

# Abandoned Vehicle Filing Information

If you have received an Abandoned Vehicle Notice and you want your vehicle back or believe the towing/storage fees are unreasonable, please come into the courthouse with your Abandoned Vehicle Notice (TR52) form to initiate the case.

In order to initiate your case:

- The Notice must be filled out completely with recipient's signature within 20 days from the issue date on the Notice. Please note that if 20 days have passed since the issuance of your Notice, the court cannot accept your filing without Judicial approval.
- The filing party must provide a \$75 filing fee to initiate the case, along with \$40 in cash for the Abandoned Vehicle Fee to be issued to the State of Michigan **AND** post a cash bond in the amount of the towing/storage fees. If all of these requirements cannot be met in order to initiate the case, the court will need to seek judicial approval before accepting your case.
- Please appear in person to initiate your case.

Please see SCAO Memorandum below:

TO:	District and Municipal Court Judges, Court Administrators, and Clerks of the Court
FROM:	Jill Booth
RE:	Contesting the Abandonment Process or Towing and Storage Fees of Vehicles under MCL 257.252a et seq.

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[2008 PA 539](#) took effect January 13, 2009, and revises the process for contesting the abandonment process or towing and storage fees of vehicles under MCL 257.252a *et seq.* For a vehicle towed under MCL 257.252a or 257.252d, the court must now collect a bond in the amount of \$40 plus accrued towing and storage fees when a petition is filed( unless the accrued towing and storage fees have already been paid by the vehicle owner), even if the owner is not seeking release of the vehicle. The court also now has expanded authority to determine if the towing agency, custodian, or private property owner, in addition to the police agency, acted properly in reporting or processing an abandoned or removed vehicle. The new law also clarifies that the court must notify a private property owner of the hearing if the vehicle was removed from private property. This memo outlines the elements of the process. Please adjust your procedures accordingly.

**NOTE: Members of court staff are prohibited by law from giving any kind of legal advice. Additional information can be found at [www.michiganlegalhelp.org](http://www.michiganlegalhelp.org)**