

810-5-1-.234. Personalized License Plates.

(1) An Alabama resident may obtain a personalized license plate by:

(a) Making application for said plate through the license plate issuing official of his/her county of residency.

(b) Obtaining approval by the Department of the requested license plate message through the license plate issuing official's office of his/her county of residency.

(c) Paying any additional fees provided by law, plus any standard fees due.

(d) Upon approval, the personalized license plate will be manufactured and shipped to the registrant.

(2) In accordance with Section 32-6-64, Code of Alabama 1975, the design of license plates, including all emblems, slogans, symbols, or characters appearing on the plates, shall be by rule as promulgated by the Commissioner of Revenue, and as otherwise specified by law. Therefore, no license plate may be manufactured and issued which contains objectionable language or symbols which are considered by the Department to be offensive to the peace and dignity of the State of Alabama.

(3) A person to whom a personalized license plate has been issued may elect to surrender said license plate to the license plate issuing official and request either a standard license plate or a or distinctive license plate. The issuing official may reissue the personalized license plate message to another person upon receipt of a letter from the message holder immediately releasing the message and collection of the additional fee plus any standard fees due. If the registration for a personalized license plate is not renewed for two (2) consecutive license years, the personalized license plate message may be assigned to another registrant.

(4) In accordance with Section 32-6-154, Code of Alabama 1975, personalized license plates may only be transferred in the following situations:

(a) When the vehicle is individually owned and the owner acquires a new vehicle.

(b) When there is joint ownership of a vehicle, and the ownership of that vehicle (or a newly acquired vehicle) changes to individual ownership by one of the original vehicle owners.

(c) When a vehicle owner trades for another vehicle which is subsequently to be titled in the name of a business which is a sole proprietorship of the vehicle owner.

(d) When the vehicle and license plate are transferred to a spouse or child.

(5) The term "pleasure motor vehicle", as used in Sections 32-6-150 and 32-6-130, Code of Alabama 1975, shall include those type vehicles commonly known as "motor homes," but shall not include motorcycles or non-self-propelled vehicles.

(6) The maximum number of alphanumeric characters permitted on a personalized-license plate shall be seven (7), and may be further limited so that alphanumeric characters on a license plate shall not obscure the approved design. The Department shall reject requests that will result in duplication of a personalized license plate message as provided under Section 32-6-153, Code of Alabama 1975.

(7) Anyone who has a personalized license plate may elect to change to another license plate category with the same personalized message. If so, the registrant will be required to pay the additional fee as provided under Section 32-6-150, Code of Alabama 1975, and surrender the current license plate if not expired.

(8) The license plate issuing official will issue, without charge, a sixty (60) day temporary license plate which shall be displayed until the requested license plate is received.

(9) The license plate issuing official may reissue a personalized license plate that has been revoked upon collecting the standard fee and additional fee as provided under Section 32-6-150, Code of Alabama 1975.

(10) If a personalized license plate message is rejected by the Department, the applicant may submit a request for review in writing to the Department. The denial or revocation of a personalized license plate message by the Department may be appealed by filing a notice of appeal with the Alabama Tax Tribunal pursuant to Section 40-2A-8, Code of Alabama 1975.

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