

Selling a Car in North Carolina

A one-page checklist for private sellers. Tick each box as you go.

1. BEFORE YOU SELL

- ☐ Find your **certificate of title**. Lost it? Apply for a duplicate (NCDMV form MVR-4) before you list the car.
- ☐ Have a loan? Ask your lender for a **payoff amount** and how they release the lien and title.
- ☐ Set a price: check what similar cars sell for, and decide your lowest number before you talk to anyone.
- ☐ Gather service records, both keys, the owner's manual and anything else that comes with the car.
- ☐ Clean the car and take clear photos in daylight.

2. PAPERWORK TO HAVE READY

- ☐ **Title** in your name, with no erasures or white-out.
- ☐ **Lien release** from your lender, if there was a lien.
- ☐ **Odometer Disclosure Statement (MVR-180)** if the vehicle needs one. Models 2010 or older are exempt at 10 years; 2011 and newer are exempt at 20 years.
- ☐ **Damage Disclosure Statement (MVR-181)**.
- ☐ **Bill of sale** (recommended: free template at sellcarnc.com/resources/nc-bill-of-sale).
- ☐ Your driver license or ID.

3. MEETING THE BUYER

- ☐ Meet somewhere public and well lit, in daytime, and bring a friend if you can.
- ☐ Let the buyer inspect and test drive. Ride along and keep the keys until you have been paid.
- ☐ Never hand over the title before you are paid in full.
- ☐ Be wary of overpayment offers, checks from third parties, and anyone who wants to pay later.

4. CLOSING THE SALE

- ☐ Take payment: cash you count and verify, or a cashier's check you confirm with the issuing bank.
- ☐ Complete the back of the title. **A North Carolina title must be notarized.** Do not sign until the notary is with you.
- ☐ Sign the **bill of sale** and the **MVR-180 / MVR-181** with the buyer. Each of you keeps a copy.
- ☐ Write down the date and time of delivery.

5. AFTER THE SALE

- ☐ **Remove your license plate.** In North Carolina the plate stays with the owner, not the car. Transfer it to another vehicle or surrender it.
- ☐ Keep copies of the title (front and back), bill of sale and forms for your records.
- ☐ Ask NCDMV and your insurer what to do before you cancel insurance, so you do not create a coverage gap on a registered plate.
- ☐ Take down your listing and any ads.

A general-purpose checklist from SellCarNC. It is not legal advice and may not cover your situation. NCDMV rules and forms change, so confirm requirements at ncdot.gov/dmv before you complete a sale. Requirements shown reflect NCDMV forms MVR-180 and MVR-181 (rev. 04/26). Official NCDMV forms and rules: ncdot.gov/dmv.

Selling your car? Free cash offer: sellcarnc.com | (252) 351-6151

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