

A Newcomers Guide for
Military Families

Registering a Vehicle in North Carolina

Welcome to North Carolina. In an effort to simplify your transition to our state, the Goldsboro License Plate Agency and the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Family Support Center have prepared this information on registering your vehicles in our state.

In Goldsboro and Wayne County we are very proud of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and highly value our relationship. We have compiled the following information to help assure that you will have a positive experience when you visit the DMV License Plate Agency. If your vehicles are already registered in your home of record as shown on your LES, you are not required to register in North Carolina.

To register your vehicle in North Carolina, you must furnish the DMV License Plate Agency with the following:

- Your title--unless it is in the possession of a lienholder (if it is held by your lienholder we will need their name and address.)
- Current registration card from the state of prior registration
- Proof of liability insurance with a company licensed in North Carolina
- Picture identification--If the registrant is not available and the person registering has power of attorney, we will need their picture ID and a copy of the power of attorney.
- Current odometer reading

If you have previously titled and registered your vehicle in another state your fees for registering in North Carolina should be:

- \$35.00 title fee
- Approximately \$20.00 for a license plate for a car, \$21.50 for a small truck, \$12.00 for a motorcycle
- A Highway Use Tax of 3% based on the value of the vehicle, not to exceed \$150.00
- Notary fees when applicable.

If you have purchased a vehicle and it has not been registered in your name in another state you can expect to pay:

- \$35.00 title fee
- Approximately \$20.00 for a license plate for a car, \$21.50 for a small truck, \$12.00 for a motorcycle
- A Highway Use Tax of 3% based on the value of the vehicle. If you purchased the vehicle from a dealer and traded in a vehicle the tax is 3% of the trade difference.

Example: \$10,000.00 purchase price

5,000.00 trade in as show on the bill of sale

\$ 5,000.00 is the trade difference @ 3% Highway Use Tax = \$150.00

- If purchased from a dealer, we will need a bill of sale from the dealer in addition to the documents listed above.

After registering your vehicle in North Carolina, you have up to 10 days to get a vehicle safety inspection. The cost of a safety inspection in Wayne County is about \$9.50. Most service stations, automobile dealerships, and vehicle repair garages are licensed inspection stations.

County Ad Valorem property taxes are billed approximately 90 days after registration. When you receive this bill, if you are active duty military and your name is the one on the title and registration, take your current LES showing that North Carolina is not your home of record, to the Wayne County Tax Collector's Office in the Wayne County Court House and your taxes will be exempted. This military exemption is available only in Wayne County--not the surrounding counties.

License Plates

In North Carolina license plates are the property of the DMV and not the owner of the vehicle. They are issued for a full 12 month period and only valid as long as the registration remains current and continuous liability insurance coverage is in effect.

Registration must be renewed annually. License plates cannot be transferred from one owner to another. However, plates may be transferred among all vehicles under the same ownership upon application and payment of a \$10.00 fee at the DMV License Plate Agency. If your North Carolina license plate is lost or stolen a replacement plate may be purchased at the license plate agency.

Vehicle Liability Insurance Requirements

Don't make the mistake of canceling your vehicle liability insurance coverage before surrendering you license plate to the license plate agency. In North Carolina it is against the law to have an active NC plate without liability insurance coverage. If you are going to be gone for an extended time and are putting your vehicle in storage, before you cancel your liability insurance return your plate. The same applies if your vehicle is inoperable and you park it. If you allow your insurance to lapse for any period of time, you will receive a letter from DMV. Do not ignore this letter. If you ignore the letter, DMV may revoke your license plate and require you to park your vehicle for 30 days. There could also be fines up to \$100.00 per vehicle. Bring your letter to the license plate agency immediately along with your current insurance information and let us help you get it straightened out.

The same rule applies to changing your liability insurance coverage from one company to another. To avoid a lapse in coverage, make certain that you purchase your new liability insurance policy before canceling your old one. Purchase coverage before the renewal date rather than going into a policy reinstatement period which can create a lapse in liability coverage.

Tips

- Our business hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- We accept cash and checks only
- North Carolina is a compulsory liability insurance state. You cannot register your vehicle without this information.
- The minimum fine for a lapse of insurance coverage is \$50.00.
- It is a good idea to get your vehicle safety inspection as soon as possible after registering.
- Child safety seats are mandatory for children age three and under.