



PAT McCRORY  
Governor

NICHOLAS J. TENNYSON  
Secretary

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**Official Bulletin #235**

To: All License Plate Agencies  
All Driver License Offices  
Field Services Personnel  
License and Theft Bureau  
Processing Services  
Communications Unit  
CVR  
Dealer Track  
Franchise Dealers  
Independent Dealers

From: Portia Manley, Director of Field Services  
N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PM', is written over the text 'Director of Field Services'.

Subject: House Bill 959 – Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship (JTWROS)

Effective January 1, 2017, House Bill 959, Section 10.5(a) adds verbiage to G.S. 20-52(a). The statute now reads, “An owner of a vehicle subject to registration must apply to the Division for a certificate of title, a registration plate, and a registration card for the vehicle. To apply, an owner must complete an application provided by the Division. The application shall contain a preprinted option that co-owners may use to title the vehicle as joint tenancy with right of survivorship. The co-owners’ designation of a joint tenancy with right of survivorship on the application shall be valid notwithstanding whether this designation appears on the assignment of title.”

Effective, January 1, 2017 when joint customers apply for a North Carolina title, they will now have the option on the North Carolina Title Application form (MVR-1) to check whether or not they want to have the title in Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship (JTWROS). If they chose yes, the title will be printed with “JTW” behind their name. Although customers previously could apply for this designation on their title just by asking for it to be added, the check box allows this to be offered to all joint registrants.

Also, a new form, Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship (JTWROS) Affidavit (MVR-620) has been created for customers to complete when they have already completed an outdated version of the North Carolina Title Application form (MVR-1) or the back of the North Carolina Title (MVR-191) Section B or C.

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The system-generated MVR-1 forms will be updated with the JTWR0S check box effective January 1, 2017. The North Carolina Title form (MVR-191) will be revised once current stock is depleted.

**Policies:**

- Title work for vehicles sold **before** February 1, 2017 will be accepted without the new form.
- Title work for vehicles sold **on or after** February 1, 2017 must have one of the following:
  - A North Carolina Title Application (MVR-1, Revised 1-2017)
  - Or, a Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship form (MVR-620)
- Branch agents must ask joint registrants at the time of service if they want the vehicle titled in Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship, unless the customer has already provided the MVR-1 or MVR-620 with the selection indicated. This will allow the agent to process the application correctly in STARS. (Once the title application prints, the customer will need to check the box that correlates with their request. The system is not programmed to check the box for the customer.)
- Online dealers should have a completed MVR-1 or MVR-620 with the customer's selection indicated that they will use to process the application correctly in CVR or Dealer Track.
- This is only for joint applicants. (This means 2 or more.)
- No relationship is required of the applicants to each other.
- One of the boxes must be checked if in joint ownership or the work will be rejected.
- A Power of Attorney can be used to check one of the boxes.
- Applications in a single name with one of the boxes checked, will not be rejected, however, "JTW" will not be placed on the title. (If you receive the previous version of the MVR-1 in a single owner's name, do not reject the application as this does not apply to a single owner.)
- This is not for businesses, corporations, trust, etc.
- Customers that did not have the selection option OR that want to change their selection after the application has been processed and the work cannot be backed out, must apply and pay for a title correction. All owners must sign the MVR-5 and the MVR-620.
- Titles that have been issued incorrectly due to department error will be corrected at no fee.
- Titles that have been issued by online dealers incorrectly will require an MVR-5 and MVR-620 signed by all owners and payment for the correction.
- Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship, JTWR0S or JTW, simply means that the title can be transferred to the surviving owner or a new buyer upon death by producing the title and a death certificate for the deceased owner.

- Customers asking legal questions concerning the Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship, other than transferring the title, should seek legal counsel.
- Titles that do not have JTW or have JTW behind only one name, but the title application on image shows that the box for JTW was checked are considered to be registered in Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship.

Attachments: NC Title Application (MVR-1)  
Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship Affidavit (MVR-620)