

West Virginia Department of Transportation



Application for a Surviving Spouse Special Military License Plate

Notes and Instructions

This application is for the surviving spouse of a veteran who wishes to resume the use of the special military license plate which belonged to the deceased veteran. The surviving spouse is eligible to use the special military plate until his or her remarriage, non-renewal, or death.

License Plate Instructions

- Use this form **only** if the surviving spouse has, after the death of the veteran, obtained another license plate for the vehicle.
- The surviving spouse is responsible for paying any applicable renewal fees.
- There are no refunds of any fees for exchanged plates.
- Your current license plate **must** be returned to the DMV.

Vehicle Titling Instructions

After the death of a vehicle owner, the surviving spouse, executor, or estate administrator should always remove the name of the decedent from the vehicle title. This is necessary for insurance and tax purposes, and will alleviate any issues that may arise later for legal heirs.

- ***In order to transfer the title of a jointly owned vehicle*** (OR appears between the two names) into the surviving spouse's name, the surviving spouse signs the back of the title as the seller. The surviving spouse then completes the remainder of the title, signs as the purchaser, and completes the bottom section of the title as the purchaser.
- ***If the title is in the name of the deceased only*** (AND appears between the two names) the administrator or executor of the estate signs as the seller, and the surviving spouse signs as the purchaser. If the word **AND** appears between the names, the surviving spouse must sign as one of the sellers. A copy of the court appointment papers should accompany the application for the transfer of the title. The surviving spouse must also complete the bottom section of the title as the purchaser.

In both instances, the surviving spouse should submit:

- The properly assigned title
- The odometer disclosure information
- Current, valid insurance information
- The current registration card for the vehicle being titled

There are no fees for the transfer of title if the surviving spouse is the **legal heir** and a copy of the court appointment papers are submitted.

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING A REPLACEMENT PLATE, PLEASE ALLOW 60 DAYS FOR DELIVERY.