

FACT SHEET

Defaced Titles

This fact sheet has been developed by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to assist in determining what constitutes an acceptable alteration of a title and what defacements require a new certificate of title.

ACCEPTABLE CORRECTIONS

- Drawing a single line through the incorrect purchaser or seller information and note, “completed/signed in error” along with the notary’s initials listed near the changes made on the title and attach a notarized affidavit explaining the error to the title application.
- Switching the seller and purchasers’ names and note, “Completed/signed in error” along with the notary’s initials listed near the changes made on the title and attach a notarized affidavit explaining the error to the title application.

Any one or a combination of the following unacceptable items will require the vehicle owner or lienholder to apply for a duplicate certificate of title.

UNACCEPTABLE CORRECTIONS

- Any other alteration of information listed on the reverse side of a certificate of title is unacceptable.
- Any lien satisfaction alterations are unacceptable.
- Correction of mileage disclosure information is unacceptable.
- Strike through and alter of mileage is unacceptable.
- All erasures are unacceptable.
- Use of white out or correction tape is unacceptable.
- Folds, creases, tears, staple holes and other type of mutilations that have made the certificate of title’s vehicle description or assignment information including odometer information unreadable are unacceptable.

Please Note: Authorized agents are under contract to PennDOT and may charge a market driven service (delivery) fee. These are in addition to any PennDOT statutory fees for temporary, or in some cases, permanent motor vehicle registration plates and cards or other related products and services offered by the agent. The agent’s service (delivery) fees are market driven and vary by agent. To compare service (delivery) fees, you are encouraged to contact the authorized agents in your area for the applicable service (delivery) fees charged.

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