



Preventive Law Series

Getting off the Road in Guam

The content of this handout is provided for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or opinion of any kind.

This preventive law handout sets out the process for taking a vehicle out of Guam or disposing/ selling it when you are ready to PCS.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY VEHICLE WHEN I'M READY TO LEAVE GUAM?

To **cancel a vehicle lease** and return the vehicle under the *Servicemember's Civil Relief Act*, you must

- (1) Give the leasing company a written termination notice and a copy of your military orders
- (2) Return the car to the leasing company no later than 15 days after delivering the termination notice

The leasing company *cannot* charge you a fee for ending the car lease early, but the company *can* charge you for taxes, title and registration fees, and other obligations under the lease terms, such as reasonable charges for excessive wear or use and mileage. If you paid any lease amount in advance, the company must refund those amounts to you within 30 days of ending the lease.

If you are **shipping your vehicle**, ensure the vehicle is in a safe / operating condition and there are no personal effects in the vehicle, unless otherwise approved. Please provide the Vehicle Processing Center (VPC):

- (1) Orders
- (2) Personal Property Counseling Checklist
- (3) Cleared Title or Lien Authorization
- (4) Current Guam or Stateside Registration
- (5) Proof of no open recall or letter from the car dealership
- (6) Driver's license
- (7) Stateside mailing address and telephone
- (8) Personal email address
- (9) Power of Attorney (if someone is turning in the vehicle on your behalf).

If you would like to **sell your vehicle**, you can sell it to a dealership or in a private-party sale. **If you have a lien on the car**, and you intend to sell the car to:

- the dealership: the dealership will handle the loan and title transfer.
- a private party: you must inform your lienholder as it may not be allowed under your contract. If it is allowed, the lienholder may have a preferred process to complete the transaction.
 - You will generally be unable to sell the car until the lien has been paid off.
 - If you can't afford to pay off your loan, the lienholder may allow the buyer to pay off the loan in return for the title.

To **junk your vehicle**, you can reach out to towing companies and recycling centers on the island, who may accept the vehicle for a fee.

Do not abandon your vehicle. If an individual is found to have abandoned a vehicle on or off base, they may be issued a citation. To report abandoned vehicles on Naval Base Guam, call (671) 888-9606.

HOW CAN LEGAL ASSISTANCE HELP?

The Guam Legal Assistance Office can notarize special powers of attorney and provide template bills of sale. If the process of "Getting on the Road" doesn't go smoothly, we can also give confidential legal advice. For personal legal advice, please contact Guam Legal Assistance at 671-333-2061 (commercial), 315-333-2061 (DSN), or GuamLegalAssistance@us.navy.mil.