

How to transfer ownership of a vehicle once your loved one passes away:

To transfer ownership following the death of the owner, the Certificate of Title may be transferred to a new owner by

a surviving spouse,

the personal representative of the decedent's estate, or

a court appointed administrator.

Surviving Spouse

To qualify as a surviving spouse, you must have been married to the deceased person at the time of death. Live-in companions and ex-spouses do not qualify.

To obtain a new title and registration for your vehicle, you must submit the following in person at any [RMV Full Service Center](#):

- An [Application for Registration Title](#) (RMV-1 Form) completed and signed by the owner, stamped by an authorized agent of the insurance company if the vehicle is to remain registered
- Decedent's Certificate of Title assigned by surviving spouse
- An [Affidavit of Surviving Spouse](#)
- A copy of the Death Certificate listing the name of the spouse

If the surviving spouse is transferring ownership, the surviving spouse must give the following documents to the new owner:

- Decedent's Certificate of Title assigned by surviving spouse
- A copy of the Death Certificate listing the name of the spouse
- An Affidavit of Surviving Spouse

Heirship (will)

If a decedent has left a will, the executor of the estate may transfer ownership of the vehicle and must give the following documents to the new owner:

- A copy of the Appointment of Personal Representative
- Decedent's Certificate of Title assigned by the Personal Representative

Inheritance

If a decedent has NOT left a will, the court appointed administrator may transfer the title with the following documents:

- A copy of the Appointment of Administrator
- Decedent's Certificate of Title assigned by the Administrator

Vehicle transfers in these cases may be exempt from sales/use tax.

Please see the [Massachusetts Sales and Use Tax Requirements](#) section for more details.