BUYER BE INFORMED: Private Sales

When purchasing a motor vehicle, motorcycle, trailer, boat, ATV or snowmobile from a private sale there are a few things you need to make sure the seller can give you before you buy so that you can register your purchase.

**Bill of Sale:** Containing the following information:

* Vin Number, Year, Make and Model
* Both the Seller and Buyers name, address, and signatures
* Date of sale
* Amount of sale

**Title:** These are required for the items listed below if they are 1995 or newer.

* All motor vehicles except special mobile equipment.
* Trailers over 3,000 lbs. (unladen weight)
* Motorcycles with engines 300 CC and over

Name on Title should be the name of the Seller, if not see special circumstances below. All fields on the top part of the backside of the Title must be clearly filled in. The State of Maine does not allow cross outs or white outs. If a mistake is made an MVT-16 form (essentially a form similar to the top part of the Title) needs to be clearly filled in and attached to the original Title.

**All owners** written on the front of the Title must sign the back of the Title and the Bill of Sale.

**Boats, ATV & Snowmobiles:** It is helpful but not necessary to have the previous owner’s last registration or the last sticker number. This just makes it easier to find the vehicle in MOSES, the Inland Fisheries & Wildlife system.

**Sales Tax:** The State of Maine requires you to pay Use Tax at the time of registration. This is 5.5% of the price paid.

**Special Circumstances on Titles:**

* Previous owner(s) is deceased: The seller needs to give you a copy of the Death Certificate as well as a copy of their Personal Representative papers. If the Seller is the spouse of the deceased and their name is on the Title, they also need to give you a copy of the Death Certificate.
* The Seller is not the name of the owner listed on the title: This could happen if the Seller never registered or titled the vehicle. The previous owner transferred ownership by filling in and signing the back of the title over to the Seller. The Seller needs to title the vehicle and sign that title over to you before you can register it.  **Or** give you the Bill of Sale they received from the Owner(s) on the title, the filled in Title with the Seller as the buyer, a clearly filled in MVT-16 form transferring ownership from the Seller to you and a Bill of Sale from the Seller to you. You will then have to pay for Double Title fee at time of registration ($66).
* The Seller is a third party: If the seller is not the owner on the title or the person listed as the buyer on the back of the title: The Seller must title before selling the vehicle.

**Disclaimer:** This information in no way covers all or every scenario, only the most common ones that we have seen in the Town Office. If you have questions, you can always call the Town Office and we can help direct you on this matter. If we do not have the answers, we can get them for you.