

STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

ABANDONED AUTOS  
SUBJECT

DATE: March 1, 2005

NO: T-11

FROM: CHIEF ERIC JONES

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

INDEX: **Abandoned Automobiles**  
**Towing Abandoned Vehicles**

I. POLICY

Primary responsibility of abandoned and disabled autos is with the district officer. The officer should take all steps to see that the public streets are clear.

II. LAW

Officers will become familiar with Sections 22652 and 22669d of the California Vehicle Code.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Public Street (Roadway)

1. Any officer investigating an abandoned auto will first check auto status to determine if the vehicle is stolen.
2. If the vehicle is not stolen and does not create a traffic hazard, the responding officer will forward the information, 'Attention to Abandoned Auto Detail'.
  - a. Include exact location, description and license number.
3. If immediate towing is justified, then it will be incumbent upon the responding officer to tow the vehicle. Complete a report, Status "VEH". Complete the Vehicle Screen and Tow Tab.
  - a. Monday thru Friday (8am – 4:30 pm), the responding officer will contact the "Contract Tow Company" via the Telecommunications Center. The Officer will then complete an MVR with all the needed information, and have the vehicle towed under applicable sections and sub-sections. If the vehicle does not have motive power, wheels etc., it may be towed under section 22669d C.V.C (The storage authority must be listed on the MVR.)
  - b. If a vehicle must be towed other than (Mon-Fri. 8am-4:30 pm), the responding officer will request a rotation tow via the Telecommunications Center. Officers will not tow for 22669d CVC on week-ends. Anytime a non-motive vehicle is towed (22669d), forward a copy of the MVR to Abandoned Auto.
  - c. Tow companies can refuse a tow at the risk of losing the city contract. (Rotation privilege). If an officer encounters a refusal, ask for another tow and complete an S.I.R. "Attention Traffic" outlining the entire circumstances.

B. Private Property

1. If the vehicle is not stolen, but located on Private Property or Public Property other than streets or roadways (parking lots etc.) and needs to be towed, the following will be adhered to:
  - a. If there is no urgency, complete an S.I.R., and make it attention "Neighborhood Services - Vehicle Abatement". On the report, give a complete description of the vehicle and property owner's name. If contact was made, include the calling party's name, address and phone number.
  - b. If it is imperative that the vehicle is to be towed, the responding officer can contact Neighborhood Services (Mon-Fri, 8-5).
2. Complete an MVR. Complete the ARS Report.

B. Traffic Section

1. Autos abandoned on private property or public property other than streets/roadways.
  - a. When the Traffic Section receives notification of an abandoned auto on private property, whether directly from a citizen calling or the SPD Telecommunications Center, the City Community Development Department Building Division, Vehicle Abatement, will be notified by telephone, as soon as possible.
2. Autos abandoned on public property.
  - a. Upon notification of an abandoned vehicle, Traffic Section shall complete the information form and forward it to Abandoned Auto Detail.
  - b. Abandoned Auto Detail shall obtain registration and Stolen Vehicle Status (S.V.S.) information, and then go to the location marking the vehicle reported, leaving the 72 hour notice, and attempting to make contact with an owner or a representative, if the registration is current and the vehicle is not non-motive.
  - c. After 72 hours, the vehicle will be removed by the Traffic Section, Abandoned Auto Detail.
  - d. At the time the vehicle is towed, it will be inventoried.
  - e. The personnel having the vehicle towed will fill out a MVR and see that the towing agency receives a copy.
  - f. When parking citations are attached to the vehicle being towed, copies will be left with the vehicle.
  - g. The Traffic Section will complete the MVR and make the appraisal of the auto. They will mail notices to the registered owner, legal owner of the stored vehicle and the garage storing the vehicle. The report should be completed.
  - h. The officer completing the MVR will appraise the vehicle above or below \$300 and put it in the proper block. Within 15 days from the date the notices are mailed, the Traffic Officer authorized by the Department of Motor Vehicles will sign the Junk Slip (22669d C.V.C only) for the designated contractor.

C. Headquarters Clerk

1. When a vehicle is being reported towed from private or public property, Headquarters personnel will check the vehicle license or identification number in the stolen vehicle system to verify the vehicle has not been reported stolen or wanted.
2. The vehicle information, license plate number, location towed from and the tow company will then be placed on the tow-away book located at Headquarters.