

Title Transfer – Gift

Gifting a vehicle in California follows the same general process as a sale, but it requires an additional form to exempt the recipient from paying **use tax** (sales tax).

Step 1: Complete the Title

- Signatures:** Both the giver and recipient must sign the California Certificate of Title.
- Purchase Price:** In the field for the purchase price, the giver must write "**GIFT**".
- Odometer Disclosure:** Record the current mileage if the vehicle is less than 10 years old.

Step 2: File for Tax Exemption

- Statement of Facts (REG 256):** The recipient must complete this form to declare the vehicle is a gift. This is what waives the use tax.
- Family Transfers:** If the gift is between "qualified family members" (parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, spouse, or domestic partner), you may also be exempt from **smog certification** requirements, provided the registration is current.

Step 3: Notifying the DMV (Giver)

- [**Notice of Transfer and Release of Liability \(NRL\)**](#): The giver must submit this online or by mail within **5 days** of the transfer to release themselves from responsibility for the car.

Step 4: Submitting Paperwork (Recipient)

The recipient has **10 days** to submit the following to the DMV:

- The original signed **Title**.
- The completed **REG 256** form.
- Smog Certification:** Only required if the gift is **not** between immediate family members or if a biennial smog check is currently due.
- Transfer Fees:** Expect to pay a title transfer fee (roughly \$15) and a smog transfer fee (roughly \$8) if applicable. A duplicate title for lost titles is \$28.

Important Note on Liens

- A gifted vehicle cannot have an outstanding loan. You must provide a **Lien Satisfied (REG 166)** form or have the lienholder sign the title before it can be transferred.

Submit to DMV

When your checklist is complete, deliver all necessary documents for your title transfer to a DMV office or mail to:

DMV
PO Box 942869
Sacramento, CA 94269