



September 22, 2009

To Florida Licensed Independent Dealers:

Currently, individuals who purchase a motor vehicle from a licensed independent dealer may either transfer an existing license plate in their name to the newly purchased vehicle or have a temporary license plate issued to the vehicle.

However, during the 2009 Legislative Session, Florida Statutes were amended to require independent dealers to issue temporary license plates to all motor vehicles they sell even if the purchaser has a metal license plate to transfer to the new vehicle. This law becomes effective October 1, 2009. The following is an explanation of how the new process will work:

A customer purchases a vehicle from an independent dealer and has a metal license plate to transfer to his new vehicle. Instead of the dealer moving the customer's metal license plate to the customer's new vehicle at the time of sale, the dealer will issue the customer a temporary registration and a temporary license plate. The customer will keep his metal license plate for future use. The customer will leave the dealership displaying the temporary license plate on the rear of his vehicle until he receives his permanent registration in the mail or from the dealer.

After the sale, the dealer will take the paperwork to a tax collector office or tag agency for processing. At this time, the metal license plate, which the customer retained, will officially be transferred to the vehicle the customer purchased. Within 30 days, the customer will receive his new registration, which will display the license plate number from his transferred (metal) plate. When the customer receives the new registration, this will prompt him to remove the temporary license plate from his vehicle and replace it with his metal license plate.

The purpose of this legislation is to allow law enforcement to identify the owner of a vehicle between the time the vehicle is sold to the purchaser and the time the title and registration transaction is processed at the tax collector's office. Law enforcement will use the temporary license plate number to verify that this vehicle is registered to this individual during the time it takes to process the transfer of the metal license plate to the vehicle.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact your local Bureau of Field Operations office.

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