



Electronic Vehicle Registration (EVR)

Surviving Spouse

MassDOT – RMV Division
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
25 Newport Ave., Extension
North Quincy, MA 02171

COPYRIGHT

This document is the property of Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) Division. This information cannot be copied or used by any other agent without the granted permission of the MassDOT – Registry Division.

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Overview	3
Surviving Spouse Transaction Process	5
Appendices	6
References	11

Change Log

Change	Description	Date Updated/Version Number
Eligible Plate List/Surviving Spouse Plate Fees	Removed DRAFT notation from document. Updated eligible plate list. Clarified that fees are pro-rated (apportioned) based on transfer/renewal dates.	02/26/2025 – V1.0

Introduction

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) Electronic Vehicle Registration (EVR) Program provides participating Permit Holders and Service Providers with the ability to process certain transactions on behalf of their customers. For more information, review the [EVR Program Details](#).

Overview

The Surviving Spouse transaction is available as an EVR transaction for insurance agents/agencies only.

By [Law](#), a Surviving Spouse legally inherits a private passenger motor vehicle titled in Massachusetts from his/her deceased spouse, unless otherwise specified in a will. The inherited vehicle's registration will remain active until the date specified on such registration. In most cases, the Surviving Spouse may transfer ownership of the vehicle to themselves, retain the same plate, and does not need to pay tax, title, or registration fees. There are certain conditions and rules that are outlined below associated with this transaction. Note that the Surviving Spouse transaction also supports the circumstance where the Surviving Spouse is seeking to title the vehicle in their name without registering it.

Surviving Spouse

To qualify as a Surviving Spouse, the customer (new registrant) must have been married to the deceased person at the time of death. Live-in companions and ex-spouses do not qualify.

Registration Status

The vehicle registration must be active in order to process the Surviving Spouse transaction. In addition:

- If the registration is expired, it may be renewed once in the deceased spouse's name before transferring to surviving spouse
- If the registration is suspended or revoked, the reason for the suspension or revocation must be resolved prior to processing the Surviving Spouse transaction.
- If the registration has any non-renewal actions, they must be addressed prior to processing the Surviving Spouse transaction.

Applicable Registrations/Restricted Registrations

In general, most private passenger registrations are eligible to be transferred to the Surviving Spouse. A list of all of the applicable plates for EVR can be found in [Appendix B](#). Commercial Plates are **not** allowed as part of a Surviving Spouse transaction.

Plates that **cannot** be transferred to a Surviving Spouse:

- Disability
- Medical Doctor (MD)
- Disabled Veterans
- National Guard
- Governor's Council
- News Photographer
- Ham Operator

- US Senate/Senate
- House/House Members
- US Congress
- Honorary Consular Corps

In these instances, the person can still process the Surviving Spouse transaction providing new passenger plates are assigned and the fees paid for the new registration.

Plates Subject to Specific Conditions and Fees

A Surviving Spouse can transfer a Veterans' Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Pearl Harbor Survivor, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Congressional Medal of Honor, or Legion of Valor registration plate to him/herself until remarriage, cancellation, or non-renewal, but must pay the initial registration fee* of up to \$100 and the renewal fee* of up to \$100.

***NOTE:** Registration and renewal fees charged are pro-rated, based on the transfer date and renewal month/year.

If the Deceased is a Veteran that never obtained these plates or cancelled them, the Surviving Spouse is eligible to obtain a new set of plates until remarriage, cancellation, or non-renewal.

A Surviving Spouse can transfer an Ex-POW plate (until remarriage, cancellation, or non-renewal) for no fee. A Surviving Spouse can transfer a Gold Star plate only if he/she is the parent of the deceased.

Title Status Required in order to Process a Surviving Spouse Transaction

- The deceased spouse's title must be a Massachusetts-issued title.
- The deceased spouse's title must be active.
- The deceased spouse's title must not have any active liens.

Required Documents

All Surviving Spouse transactions require the following documents:

- Decedent's Title, signed on the back and assigned to the Surviving Spouse.
 - **NOTE:** The Title is required to process the Surviving Spouse transaction.
- Completed [Registration and Title Application \(RTA Form\)](#), on which the Surviving Spouse is listed as the sole owner. If the vehicle is being registered, the RTA must be stamped by an authorized agent of the insurance company.
- [Affidavit of Surviving Spouse Form](#) (this can be signed electronically).
- Death Certificate which lists the name of the deceased spouse (a photocopy is acceptable).

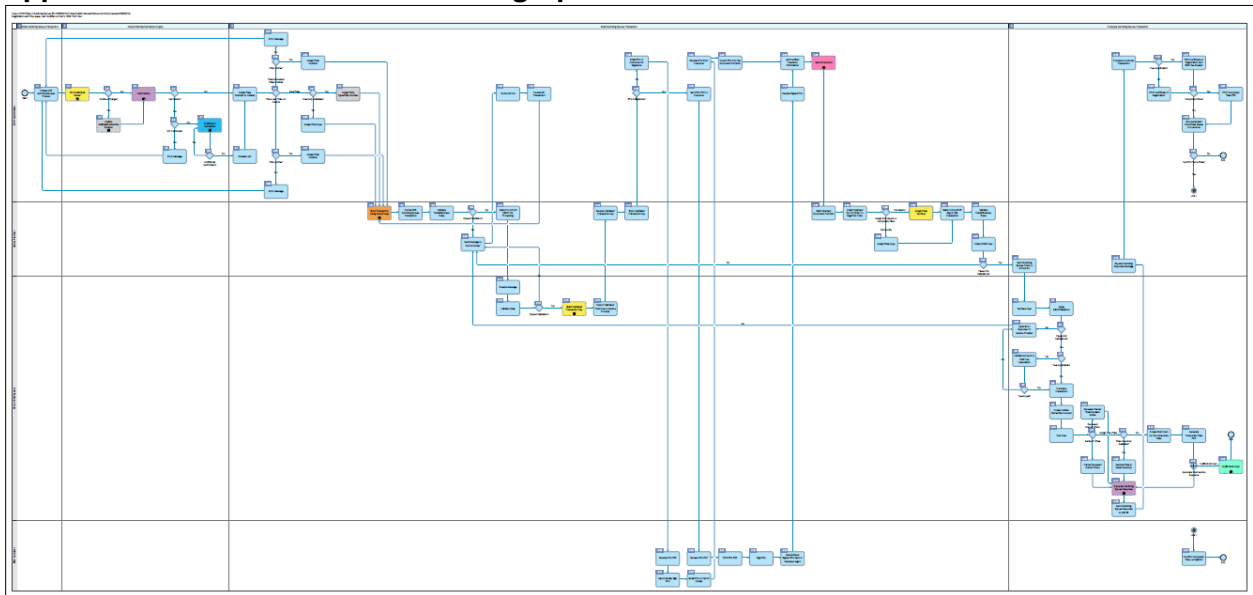
Surviving Spouse Transaction Process

Follow the steps below to process a Surviving Spouse transaction.

1. Search and find the Surviving Spouse (sic proposed owner).
 - If the owner/registrant is found, retain the ATLAS Entity Key(s).
2. Search for the specific vehicle. If the vehicle is found, retain the ATLAS Vehicle Key. If not found, the Surviving Spouse transaction cannot be processed.
3. Select the Surviving Spouse transaction.
4. Build the Surviving Spouse transaction using stored Keys. This reflects the step in the transaction flow where the Service Provider constructs the Surviving Spouse transaction using the following Keys:
 - **Vehicle:** the Vehicle Key.
 - **Previous Title:** The previous Title Key for a vehicle that was previously Titled on ATLAS.
 - **Title Brands:** If applicable.
 - **Ownership:** The Ownership Key that reflects the proposed owner of the vehicle.
 - **Options:** Select one of the following Registration Options:
 - **Option 1:** Surviving Spouse retains the deceased owner's vehicle using the same registration plate.
 - **Option 2:** Surviving Spouse retains the vehicle and transfers their own plate onto the vehicle.
 - **Option 3:** Surviving Spouse retains the vehicle and chooses to be registered with a new plate.
 - **Option 4:** Surviving Spouse retains only the vehicle and applies for a Title Only.
5. The RMV will validate the information as submitted and if everything validates, return a Validated Transaction Key to the Service Provider. The Service Provider must retain this Key to finalize the Surviving Spouse transaction. If there are problems or issues with the validation, the RMV will return one-to-many errors.
6. Document Scanning:
 - a. Tag and scan the previous Title.
 - b. Tag and scan the [Registration and Title Application \(RTA Form\)](#).
 - c. Tag and scan the Death Certificate of the deceased spouse.
 - d. Tag and scan the Affidavit of Surviving Spouse.
 - e. Tag and scan all other supporting documents as **Other**.
7. Process the Surviving Spouse transaction and collect the applicable fee(s).
8. Print the RMV Fee Receipt and Certificate of Registration to provide to the customer.
9. The Surviving Spouse process is complete.

Appendices

Appendix A: Process Flow – Surviving Spouse:



Appendix B: List of Plates Eligible for Surviving Spouse Transaction in EVR:

<i>Plate Type</i>	<i>Plate Type Description</i>	<i>EVR Eligible for Surviving Spouse Transaction</i>
CBAOPL	ALS One	Y
SPANTQ	Antique	Y
MCANTQ	Antique Motorcycle	Y
SPATQV	Antique Vanity	Y
CBHFPL	Basketball Hall of Fame	Y
CBBVPL	Blackstone Valley	Y
VTBSPL	Bronze Star	Y
CBBUPL	Bruins	Y
CBCIPL	Cape and Island	Y
CBCAPL	Cape Ann	Y
CBCLPL	Celtics	Y
CBCHPL	Choose Life	Y
VTMOH	Congressional Medal of Honor	Y
CBCCPL	Conquer Cancer	Y
CBBRPL	Cure Breast Cancer	Y
VTDFPL	Distinguished Flying Cross	Y
SPETPL	Electric Vehicle	Y
CBDRPL	Dr. Seuss	Y
VTXPPL	Ex-POW	Y
CBFHPL	Fallen Heroes	Y
CBFFPL	Fire Fighters Memorial	Y

CBFWPL	Fish and Wildlife	Y
CBFMPL	Free Masons	Y
CBFLPL	Fresh and Local	Y
CBHHPL	Habitat and Heritage	Y
CBICPL	Invest in Children	Y
VTLGOV	Legion of Valor	Y
CBMVPL	Martha's Vineyard	Y
CBACPL	Mass Animal Coalition	Y
MCMSBS	Motorcycle Bronze Star	Y
MCMSDF	Motorcycle Distinguished Flying Cross	Y
MCMSEP	Motorcycle Ex-POW	Y
MCMSGF	Motorcycle Gold Star Family	Y
MCGFVY	Motorcycle Gold Star Family Vanity	Y
MCMSLV	Motorcycle Legion of Valor	Y
MCMSMH	Motorcycle Medal of Honor	Y
MCMCYL	Motorcycle Normal	Y
MCMSPR	Motorcycle Pearl Harbor	Y
MCMSPH	Motorcycle Purple Heart	Y
RSMCMY	Motorcycle Reserved	Y
MCMSSS	Motorcycle Silver Star	Y
MCVNTY	Motorcycle Vanity	Y
CBNTPL	Nantucket Island	Y
CBNEPL	New England Patriots	Y
CBOYPL	Olympic Spirit	Y
CBPMPL	Pan Mass Challenge	Y
PANPL	Passenger Normal Red	Y
RSPAPL	Passenger Reserved	Y
PAVNTY	Passenger Vanity	Y
VTPLPL	Pearl Harbor Survivor	Y
CBPLPL	Plymouth 400	Y
CBSPPL	Protect and Serve	Y
VTHTPL	Purple Heart	Y
CBRXPL	Red Sox	Y
ONLPL	Registered Nurse	Y
CBRWPL	Right Whale	Y
VTSSPL	Silver Star	Y
ETSBPL	Striped Bass	Y
CBUMPL	UMass	Y
CBUSPL	United We Stand	Y
VTVFPL	Veteran Flag Plate	Y
VTVTPL	Veteran Plate	Y
CBRLPL	Welcome Home	Y

CBWTPL	White Shark	Y
YMYROM	Year of Manufacture	Y
MCYRMF	Year of Manufacture (Motorcycle)	Y

MCBLKN	Blue Knight	N
RNBRNS	Bruins (Old Plate)	N
RNBSCCL	Celtics (Old Plate)	N
DCFENW	Fenway Park	N
VTGSPL	Gold Star Family	N
VTGSFV	Gold Star Family Vanity Plate	N
GVGOVC	Governor's Council	N
TAGFMG	Greenfield Montague Transit Authority	N
SPHAMO	Ham Radio Operator	N
CMCHSE	Hearse Commercial	N
RSCHSE	Hearse Reserved	N
GVCONC	Honorary Consular Corps	N
GVHOUS	House	N
SPLUPL	Limited Use	N
LVLUPL	Livery Limited Use	N
LVNMPL	Livery Normal	N
LVRSPPL	Livery Reserved	N
LVVNTY	Livery Vanity	N
SPLWPL	Low Speed	N
TALWTA	Lowell Transit Authority	N
TAMV_2	Martha's Vineyard SE Transit Authority (MVTA)	N
TAMV_1	Martha's Vineyard SE Transit Authority (VTA)	N
TAMBTA	Mass Bay Transit Authority	N
DCMAMW	Mass House Majority Whip	N
DCMAHS	Mass House Speaker	N
TAMTPA	Mass Turnpike Transit Authority	N
SPMDPL	Medical Doctor	N
TAMMVT	Merrimac Valley Transit Authority	N
DCMDCM	Metro District Commercial	N
TAMWRT	MetroWest Transit Authority	N
TAMTRG	Montachusett Transit Authority	N
MOPED	Moped	N
MCSPHC	Motorcycle Disabled	N
EMAMBL	Ambulance	N
RSAMBL	Ambulance Reserved	N
EMAMBA	Animal Ambulance	N
IRVNOM	Apportioned Normal	N

DCIRVR	Apportioned Reserved	N
DCIRVV	Apportioned Vanity	N
TAATRG	Attleboro Transit Authority	N
TABKRG	Berkshire Transit Authority	N
S5BDNL	Boat Dealer Normal	N
TABRRG	Brockton Transit Authority	N
BUSNML	Bus Normal	N
RSBUSR	Bus Reserved	N
BUSVNY	Bus Vanity	N
RCCMPN	Camper Normal	N
RSCAMP	Camper Reserved	N
RCCMPV	Camper Vanity	N
TACATA	Cape Ann Transit Authority	N
TACCTR	Cape Cod Transit Authority	N
DCCAPO	Capitol Police	N
DCCPMY	Capitol Police Motorcycle	N
CMCOMM	Commercial Normal	N
CMCETC	Commercial Electric	N
DCCFRM	Commercial Farm Tractor	N
CMCLTD	Commercial Limited Use	N
RSCOMM	Commercial Reserved	N
CMCVNY	Commercial Vanity	N
S5MDNL	Dealer Motorcycle Normal	N
S5NMDL	Dealer Normal	N
S5VYDL	Dealer Vanity	N
HCRGPL	Disabled Parking	N
RNHVTY	Disabled Vanity	N
VTDSPL	Disabled Veteran	N
EMAMBV	Emergency Vehicle	N
POENPL	Environmental Police	N
POMCEN	Environmental Police Motorcycle	N
S5FMDL	Farm Normal	N
DCFRFT	Fire Fighter	N
DCFRMS	Fire Marshall	N
SPFORG	Foreign Organization	N
TAFRRT	Franklin Transit Authority	N
VTMOL	Medal of Liberty	N
MCMSLU	Motorcycle Limited Use	N
MCMNCP	Motorcycle Municipal	N
POMSTP	Motorcycle Police	N
MPMNCP	Municipal	N
MPBOST	Municipal Boston	N

MPHDCP	Municipal Disabled	N
MPFIRE	Municipal Fire	N
MPPLCE	Municipal Police	N
TANKRE	Nantucket Transit Authority	N
MLNGPL	National Guard	N
SPNWSP	News Photographer	N
S5ORNL	Owner/Contractor Normal	N
MCMSVT	Motorcycle Veteran	N
PASLTY	Passenger Lottery	N
RNPSNG	Passenger Normal Green	N
TAPVLT	Pioneer Valley Transit Authority	N
MCRDKN	Red Knight	N
DCRMVN	Registry	N
DCRMVM	Registry Motorcycle	N
S5ORDC	Repair Normal	N
S5RPVY	Repair Vanity	N
BSSBNL	School Bus Normal	N
RSSBUS	School Bus Reserved	N
HCSPHC	School Pupil Disabled	N
7DPUPL	School Pupil Normal	N
STSEMI	Semi-Trailer	N
RSSTRL	Semi-Trailer Reserved	N
GVMASN	Senate (Massachusetts)	N
DCSNPR	Senate President	N
CMSWRV	Snow Removal Commercial	N
TASERG	Southeastern Regional Transit Authority	N
HCSTHC	State Disabled	N
MCSTAT	State Motorcycle	N
POSTPO	State Police	N
GVSTVH	State Vehicle	N
TXLTDU	Taxi Limited Use	N
TXNRML	Taxi Normal	N
RSTAXI	Taxi Reserved	N
TEMPLT	Temporary Plate	N
TRTRLR	Trailer	N
RSTRLR	Trailer Reserved	N
TATRPO	Transit Police	N
TATRPM	Transit Police Motorcycle	N
S5TPNL	Transporter Normal	N
RNUSOL	USA Olympic Team (Old Plate)	N
GVHORP	US Congress (House of Representatives)	N
GVUSSN	US Senate	N

TAVPNL	Van Pool	N
TAWTRE	Water Resources Transit Authority	N
TAWCRT	Worcester Transit Authority	N

References

[RMV Business Partners](#)

[Electronic Vehicle Registration \(EVR\) Program](#)

[Electronic Vehicle Registration \(EVR\) Program Documents](#)

[Massachusetts General Laws \(MGL c.90 § 2\) – Includes Surviving Spouse Details](#)