

# Request for Vanity Plates

Registry of Motor Vehicles  
P.O. Box 55895  
Boston, MA 02205-5895  
Attn: Special Plates

## Customer Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's Lic #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**A**

## Vanity Plate Requirements:

1. All vanity plates must start with at least two letters.
2. Passenger, Camper, Livery, Bus, and Commercial vanity plates may contain a maximum of six characters (letters or numbers) and a minimum of two characters. Vanity plates for antique vehicles may contain a maximum of four characters and a minimum of two characters. Motorcycle vanity plates may contain a maximum of five characters and a minimum of two characters.
3. Numbers cannot be used in the middle of a plate; they must come at the end. For example, AAA222 would be an acceptable Passenger vanity plate; AAA22A would not be acceptable. The first number used cannot be a "0."
4. The letters "I," "O," "Q," and "U" can **ONLY** be used as part of a word that is clearly defined and correctly spelled. For example, "LQQK" would not be an acceptable registration number because it is not a correctly spelled word.
5. No periods, spaces, or punctuation marks are allowed.
6. Letter and/or number combinations that convey an offensive message or appear to duplicate an existing registration plate are not permitted (see reverse side for criteria).

**B**

**Plate Type** (Please check the box of the plate type you are applying for):

**Plate Request:**  
(maximum six (6) characters)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Vanity  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus Vanity        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle Vanity | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Vanity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camper Vanity     | <input type="checkbox"/> Livery Vanity     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antique Vanity    |  |

1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

3rd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

What is the significance of this combination of letters and/or numbers? \_\_\_\_\_

**Ship Plate To** (Full-Service RMV Branch Location): \_\_\_\_\_

I request that number plates displaying the registration number (in order of preference shown above) be manufactured for assignment to a vehicle owned, co-owned, or leased by me. I also understand that the vanity plates applied for will be issued only after approval by the Registrar. Should the Registrar find that the vanity plate is or may be offensive, the RMV will try to reasonably work with the applicant to find a replacement plate. I understand each registration issued by the Registrar remains the **property of the Registrar** and the plates must be displayed on the registered vehicle or immediately returned to the RMV. Any unauthorized transfer of the plates, including the sale of the plate or plates, may result in suspension of registration privileges for the vehicle for up to 30 days. (See 540 CMR Sections 2.05(4)(q) on the reverse side). **The Registrar reserves the right to deny or revoke a vanity plate at any time.**

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail the completed application to the above mailing address or bring it to the nearest RMV branch. If you send this application by mail, include a \$50 check payable to MassDOT. If you bring this to a branch, you may pay by cash, check, or money order.

You will be notified by mail if your vanity plate request is denied and the reason for the denial. If your request is approved, you will be notified by mail that your plates are ready for pick-up at the RMV branch office you requested. It may take up to 12 weeks from the date of the application for the plates to be manufactured. Once the plates have been manufactured, the \$50 fee is non-refundable.

**Registry Use Only:** RMV Batch No. \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## Plate Criteria:

1. The Registrar will not knowingly issue a requested Vanity registration plate containing a group of letters or combination of numbers and letters if the plate is either offensive or duplicative of an existing registration. Specifically, the Registrar will not issue a requested combination of letters and numbers or letters alone if:

- ◆ Such combination is vulgar in that it is in poor taste or is degrading or is considered a profanity, including a swear or curse word, not usually displayed in the community for general viewing
- ◆ Such combination is derogatory in that it disparages or belittles someone or something
- ◆ Such combination is obscene in that it refers to a sexual body part, a term for or most closely associated with a sex act, or the availability for sex
- ◆ Such combination is an expression of contempt, ridicule, or superiority of a race, religion, deity, ethnic heritage, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation
- ◆ Such combination is an expression of "fighting words" designed to inflame passions and possibly lead to a violent confrontation
- ◆ Such combination would appear to duplicate a registration already issued

2. The Registrar may reject a requested combination for other reasons if she reasonably determines that issuance of the requested combination would be inappropriate as a state-issued registration plate.

3. It is irrelevant whether offensive material is communicated when reading the vanity plate from left-to-right or from right-to-left, when viewed through a rear view mirror, or whether it is in a foreign language or in a code which only a small segment of the community may be able to readily decipher.

4. The Registrar reserves the right to recall a vanity plate that has been issued, even if such registration and plate have been renewed. If the Registrar becomes aware that a group of letters or a combination of numbers and letters appears to be offensive in nature, or that a plate appears to duplicate an existing registration, this will be sufficient cause for recall.

## 540 CMR Sec. 2.05(4)(q)states:

Each registration plate issued by the Registrar remains the **property of the Registrar**. Unless otherwise specifically directed or authorized by the Registrar, a registration plate of a currently issued series of plates or a plate re-issued pursuant to 540 CMR § 2.07, which is not displayed on a properly registered motor vehicle or trailer, shall be returned immediately to the Registrar.

**Note:** 540 CMR Sec. 2.05(5)(Remedies) states in paragraph(b), the following:

Any violation of 540 CMR 2.05 is punishable by a fine pursuant to M.G.L. c. 90, § 20, and may result in the suspension of the operator's license or right to operate and/or certificate of registration for up to 30 days pursuant to M.G.L. c. 90, § 22(b).