

California Vehicle & Civil Codes

Vehicle Codes

10652.5: Notice to Legal Owner

Storage to the legal owner does not continue past the 15th day unless certified notice is sent to the legal owner by the 13th day. After the mailing, storage to the legal owner resumes three days after the notice is sent.

14602.6 & .7: 30 Day Impounds

If a vehicle is impounded due to fleeing an officer or speed contest and the legal owner repossesses the vehicle, the legal owner does not have to pay any lien fees within 15 days.

22524.5: Smog Certificate

The buyer is responsible for the smog certificate as long as the buyer signs an agreement of responsibility and the towing company sends a Notice of Transfer to the DMV.

22658: Private Property Removal

The person requesting the tow and the towing company must notify law enforcement.

22669: Abandoned Vehicles

To get a Reg 462 or junk slip the vehicle must be towed under this code and be valued at \$500 or less or have no vin number.

22670: Valuation of Vehicle

The impounding agency should value the vehicle on the 180 form, if they do not or will not, after three days the garage keeper may value the vehicle.

22850.3: Registration Posting

Towing companies are required to post a notice stating that for law enforcement impounds that are out of registration, proof of current registration must be presented to law enforcement before release. The notice must list the names and phone numbers of all law enforcement agencies.

22851: Lien on Stored Vehicle

The maximum storage on vehicle stored per civil code 3068.1 when the vehicle is \$4000 or less is 60 days. If it is over \$4000 the maximum is 120 days if the lien application is filed within 30 days.

22851b: Personal Property

No lien shall attach to any personal property in the vehicle. The personal property in or on the vehicle shall be given to the current registered owner upon demand. The lien holder shall not be responsible for personal property after any vehicle has been disposed of.

Civil Codes

3068: Mechanic's Liens

You have 15 days from the date the work or estimate is completed to present the owner with a written statement of charges. After the owner is given a statement of charges or the work is completed, you have 30 days to start lien proceedings.

The legal owner is not responsible for repairs over \$750, or storage over \$400 (under \$4000) to \$500 (over \$4000) unless you receive written permission from them prior to starting the work.

3068.1: Liens on Towed or Impounded Vehicles

For vehicles valued at \$4000 or less the DMV printout must be requested by the 15th day for storage to continue. 120 days maximum if an opposition is filed, if the vehicle is out of state, if the vin number is altered or an interested party becomes known after the lien has been mailed. After 24 hours, storage is calculated on a calendar basis.

3068.2: Deficiency Claim

The towing company has a claim against the registered owner for total towing, storage and lien fees, less the amount received from the sale of the vehicle. The transferred owner is responsible if they received a Notice of Transfer and are responsible for abandoning the vehicle.

3071h 1&2 – 3072g 1&2: License Plate Removal

Following the sale of a vehicle, the person who conducts the sale shall do both of the following: (1) Remove and destroy the vehicle's license plates and (2) Submit a completed Notice of Release of Liability for to the DMV.

3074: Lien Preparation Costs

There shall be no lien charge before 72 hours of storage.

\$4000 or less: \$35 maximum when the printout is requested. \$70 maximum when the lien agent has mailed the lien documents.

Over \$4000: \$50 maximum when the printout is requested. \$100 maximum when the lien agent has mailed the notice of pending lien documents after the DMV has authorized the lien sale.