

## **Denial of Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals**

### **Can a parent's vehicle registration be denied for nonpayment of child support?**

As provided by state statute, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) can send a denial of motor vehicle registration renewal for parents who have gone at least six months without making a child support payment. The law applies to Office of the Attorney General (OAG) child support cases. The denial of motor vehicle registration renewal expands existing law that allows the OAG to deny renewal of Texas licenses, registrations and permits held by delinquent obligors. The goal is to obtain compliance with court orders and get lawfully obligated money to children. [TFC § 232.002]

### **How does the process work?**

1. The OAG's Child Support Division electronically matches a file of parents who have not made a child support payment in at least 180 days with the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) database to obtain the delinquent parents' vehicle identification numbers (VINs).
2. After obtaining the VINs, the OAG verifies a parent's delinquency, within TXCSES, for a second time and forwards the information to the TxDMV to deny the parent's motor vehicle registration renewal.
3. The TxDMV alerts parents to the denial by sending motor vehicle registration renewal notices that document the child support delinquency. Parents also receive a letter from the OAG that states the TxDMV will not process their vehicle registration until they contact the OAG to arrange a payment plan and make a satisfactory payment toward the plan.

### **How do delinquent parents learn that their motor vehicle registration will not be renewed?**

The renewal notices parents receive from the TxDMV reference the child support delinquency. Parents receive renewal notices three months prior to the expiration date. In addition, parents will receive a letter from the OAG's Child Support Division 90 days prior to the expiration of their motor vehicle registrations with information regarding the steps they can take to have the hold released on their motor vehicle registration renewal. Both notices have specific instructions regarding resolving the denial.

Some parents may attempt to renew their registration without contacting the OAG to make payment arrangements to resolve the delinquency. In those instances, tax assessors will provide parents with outreach material from the OAG that explain what they should do to resolve the payment issue.

**What must happen before the TxDMV will release the hold on a parent's motor vehicle registration renewal?**

Delinquent parents must contact the OAG to make payment arrangements. The OAG sends daily electronic updates to the TxDMV. As further confirmation that the hold was released, parents receive a letter from the OAG acknowledging that the issue has been satisfactorily resolved.

**How long will it take from the time a parent makes a satisfactory payment toward the delinquency for TxDMV to update its records?**

The OAG will send a daily file to TxDMV to release any holds where payment arrangements have been satisfied. TxDMV will update its system the night the file is received.

**Do parents need to pay off everything they owe?**

It is not required that a parent pay off the total amount of child support owed in order for the motor vehicle registration renewal hold to be released. However, a payment arrangement must be made and fulfilled in order for the hold to be removed.

**Who do parents contact in order to resolve the issue concerning their denial of motor vehicle registration renewals?**

The OAG has a dedicated phone line for all denial of motor vehicle registration renewal issues. Parents can call (866) 646-5611 to make payment arrangements.

**When is the process scheduled to start?**

The process will begin September 2016 for motor vehicle registration renewals due in December 2016.

**Does the law apply to the registration of newly purchased vehicles?**

No. The law only applies to the renewal of motor vehicle registrations. The law does not apply to noncustodial parents who purchase new or used vehicles.

**If a parent has multiple vehicles, will all of the vehicle renewals be effected by this process?**

Yes, the parent will receive a letter from the OAG's Child Support Division 90 days prior to the expiration of each specific motor vehicle registration renewal.

**Does the law apply to the registration of jointly owned vehicles?**

No, a motor vehicle registration renewal will not be denied for someone that jointly owns a vehicle with someone that the law applies to.