

## TEMPORARY OPERATION PERMITS

Notice #08-17

County Clerk Notice

September 2008



## Highlights

- *Temporary Operation Permits allow owners the opportunity to use their vehicles while seeking permanent registration for their vehicles*
- *Generally, applicants are only allowed two TOPs*
- *Special situations outlined in Tennessee law allow vehicles to receive TOPs*
- *Proper identification is required of each applicant*



## References:

T.C.A. § 55-4-115

**INTRODUCTION**

This notice is intended to provide county clerks with information concerning Temporary Operation Permits (TOPs).

**TOPs are issued to motor vehicle owners desiring to operate a motor vehicle, otherwise subject to registration in Tennessee, over the streets and highways of the state for a temporary period of thirty (30) days, where it appears that the proposed operation is temporary in character.**

**DISCUSSION**

Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-115 authorizes the issuance of a temporary operation permit to the owner of a motor vehicle who has been unable to obtain a new registration or renew a previous registration for their motor vehicle. One additional temporary operation permit for a period of thirty (30) days may be issued to such owner, if the owner was unable to resolve their original registration issue during the previous thirty (30) day period. Applicants must provide proper identification, supporting documentation and payment of the \$10.00 fee to receive the temporary operation permit.

Applications for temporary operation permits **may** be refused if it appears the owner of the motor vehicle is using the permit as a means to avoid registering the vehicle or if it appears the owner is attempting to circumvent any other statutory requirement.

Owners of motor vehicles may be granted a temporary operation permit for the following reasons:

- The vehicle failed emissions testing - **NO LONGER APPLICABLE**
- The vehicle title is not available for timely registration
- The vehicle was purchased from an individual (casual and isolated sale) and will be transported to the county clerks office to be registered
- The vehicle has been purchased by a non-resident of Tennessee to be transported to another state for registration
- The vehicle cannot be timely registered due to a reasonable circumstance, requiring temporary operation, while the vehicle is being prepared for proper registration

**DOCUMENTATION**

Acceptable forms of personal identification include driver's license, birth certificate, social security card, U.S. passport or picture identification from the Department of Safety.

Acceptable documentation for permit issuance includes emissions testing papers (failed emissions), proof that action is being taken to clear a title or registration (title not available for timely registration), bill of sale or signed title from previous owner (casual and isolated sale), and documentation to verify a place of residence (non-resident purchase). Other acceptable forms of documentation include copies of repair bills; proof

of purchase for repair parts and supporting documentation that shows a reasonable circumstance exists.

**Additional Information:**

For more information regarding vehicle registration in Tennessee, please call our vehicle services call center at 888/871-3171 or 615/741-3101. Assistance for county clerks is available by contacting Revenue's county clerk support staff - Billy Trout (615/741-4177), Kathy Duncan (615/532-6908), or Belinda Boddie (615/253-4073). More information is available on our Web site, [www.Tennessee.gov/revenue](http://www.Tennessee.gov/revenue).

➤ *Help is available from Revenue if more information is needed*



**References:**

*T.C.A. § 55-4-115*

The information provided here is current as of the date of publication but may change as a result of new statutes, regulations, or court decisions. While this notice is intended to be comprehensive, events and situations unanticipated by this notice may occur. In such cases, you should contact the department for further guidance.

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For more information, call toll free 1-800-320-3489  
Nashville area and out-of-state call (615) 741-3101  
Email~ [countyclerk.help@state.tn.us](mailto:countyclerk.help@state.tn.us)