

**Abandoned Vehicle Unit (AVU)**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**1. Q. What is an abandoned vehicle?**

A. An abandoned vehicle is any motor vehicle, trailer, watercraft, or semi-trailer that is inoperable or in disrepair and left unattended on public property for more than forty-eight (48) hours, or on private property for more than 48 hours without the consent of the owner or person in control of the property. Please see Section 26-162 of the Prince George's County Code and Md. Code, TR § 25-201 for more details.

**2. Q. What happens to a vehicle that is reported abandoned?**

A. An investigation is first conducted to determine whether the vehicle meets the criteria for abandoned vehicle classification. If it is deemed abandoned, a notice is posted on the vehicle at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to beginning the impoundment process. Once this period has passed, the vehicle is towed to a County-authorized impound lot.

**3. Q. How can I find out where my vehicle was towed?**

A. All impounded abandoned vehicles are reported to the County police dispatch. For information about an impounded vehicle, call 3-1-1, or visit <http://towinquiry.princegeorgescountymd.gov/>.

**4. Q. What happens if I don't reclaim my impounded vehicle?**

A. Failure to reclaim the vehicle within 21 calendar days from the impound date will result in the owner's or secured party's waiver of all rights, title, and interest in the vehicle.

**5. Q. How do I file a complaint about an abandoned vehicle parked on a county road or check the status of an existing complaint?**

A. You may submit a service request through PGC311 by visiting <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1095/PGC311>, or by calling 3-1-1 or 301-883-4748 Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**6. Q. Where do I report an abandoned vehicle parked on private property (driveway, backyard, etc.)?**

A. Contact PGC311 by visiting <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1095/PGC311>, or by calling 3-1-1 or 301-883-4748, Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. You may also contact the Department of Permitting, Inspection and Enforcement (DPIE) at 301-636-2000, Monday-Friday between 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**7. Q. How do I find out how much I owe in fees?**

**A.** For towing and storage fees, please contact the tow company that impounded the vehicle. The maximum towing rates are as follows:

GVW up to 10,000 lbs.....\$175 charges include the first calendar day of storage, mileage, hook-up fees, which includes the use of a dolly and transportation to a storage facility.

GVW 10,001-26,000 lbs. ....\$300 charges include winching, unlocking vehicles, go jacks, and dollies.

Over 26,000 lbs. ....\$750 charges include winching, unlocking vehicles, go jacks, and dollies.

Storage fees may not exceed \$50 per day and may only commence 18 hours after the vehicle is towed.

**8. Q. What is the time frame to have an abandoned vehicle towed?**

**A.** A vehicle must be in violation and tagged for 48 hours before the vehicle can be towed.

**9. Q. How do I contest an erroneous tow?**

**A.** All towed vehicle owners and/or secured parties will receive notification via certified mail. The notice will include details regarding the impoundment along with a hearing request form. To request a hearing, follow the instructions provided and return the completed form within 21 days.

**10. Q. What documents are required to get a vehicle release form?**

**A.** A government-issued identification card for the vehicle owner and one of the following documents:

- Vehicle registration card;
- Vehicle title with the owner's name printed on the front;
- Notarized letter or document from the owner authorizing a third party to retrieve the vehicle;
- MVA VR-277 Receipt of Title Application (used when someone presents a title with their name signed on the back but not on the front of the title); and
- Court document ordering the release of the vehicle (writ of replevin).

**11. Q. Where do I send my proof of ownership documents?**

**A.** Please send the ownership documents to the following e-mail address:  
[abandonedvehicle@co.pg.md.us](mailto:abandonedvehicle@co.pg.md.us).

**12. Q. Do I have to pay my citations to receive a vehicle release form?**

**A.** Yes, all outstanding Prince George's County citations must be paid in full (i.e., parking, red light, and speed camera).

### **13. Q. How can I pay for my citations?**

**A.** You may pay citations using the following methods:

#### Parking Citations

- Online – <https://princegeorgescountymd.rmcpay.com/>
- By Phone – (855) 743-2090
- By Mail and In Person - The Revenue Authority; 1300 Mercantile Lane, Suite 108; Largo, MD 20774 (in person Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- Acceptable Payment options: Debit/Credit Cards, Money Order, Cashier's Check

#### Red Light and Speed Camera

- Online - <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/police/online-services/automated-enforcement-program/>