Effective: January 1, 2018

New Policy
A surviving family member of a deceased firefighter (active, retired, or volunteer) may now apply for California Firefighter License Plates. A surviving family member is the spouse (including a domestic partner, excluding a former spouse) and any child (including an adopted child, stepchild, or recognized natural child) of a deceased firefighter (active, retired, or volunteer).

Procedures
In addition to following the current procedures in the Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual, Chapter 21, California Firefighter License Plates section, a surviving family member who wishes to apply for California Firefighter License Plates must submit a completed Special Recognition License Plate Application (REG 17A) form and one of the following:

- Fire department identification (ID).
- Membership card from the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF).
- California Professional Firefighters (CPF) membership card.

**NOTE:** When California Firefighter License Plates are purchased as a gift or by mail, a photocopy of the firefighter’s fire department ID or membership card from IAFF or CPF must accompany the application.

Background
Only regularly employed, retired, or volunteer firefighters were able to purchase California Firefighter License Plates. A firefighter is someone whose duties are, or have been prior to retirement, within the scope of active firefighting and of providing fire prevention service, fire training, hazardous materials abatement, arson investigation, and emergency medical services. California Firefighter License plates cannot be purchased by the general public.

New legislation amended California Vehicle Code §5101.2 to allow a surviving family member of a deceased firefighter (active, retired, or volunteer) to apply for California Firefighter License Plates.

Distribution
Notification that this memo is available online at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) under Publications was made via California DMV’s Automated Email Alert System in December 2017.

References
- California Vehicle Code §5101.2
- Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual §21.040
- VIN 2010-38 CA Firefighters Special Interest License Plates

Contact
Call the DMV Customer Communications Section at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo.