



## Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor Request for Bonded Title Review (PWD 1344)

This form is used to request a bonded title review for an abandoned boat and/or outboard motor left on private property without the consent of the property owner for more than seven (7) days. This form must be submitted with Verification of Vessel or Outboard Motor Serial Number form (PWD 504).

The boat/outboard motor described below has remained on **my** property without my consent for more than seven consecutive days.

I am requesting Texas Parks & Wildlife Headquarters (TPWD HQ) to review my situation, and if eligible for the bonded title process:

- supply me with the required form letter to use for sending notification to the owner(s) and lien holder (if any),
- supply me with the required form letter to use for sending notification to the law enforcement office whose jurisdiction includes the current location of the abandoned boat and/or outboard motor, and
- post notice of my request for bonded title on an abandoned vessel/outboard motor on the TPWD website for the required six consecutive months.

Additionally, I am requesting the name and address of the recorded owner(s), and lien holder(s) so that I may send the required notice(s).

My intent is to apply for a bonded title in my name if the following conditions are met:

- The asset(s) are not reported stolen.
- After I have given proper notice to the owner(s), lien holder(s), and the local law enforcement, the asset(s) remain on my property without my consent.
- There are no documented disputes of ownership during the six months the asset(s) are posted on TPWD website.

Applicant(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Boat/Motor Description (please print all applicable information):

Boat Information: TX \_\_\_\_\_ HIN (Serial #) \_\_\_\_\_

Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_ ft \_\_\_\_ in

Outboard Motor Information: TX \_\_\_\_\_ MIN (Serial #) \_\_\_\_\_

Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Horsepower \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Boat/Motor (Address): \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Person who abandoned the asset(s) (enter unknown if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date the asset(s) were abandoned on your property: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this asset involved in any pending lawsuits or disputes of ownership?  No  Yes

Is this asset subject to a storage, mechanics, or self-service storage facility lien foreclosure process?  No  Yes

**Once this application is submitted, you must notify TPWD immediately if the vessel/outboard motor is removed from the property, or if there is a claim of ownership received with intent to retrieve the asset.**

WARNING: Falsifying information on documents is a punishable offense – Texas Penal Code Chapter 37, Section 37.10. Any person who knowingly makes a false entry in, or false alteration of a governmental record is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable by confinement in jail for any term of not more than 10 years or less than 2 years and punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000. I hereby certify that all statements in this document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Applicant(s) Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit this form along with Verification of Vessel or Outboard Motor Serial Number (PWD 504).**

Send no payment at this time. TPWD will post notice of your application on the TPWD website and send you a packet of the additional required forms to use. If, after the six month posting period, the assets are not picked up by the legal owner, lien holder, or law enforcement agency and there are no legal disputes, you should qualify for a bonded title. If you are approved for a bonded title you will be responsible for purchasing a Certificate of Title Surety Bond from a surety company of your choice. Do not purchase a bond until TPWD notifies you that you have been approved. For questions regarding the cost and conditions of a bond, contact an insurance or surety company. For questions regarding this process contact TPWD at 1-800-262-8755 (press zero to reach a staff member).

## Process for Obtaining an Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor Bonded Title

This is a multi-step process which requires the steps outlined below. These steps will not be completed all at the same time. The following is provided only as information to describe the process. Each step will be mailed as a packet for the information to be completed according to the instructions for each step.

### List of forms that will be used:

- Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor Request for Bonded Title Review (PWD 1344);
- Letter (to applicant providing packet of forms with ownership information and NADA printout);
- Notice to Law Enforcement of Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor (PWD 1345);
- Notice to Owner/Lien Holder of Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor (PWD 1346);
- Request for Release of Ownership Interest (PWD 1347);
- Release of Lien for Vessel/Outboard Motor (PWD 231);
- Statement of Fact & Documentation for Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor Bonded Title (PWD 1348).

Step 1. Customer calls or describes in person the situation regarding the abandoned boat/motor. If situation meets definition of abandoned, then TPWD will direct them to fill out and submit the Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor Request for Bonded Title Review (PWD 1344), which is available on the agency website or can be printed and handed to the customer.

Step 2. Customer submits to TPWD HQ the completed Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor Request for Bonded Title Review (PWD 1344) form. If the customer qualifies, then:

- TPWD HQ Boat staff will verify that the asset(s) are not reported as stolen through TPWD Law Enforcement Communications;
- TPWD HQ will post the abandoned notice on the TPWD website within 10 business days of receipt (posted weekly);
- TPWD HQ will send the applicant a letter with the following forms and information:
  - Owner/Lien Holder Information - TPWD HQ will send either a TPWD ownership report, or if a more recent record from out of state is found on VIS then TPWD will request and provide ownership verification from the proper state;
  - Notice to Law Enforcement of Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor (PWD 1345);
  - Notice to Owner/Lien Holder of Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor (PWD 1346);
  - Request for Release of Ownership Interest (PWD 1347);
  - Release of Lien for Vessel/Outboard Motor (PWD 231);
  - Statement of Fact & Documentation for Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor Bonded Title (PWD 1348);
  - NADAguides.com website printout (or statement that no value is available and the applicant will need to provide a written appraisal from a Marine Licensee).

Step 3. The applicant should immediately upon receipt of the letter containing the packet of forms and information complete and send the following:

- The notice (PWD 1345) to the local law enforcement agency whose jurisdiction includes the current location of the abandoned boat and/or outboard motor;
- The notice (PWD 1346) to the owner(s) and lien holder(s) on record;
- The Request for Release of Ownership Interest (PWD 1347) to the owner(s) on record;
- The Release of Lien for Vessel/Outboard Motor (PWD 231) to the lien holder(s) on record.

Step 4. The applicant will submit the following to the TPWD HQ Bonded Title staff after the expiration of the 6 month web posting:

- Completed Statement of Fact & Documentation for Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor Bonded Title (PWD 1348);
- Photocopy of the Notice to Law Enforcement of Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor (PWD 1345) sent to the proper law enforcement agency;
- Evidence of mailing the LE notice form (PWD 1345) by certified mail (undeliverable letters, receipts or electronic confirmation);
- Any written response received from the law enforcement entity (completed PWD 1345 or other);
- Photocopy of the Notice to Owner/Lien Holder of Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor (PWD 1346) sent to owner(s) and lien holder(s);
- Evidence of mailing the owner/lien holder notice (undeliverable letters, receipts or electronic confirmation);
- Any written response received from the owner(s) and/or lien holder(s) (completed PWD 1347, PWD 231 or other).

## **Process for Obtaining an Abandoned Boat and/or Outboard Motor Bonded Title (continued)**

Step 5. If approved for bond, then TPWD HQ Bonded Title staff will send the applicant the following:

- Approval letter – Letter stating the applicant is approved, listing the required bond amount and the amount due for title and registration fees;
- Certificate of Title Surety Bond – The form will have the applicant information, asset description, and the bond amount completed; the bond company will complete the remainder of the information;
- Vessel/Boat Title Application (PWD 143) and/or Outboard Motor Title Application (PWD 144) – The form(s) will be completed for the customer, requiring only their signature.

Step 6. The applicant will submit the above listed items along with the payment for the title and registration fees to TPWD HQ. If the documentation and fees are correct, then TPWD HQ will process a bonded title transaction. The registration decals and ID card will be mailed the day following the transaction. A title containing the bond information will be mailed 21 days after the transaction is processed, which completes the abandoned boat and/or outboard motor bonded title process.

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The Texas Transportation Code states:

"Sec. 683.011. AUTHORITY TO TAKE ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE INTO CUSTODY.

(a) A law enforcement agency may take into custody an abandoned motor vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, or outboard motor found on public or private property."

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Code states:

"Section 31.003. DEFINITIONS:

(17) "Abandoned vessel or outboard motor" means a vessel or outboard motor that has remained on private property without the consent of the owner or person in charge of the property for more than seven consecutive days."

"Sec. 31.0466. TITLE FOR ABANDONED VESSEL; BOND.

(a) A person may apply for a certificate of title for an abandoned vessel or outboard motor found on the person's property.

(b) The department may cancel the certificate for the abandoned vessel or outboard motor and issue a new certificate to the applicant if the applicant:

(2) proves to the satisfaction of the department that:

- (C) at least 30 days before the applicant applied for the certificate, the applicant contacted the applicant's local law enforcement agency through certified mail to report that the vessel or outboard motor is abandoned; and
- (D) the local law enforcement agency has not taken the abandoned vessel or outboard motor into custody or informed the applicant of the agency's intent to take the abandoned vessel or outboard motor into custody"



# Verification of Vessel or Outboard Motor Serial Number (PWD 504)

The following situations require verification of boat/outboard motor serial numbers:

- Boat/motor is coming from out-of-state or another country (registered/titled in another state/country).
- Boat/motor serial numbers are incorrect on ownership document (title/registration).
- Boat/motor is used, never titled or registered.
- The serial number does not conform to Coast Guard regulations.

To verify the identification/serial number on your boat and/or outboard motor you can provide a pencil tracing or a legible photograph of the number.

To create a pencil tracing, place this form on top of the identification/serial number and rub a pencil across the paper so that an impression of the number appears. If the rubbing is not legible, rub it anyway, and write the numbers you see above, below or next to the rubbing.

I hereby state that the (check one):  pencil tracing below (or attached)  the attached photo is the actual serial number on the vessel or outboard motor that I am requesting to title with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

Space for Pencil Tracing:

Should additional questions arise, your vessel/outboard motor may be subject to an inspection. I agree to make the vessel and/or outboard motor available for inspection by a Texas Game Warden during the processing of this application.

Since 1973, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) regulations have required that manufactures of vessels affix a twelve-character Hull Identification Number (HIN) to the outside of the transom (stern) above the water line. Their regulations allow only three HIN formats to be used for the identification of a vessel. Vessels built prior to 1973 may not have twelve digit serial numbers and the number listed on the plate should be provided. The Motor Identification Number (MIN) is located on the lower unit or on the lower unit bracket of the outboard motor.

Verification of the serial number is required for the following reasons:

- To ensure the number on the item matches the out of state or out-of-country registration/title documentation,
- To identify and correct previous serial number errors (some letters and numbers are similar and frequently mistaken for other like items (2 & Z, 5 & S; O G & Q)
- To ensure the accuracy of title records created without a Manufacturers Statement of Origin, and
- To identify and prevent fraudulent activity of stolen boats being brought in to Texas from other states to obtain a legal Texas title.

**Warning:** Falsifying information on documents is a punishable offense – Texas Penal Code Chapter 37, Section 37.10. Any person who knowingly makes a false entry in or false alteration of a governmental record is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable by confinement in jail for any term of not more than 10 years or less than 2 years and punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000. **I hereby certify that all statements in this document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.**

Company Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ home  work  cell

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department maintains the information collected through this form. With few exceptions, you are entitled to be informed about the information we collect. Under Sections 552.021 and 552.023 of the Texas Government Code, you are also entitled to receive and review the information. Under Section 559.004, you are also entitled to have this information corrected.