

FACT SHEET

Personalized Registration Plates

(Including Amateur Radio Operator and Press Photographer Plates)

PURPOSE

This fact sheet outlines the policy for issuance of Personalized, Amateur Radio Operator and Press Photographer Registration Plates.

DEFINITION OF PERSONALIZED REGISTRATION PLATE

A personalized registration plate can have a combination of up to seven letters and/or numbers. Special characters are not available. **NOTE:** A hyphen or space (**not both**) may be permitted on your personalized registration plate. For the appropriate registration plate configuration allowed for the personalized registration plate you are applying for, please refer to the instructions provided on the application.

GENERAL INFORMATION

To apply for a standard personalized registration plate, Form MV-904, "Application for Personalized, Amateur Radio Operator or Press Photographer Registration Plate," must be completed. Personalized registration plate applicants must have a valid registration plate, which the applicant must retain pending receipt of the requested personalized registration plate.

Requests for standard issued personalized registration plates are restricted to:

- ❖ passenger vehicles
- ❖ motorcycles
- ❖ motor homes
- ❖ trailers
- ❖ trucks with a registered gross weight of not more than 14,000 pounds.

A separate application must be submitted for each standard personalized registration plate. **NOTE:** For a current listing of motor vehicle fees, refer to Form [MV-70S](#), "Bureau of Motor Vehicles Schedule of Fees." Make check or money order payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.** An applicant can check personalized registration plate availability on our website at www.dmv.pa.gov by selecting *Plate Availability* from the list of services under the *Online Services* heading. Registration plates will not be reserved until PennDOT receives payment and a completed application and approves your requested registration plate configuration [number(s) and/or letter(s)]. Please note that registration plate requests are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Although a requested registration plate configuration may show as available on the website, it is possible a request for the same registration plate configuration may have already been submitted by another customer and may not be available when making application. In addition, under the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, PennDOT may refuse any combination of letters and numbers for cause and reserves the right to limit or reject certain requests.

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR: One registration plate may be issued with your Federal Communication Commission (FCC) assigned call letters. If you desire a second Amateur Radio Operator registration plate, your call letters plus a hyphen and the number "2" will be issued. A copy of your Amateur Radio Station registration must be attached to the application.

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER: This registration plate is available to a person who is employed full time as a newspaper, newsreel or television photographer or cameraman. The vehicle must be registered in the name of the press photographer or jointly by the press photographer and a co-owner. Two identical registration plates are issued to the applicant, one for the front of the vehicle and one for the back of the vehicle. Only one set of Press Photographer registration plates will be issued to any applicant.

REPLACEMENT OF A LOST, STOLEN OR DEFACED PERSONALIZED REGISTRATION PLATE

If you have a defaced personalized registration plate that is damaged, but not beyond recognition, complete and submit [Form MV-44, "Application for Duplicate Registration Card or Replacement of Lost, Stolen or Defaced Registration Plate,"](#) along with a photograph or tracing of the registration plate for identification purposes. A registration plate is considered to be defaced when the registration plate is damaged by a specific incident such as a traffic accident, cutting, scraping or damage caused by intense cleaning or harmful chemicals. Defaced personalized registration plates will be replaced with the same style and configuration as before at no cost. You must sign and return Form MV-44 to PennDOT in order to receive a replacement registration plate.

If your personalized registration plate is lost or stolen, the combination of letters and numbers cannot be reproduced. You will need to apply for a new registration plate containing a new combination of letters and numbers. The registration plate will be produced with the new configuration if it is available. Please make sure to indicate that you are replacing a defaced personalized registration plate on the front of the MV-44. If an immediate replacement registration plate is needed while waiting for your replacement personalized registration plate, please complete and submit a second Form MV-44, and the replacement registration plate fee. A standard issue registration plate will be issued until the replacement personalized, lost or stolen registration plate can be provided. **NOTE:** The replacement personalized registration plate will take approximately 6-8 weeks to receive in the mail from the time PennDOT receives and processes the application. **NOTE:** The replacement standard issue registration plate will take 7-10 business days to receive in the mail from the time PennDOT receives and processes the application.

REPLACEMENT OF AN ILLEGIBLE PERSONALIZED REGISTRATION PLATE

If you have an illegible personalized registration plate that has been deemed illegible, because one or more numbers or letter cannot be recognized from 50 feet or if the registration plate shows any blistering, peeling, discoloration or loss of reflectivity and you would like to request a replacement, you must take Form MV-46, "Application to Replace and Illegible Registration Plate," to any official Pennsylvania inspection station for verification that their registration plate is illegible OR have a law enforcement official verify the need for a replacement registration plate on Form MV-46. The vehicle owner is then responsible for signing and returning the completed Form MV-46 to PennDOT in order to receive a replacement registration plate free of charge. Your registration plate will be replaced with the same style and configuration as before at no cost. A picture or tracing of the registration plate must be submitted with the application for identification purposes. **If an immediate replacement registration plate is needed while waiting for your illegible personalized registration plate, please complete and submit Form MV-44, "Application for Duplicate Registration Card or Replacement of Lost, Stolen or Defaced Registration Plate," and the replacement registration plate fee. A standard issue registration plate will be issued until the replacement personalized registration plate can be provided. NOTE: The replacement registration plate will take approximately 6-8 weeks to receive in the mail from the time PennDOT receives and processes the application. NOTE: The replacement registration plate will take approximately 7-10 business days to receive in the mail from the time PennDOT receives and processes the application. Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery of personalized plates.**