

CALIFORNIA VEHICLE BILL OF SALE

This bill of sale records a private vehicle sale. It does not transfer ownership on its own: the signed certificate of title does. Keep one signed copy each.

1. SELLER

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Driver license / ID no.: _____

2. BUYER

Full name (first, middle, last): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Driver license / ID no.: _____

3. VEHICLE

Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____

Body style: _____ Color: _____

Vehicle identification number (VIN): _____

Title number: _____ License plate no.: _____

Odometer reading at sale: _____ miles

Odometer status: ☐ Actual mileage ☐ Exceeds mechanical limits ☐ Not the actual mileage

4. SALE

Date of sale: _____ Sale price: \$ _____

Payment: ☐ Cash ☐ Cashier's check ☐ Bank transfer ☐ Other: _____

☐ Gift (no payment). Relationship to buyer: _____

The seller states that they own the vehicle described above, have the right to sell it, and that it is free of liens except: _____
_____. The vehicle is sold AS IS, with no warranty, express or implied, unless written here:

Motorcycle engine no. (motorcycles only): _____ Gift value (if a gift): \$ _____

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

5. SIGNATURES

Seller signature: _____ Date: _____

Second seller (if any): _____ Date: _____

Buyer signature: _____ Date: _____

Second buyer (if any): _____ Date: _____

AFTER THE SALE IN CALIFORNIA

[] Seller: sign the title and give the buyer a valid smog certification (not needed for a car under four years old, but the buyer then pays a smog transfer fee; also not needed for exempt vehicles such as gasoline 1975 and older or electric, or for a gift from a close family member).

[] Seller: file the Notice of Transfer and Release of Liability (NRL) with the DMV within 5 calendar days of the sale (Vehicle Code section 5900), online or on form REG 138.

[] Buyer: report the change of ownership to the DMV within 10 days with the signed title and pay the transfer fee and use tax (at the rate for your registration address).

For model year 2011 and newer vehicles less than 20 model years old, federal law requires an odometer disclosure when ownership changes. Record the mileage here too, so both of you keep a record.

Sources, checked October 13, 2026: California DMV: "Title Transfers and Changes", "Notice of Transfer and Release of Liability", Registration Procedures Manual 1.020, "Smog Inspections" and form REG 135 (dmv.ca.gov); CDTFA Tax Guide for Purchasers of Vehicles (cdtfa.ca.gov). Fees and forms change: confirm with the agency before you file. This template is general information, not legal advice. LegalTemplateVault.com is not a law firm.