



Fact Sheet

Competing Claims for Ownership of a Vehicle

This fact sheet provides general information relating to disputed ownership matters involving the grant and transfer of vehicle licences in accordance with the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012* (the Act).

Does a vehicle licence document prove ownership of a vehicle?

No. The term 'owner' is used within the Act to refer to the person entitled to immediate possession and responsible for the licencing and insurance of the vehicle and is not evidence of actual title to the vehicle.

Can another person license a vehicle (owned by me) in their name?

Yes. Provided the application for the grant or transfer of a vehicle licence is complete and contains all the required details in accordance with the Act, a licence can be granted or transferred to that person's name.

What is the purpose of a vehicle licence document?

To enable the vehicle to lawfully be used on the road and ensure that it is covered by a policy of third party insurance.

The details recorded on the document are those of the licence holder of that vehicle. The licence holder of the vehicle may or may not be the owner of the vehicle.

How do I resolve a dispute regarding the legal ownership of a vehicle?

The issue of who may have ownership/legal title to a vehicle is a question of property rights. Any dispute as to property rights to a vehicle is a civil matter and you may choose to get legal advice.

DoT does not have the lawful power to resolve any dispute involving title to a vehicle or to assist in such a dispute.

For assistance with initial legal advice you may wish to contact:

Legal Aid WA

PO Box L916
PERTH WA 6842
1300 650 579

Law Society of Western Australia

PO Box Z5245
PERTH WA 6831
(08) 9324 8600

