995). Under this standard, ‘operating’ a motor vehicle is interpreted broadly. *White v. State*, 412 S.W.3d 125, 128 (Tex. App.—Eastland 2013, no pet.); *Dornbusch v. State*, 262 S.W.3d 432, 436 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth 2008, no pet.). ‘[W]hile driving does involve operation, operation does not necessarily involve driving.’ *Denton*, 911 S.W.2d at 389. Because ‘operating’ is defined so broadly, ‘any action that is more than mere preparation toward operating the vehicle would necessarily be an ‘action to affect the functioning of [a] vehicle in a manner that would enable the vehicle’s use.’” *White*, 412 S.W.3d at 129 (quoting *Barton v. State*, 882 S.W.2d 456, 459 (Tex. App.—Dallas 1994, no pet.); *Dornbusch*, 262 S.W.3d at 436. The action need not be successful in causing the vehicle to function for the person to be operating it. *White*, 412 S.W.3d at 129; *Smith v. State*, 401 S.W.3d 915, 919 (Tex. App.—Texarkana 2013, pet. ref’d).”
- Most traffic violations are strict liability offenses and do not require a culpable mental state. Some traffic violations do require culpable mental states, but they are clearly outlined in the statute.
 - *Goodwin v. State*, 63 Tex. Crim. 140, 138 S.W. 399 (Tex. Crim. App. 1911)
 - *Zulauf v. State*, 591 S.W.2d 869 (Tex. Crim. App. 1979)
 - *Clayton v. State*, 652 S.W.2d 810 (Tex. App.—Amarillo 1983)
 - *Op. Tex. Att’y Gen.* JC-0451
- The Texas Administrative Code is a compilation of all state agency rules. Numerous provisions in the transportation code give various agencies rulemaking authority which have the same effect as law.
- The Non-Resident Violator Compact (NRVC) is an interstate compact used by 44 states and Washington, D.C. to process traffic citations across state borders. When a motorist from a member state is cited in another member state and does not pay their fine or otherwise make arrangements with the court, the other state notifies the driver’s home state. The home state will suspend the driver’s license or not allow them to renew the license until the driver takes care of the matter in the state where the violation occurred. The following states are not members of the Non-Resident Violator Compact:

Alaska	Montana
California	Oregon
Michigan	Wisconsin
- Municipal officers may conduct a traffic stop and arrest for traffic offenses anywhere in the county in which the municipality is located (including DWI) CCP 14.03(g)
Mitchell v. State, 187 S.W.3d 113 (Tex. App.—Waco 2006)
- Common mistakes of law:
 - There is no law stating you must only change lanes one at a time
 - Changing lanes in an intersection is not a violation
 - Using hazard lights while driving is not a violation
 - Leaving a turn signal on while driving is not a violation
 - White light to the rear is not a specific violation
 - Other violations may apply such as defective/improper color for a stop lamp, turn signal, etc.
 - Driving with the truck bed cargo light on is not a violation
 - After a crash and an officer did not view the driver operating the vehicle, the officer cannot make a custodial arrest for DWLI, No DL, or other minor traffic law violations as it wasn’t an offense in view or a breach of the peace. CCP 14.01 & 14.03
- Three/Four Way Stop Signs 545.151
 - There is no rule on who shall proceed through the intersection when vehicles stop at the same time. It only states drivers must stop and proceed when safe.
 - Vehicles already in the intersection have the right of way 545.153
- If a vehicle is parked on a public highway or street, has a driver and the vehicle is running; traffic laws (including a suspended driver license and seat belts) are enforceable as the vehicle is being operated.

- There is no law requiring a driver to yield to a funeral procession unless under police escort 546.002
- Traffic citation quotas; formal, informal or implied are illegal 720.002
- Shall not arrest for speeding, open container, or texting if the violator signs the citation 543.004
 - May arrest for these three offenses if the violator refuses to sign a citation or refuses to provide their identity necessary for the officer to complete the citation.
 - Example: If a passenger is in possession of an open container and he refuses to identify himself, an officer cannot prepare the citation and may arrest for the open container offense. 543.005
- Citizens may violate traffic laws in pursuit of a suspect if an officer would reasonably have done the same thing
Miles v. State, 241 S.W.3d 28 (Tex. Crim. App. 2007) 501.158
- Officers may seize a vehicle or vehicle part if there is probable cause it is stolen or if the VIN has been removed, altered, or obliterated. 501.158
- If the VIN is obscured by papers or other items on the dash, officers may enter the vehicle to remove the obstruction.
New York v. Class, 475 U.S. 106 (1986)
- Traffic stop is valid if the R/O is shown to have a suspended or revoked license without first observing and confirming the R/O is driving.
Kansas v. Glover, 140 S. Ct. 1183 (2020)
- Traffic stop is valid when receiving a “No Record” return for the license plate’s registration
 - This is typical if the plate is very old or very new. May also indicate the plate is fictitious
Villarreal v. State, No.14-18-00406-CR (Tex. App.–Houston [14th Dist] 2020)
- A BOLO describing a suspect or suspect vehicle is sufficient reasonable suspicion for an investigative detention even if it was a past crime and did not just occur.
U.S. v. Hensley, 469 U.S. 221 (1985)
- An anonymous tip reporting a suspected DWI provides reasonable suspicion to make a stop. Officer does not have to observe their own traffic violation before making a stop. “Just because the officer had seen the suspect exhibiting good driving behavior for five minutes before the officer made the stop, five minutes of good driving did not erode the reasonable suspicion already established.” “the appearance of a marked police car would inspire more careful driving for a time.”
Navarette v. California, 572 U.S. 393 (2014)
- Liability for providing roadside assistance Civil Practice and Remedies Code 78A.002
 - A peace officer who provides roadside assistance, while acting in good faith, cannot be held liable for damages to the motor vehicle
- Authority to take possession of a child (younger than 18) FC 262.104 & FC 262.110
 - Law enforcement may take possession without a court order in an emergency if the officer believes:
 - there is a danger to the physical health or safety of the child
 - the child has been the victim of sexual abuse or trafficking
 - the person in possession of the child is currently using a controlled substance and the use constitutes an immediate danger to the physical health or safety of the child
 - Law enforcement shall take possession of a child reported missing CCP 63.009(g)
 - If a child is skipping school, may take into custody to return to school (6-18yoa) FC 52.01(e)

Selected Roadway Markings

Flush Median



If there are *two sets of double-yellow lines*, you may not cross over at all, including for left turns. These areas are defined as a "flush median" or "flush median island" in the TxDOT Roadway Design Manual and the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. They have the same purpose and function as a raised median and are legally enforceable as a "dividing space" for the purposes of 545.063(b). These areas may also have diagonal hash markings to help emphasize they're off-limits. Violation is driving across a median 545.063.

TxDOT Roadway Design Manual Ch. 3, Section 2
TMUTCD 3B.02 & 3B.10

Single Solid White Line



This is used to channelize traffic and indicates that changing lanes is discouraged, although not specifically prohibited. Even if the line is a wide solid white line, changing lanes is not prohibited.

TMUTCD 3B.04

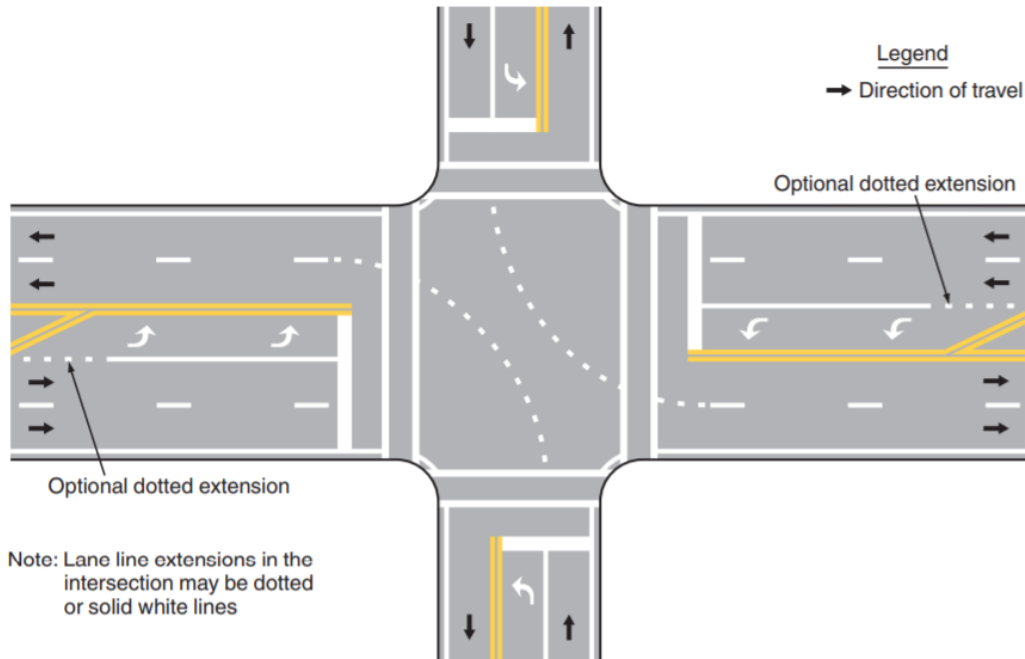
Double Solid White Lines



Double white lines indicate that changing lanes or turning across the lines is prohibited.

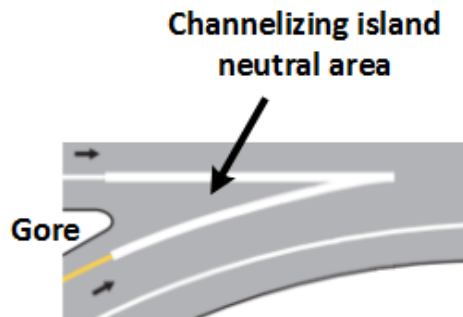
545.060(d) & TMUTCD 3B.04

Lane Extensions Through Intersection



Where highway design or reduced visibility conditions make it desirable to provide control or to guide vehicles through an intersection or interchange, such as at offset, skewed, complex, or multi-legged intersections, on curved roadways, where multiple turn lanes are used, or where offset left turn lanes might cause driver confusion, dotted line extension markings are used to extend lanes through an intersection or interchange area. Drifting over these lines is considered an improper turn 545.101(e) or fail to maintain a single lane 545.060.

TMUTCD 3B.08



The area between the lines is known as a "neutral area." This includes neutral areas with chevron crosshatch markings. It is considered a "dividing space" for the purposes of 545.063(b) and is a violation to drive over. May also stop or cite for disregarding an official traffic control device.

TMUTCD 3B.24