

Office of Tax Assessor-Collector

COUNTY of HIDALGO



Pablo "Paul" Villarreal, Jr. PCC.

Hidalgo County Tax Assessor-Collector

P.O. Box 178
Edinburg, Texas 78540-0178
Ph. (956) 318-2157
Fax (956) 318-2733
www.hidalgocountytax.org

August 22, 2019

Valde Guerra
Commissioner's Court Executive Office
2818 S. Bus Hwy. 281
Edinburg, TX 78539

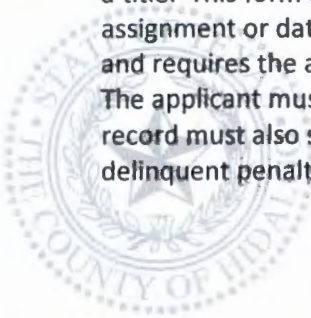
Subj: Request to inform Commissioner's Court of Official County Form Updates and Additions

Dear Mr. Guerra,

As you know, our office, with legal approval from our District Attorney's office, would like to update and add four forms to the list of Official Hidalgo County forms. We have taken recommendations from customers and other county officials and edited some of our frequently used motor vehicle forms. These forms are imperative in obtaining information that assists Law Enforcement and are very important because they prevent the potential loss of revenue for the county. They also prevent deceptive trade practices that result in fraudulent transfers to innocent consumers. The information can help law enforcement prosecute individuals who submit inaccurate documentation. Each form warns the individuals that Texas Transportation Code §501.155 provides a penalty for persons who knowingly provide false or incorrect information, or who without legal authority sign the name of another person on documents related to titles and other documents necessary to transfer ownership of a motor vehicle. An offense under this section is a felony or the third degree. The forms are as follows:

Form HC-001 Hidalgo County, Affidavit of Fact
Form HC-002 Hidalgo County, Letter of Authorization
Form TS-10 Affidavit of Non-Motor Vehicle Title Service License Holder
Form HC-007 Hidalgo County, Texas Residency Affidavit

Form HC-001 Hidalgo County Affidavit of Fact is used as a notarized statement that corrects an error on a title. This form also certifies that the previous owner of record authorizes a change in the title assignment or date associated with the sale of the vehicle. It helps obtain their address, phone number and requires the applicant submit a copy of the registered owners driver's license or identification card. The applicant must indicate on the notarized affidavit that an error was made on the title. The owner of record must also sign and date that the correction is a true statement. Dates are important being that delinquent penalties are based on these dates. Titles are sometimes assigned to individuals who do not



2804 S. Bus. Hwy 281 • Edinburg, TX 78539

ever pay their taxes and registration. They turn around and sell the vehicle to innocent buyers. These vehicles are purchased without the buyer knowing that the seller should have paid taxes and registered the vehicle to their own name before it could be sold. Applicants are forced to purchase a surety bond because they did not purchase the vehicle from the registered owner.

Form HC-002 Hidalgo County Letter of Authorization is used as a statement that gives permission for an authorized individual to come in for the owners of record. This form certifies that the individual is the owner of record and is authorizing the motor vehicle transaction. It helps obtain the address, phone number and requires a copy of the registered owners and the authorized individual's driver's license or identification. The owners of record must indicate if anyone was driving the vehicle with expired license plates and if any tickets have been issued for driving with expired plates. This is needed in order to know whether to process the renewal for the full year or the original month of expiration. We also need this information to properly assess the penalty for being ticketed. For transactions involving the transfer of ownership, the applicant must indicate who prepared the title work and confirms who is presenting it to the tax office. This form has an area for the authorized individual to indicate that they are not being compensated for preparing or submitting the documentation to the tax office. The form has an area for the owner to initial if the payment is being made by the registered owners by check or cash or if the payment is made by the authorized individual by check or credit card. Lastly, it indicates that this form may only be used once and that the individual may need to obtain a title service/runner license if observed conducting numerous transactions on behalf of others for compensation.

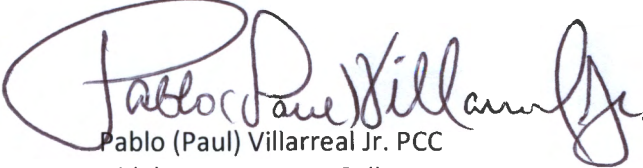
Form TS-10 Affidavit of Non-Motor Vehicle Title Service License Holder is a notarized affidavit stating that the unlicensed individual has been observed conducting motor vehicle transactions on behalf of others in Hidalgo County and claims to be doing so without compensation. It helps obtain the address, phone number and requires a copy of the authorized individual's driver's license or identification. It advises the individual that if they are found to be compensated for any transaction, they will be required to obtain a Motor Vehicle Title Service License pursuant to the Texas Transportation Code. The form states that the information will be forwarded to the Fraud Investigations Department.

Form HC-007 Hidalgo County, Texas Residency Affidavit is a sworn statement that applicant resides in Hidalgo County. It is the responsibility of the Tax Collector to ensure that individuals register their vehicles in the county they reside. Not all acceptable identifications include an address field on them. Out of State Identification is acceptable but does not include the applicant's local address. The applicant is asked to bring in additional documentation to prove residency. This form will help document what acceptable documentation was provided to our office to allow for the vehicle to be registered in Hidalgo County. This form also gives an opportunity for individuals to have representation to establish residency by having the affidavit signed and notarized.

All of these forms are essential in the prevention of scenarios that may result in a loss of revenue for the county and or state. I would like to request, with the recommendation by our District Attorney, to inform the Court and the Public of these changes to the Official County forms so that we may begin to

use and circulate right away. I am available to discuss the changes and updates at any time. Please advise if these need Commissioner's Court approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pablo (Paul) Villarreal Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

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

PV:EM:SC:CS:MT:GO

Cc: Victor M. Garza, Assistant District Attorney
Cc: Eva Mireles, Hidalgo County Tax Office
Cc: Cesar Solis, Hidalgo County Fraud Investigator
Cc: Marlen Trevino, Hidalgo County Fraud Investigator
Cc: Estibaliz Garcia, Hidalgo County Fraud Investigator
Cc: Santos Castilleja III, Hidalgo County Motor Vehicle Department