

## MOTOR VEHICLE TITLES and REGISTRATION

The title to a motor vehicle must be transferred within 20 working days of the actual purchase to avoid penalties. After that date, a 5% penalty is assessed on the amount of motor vehicle tax due. After an additional 30 calendar days, an additional 5% (total 10%) penalty applies. In addition, if the vehicle was currently registered on the date of the sales and if title is not transferred within the first 20 working days, a \$10.00 penalty is assessed. The State of Texas imposes a motor vehicle sales and use tax of 6.25% times the net price of any vehicle owned in this state by a Texas resident. A deduction is allowed for the trade in amount of any motor vehicle. This tax is also imposed at the time of initial registration on the cost of leased vehicles. New Texas residents pay a flat \$90.00 tax on each vehicle, whether leased or owned when they establish a Texas resident. The only requirement for this tax to apply is that the vehicle must have been registered in the name of the owner in another state. The cost of a new title is \$28.00. If the vehicle is currently registered there is a \$2.50 charge to transfer the registration to the new owner. If the Texas registration on your new vehicle is expired when you transfer the title, we will re-set the month of expiration to a period of twelve months including the month in which you record the transfer in our office.

Title to your vehicle may be issued under certain circumstances without any requirement to register the vehicle. If you want to title your vehicle without registering it you must surrender any license plates and windshield sticker displayed on the vehicle. You may not drive the vehicle on any public road during the time it remains unregistered.

Registration for a car is based on its age. Full year registration for a car is based on its age. (Full year registration for a 2004, 2005 or 2006 car is \$60.80; full year registration for a 2001, 2002 or 2003 car is \$52.80; full year registration for a 2000 or older car is \$42.80.) Truck and motor home registration is based on the

fully loaded weight of the vehicle. In addition, Bell County charges an \$11.50 local fee on the registration of all vehicles except farm vehicles. This fee is set by the Commissioners Court and is used to pay for maintenance and improvements of county roads.

Your motor vehicle registration expires after the fifth WORKING day after the end of the month listed on your registration receipt (the month punched in your registration windshield sticker). If you are apprehended (given a citation) fro driving with expired registration, you will be charged a penalty of 20% of the state registration fee (minus the \$.30 annual reflectorization fee) in addition to being required to pay for the time your vehicle was not registered. In all other cases your registration fee will be a full year's fee (without penalty) and based on your response to the question: "Why is this vehicle not currently registered?" It will either be the original year, including the months your vehicle has not been registered OR will be for twelve months beginning with the month of your registration renewal.

Each time you register your vehicle or renew the registration for your vehicle, you are required to provide proof that the vehicle meets requirements of Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act. The Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act provides that no motor vehicle may be operated in the State of Texas unless Liability Insurance coverage for the vehicle is at least the minimum amounts indicated below remains in effect to insure against potential losses:

1. \$20,000.00 because of bodily injury to or death of one person in any accident,
2. \$40,000.00 because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident, subject to limit of \$20,000.00 for one person, and
3. \$15,000.00 because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one accident.

This provision does not apply to motor vehicles which are exempt from the insurance requirement of this Act.