

Office of Tax Assessor - Collector
COUNTY of HIDALGO
Pablo "Paul" Villarreal, Jr. R7A



May 25, 2016

The Honorable Carlos H. Cascos
Texas Secretary of State
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Subj: Adoption of Rules for Motor Vehicle Title Service Licensing

Dear Honorable Carlos H. Cascos

I Pablo (Paul) Villarreal Jr., the Hidalgo County Tax Assessor-Collector adopts new 43 TAC §§401.1 - 401.13, concerning the regulation of motor vehicle title services, with one minor change to the proposed rules as published in February 5, 2016, issue of the *Texas Register* (41 TexReg 950). The aim of the new rules is to curb document fraud and vehicle theft. Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 520, Subchapter E regulates motor vehicle title services in counties with a population of more than 500,000. Subchapter E requires motor vehicle title services in these counties to be registered, licensed, and required to maintain records for inspection.

In preparing the new sections, Mr. Villarreal considered processes which require less information from applicants, informal tracking of records, and random document confirmation. However, study and experience lead to the conclusion that public welfare and safety would benefit from clear, consistent, and published standards. Mr. Villarreal also considered assessing lower and higher license fees but concluded that the needs of a border county like Hidalgo are different from the counties that set regulations under 43 TAC §95.1 (Harris County) and 43 TAC §301.1 (Fort Bend County).

The Hidalgo County Tax Assessor-Collector received comments concerning the rules from staff requesting clarification. The Tax Assessor-Collector provided clarification to staff, and no changes were made to the proposed rules. One comment was received from Aline Aucoin, Associate General Counsel from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, stating an error was presented in the proposed rules section 401.94 Denial, Suspension, or Revocation of License. The actual agency that provides administrative procedures is the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and not the Texas Department of Transportation. That correction was quickly made.

The Hidalgo County Tax Assessor-Collector with the approval of the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court adopt the new sections pursuant to Transportation Code, Chapter 520, Subchapter E, which provides the county tax assessor-collector the authority to adopt rules regarding motor vehicle title services.

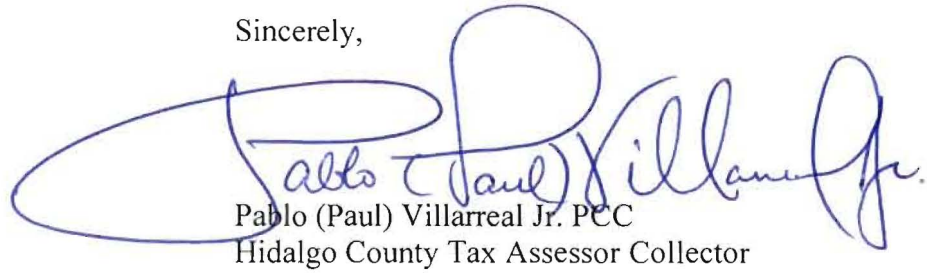
Tax Office Sub-Stations

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The new rules do not affect any other statutes, articles, or codes.

Sincerely,



Pablo (Paul) Villarreal Jr. PCC
Hidalgo County Tax Assessor Collector

PV:SC:EM:JE

Cc: Ricardo Rodriguez, Hidalgo County District Attorney
Cc: Valde Guerra, Hidalgo County Executive Officer
Cc: Ray Eufrazio, Hidalgo County Auditor
Cc: Eva Mireles, Hidalgo County Tax Office Chief of Operations
Cc: Rene Rangel, TxDMV Pharr Regional Director
Cc: Martin Cepeda, Hidalgo County Fraud Investigator