

PROCEDURE for the REMOVAL of ABANDONED VEHICLES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to communicate to the residents of Penn Hills the proper procedures for the removal of abandoned vehicles from private property in accordance with Municipal Policy.

POLICY

In accordance with Section 3712, Abandonment of vehicles, Pa. M.V.C:

Abandonment on highway. - No person shall abandon a vehicle upon any highway.

Abandonment on public or private property. - No person shall abandon a vehicle upon any public or private property without the express or implied consent of the owner or person in lawful possession or control of the property.

PROCEDURES

A. Removal of Abandoned Vehicles from Municipal Roads

Departmental procedures for the removal of an abandoned vehicle from a roadway conform with and are outlined in Section 3352 of the Motor Vehicle code.

B. Removal of Abandoned Vehicles from Private Property

Under section 7311.1 Reports by private property owners of abandoned vehicles, A person on whose private property is located a vehicle which has remained on the property without the consent of the property owner or his agent for more than 24 hours may authorize the removal or processing of the vehicle. Prior to removal or processing of the vehicle, that person shall file a report, on a multipart form prescribed by the department, with the local police department declaring that an unauthorized vehicle has been left unattended and on private property for at least 24 hours. That person shall retain one part of such report, and the other part shall be filed with the police department. The police department shall, within five business days, process the vehicle as abandoned under this chapter and attach a copy of the report to the abandoned vehicle information report.

The property owner shall have the option of using his or her own licensed salvage company or in the event the property owner does not have one on retainer, the property owner may request the services of the Municipal Contracted tower to have the vehicle removed.

At the time of the removal of the vehicle(s), an Officer must be present to complete the required paperwork. At this time, the salvor/tower will be required to produce for the Officer a salvor's license or a facsimile. The Officer will then complete the paperwork and provide the salvor with the required form.

A. If the property owner elects to have his/her own salvor remove the vehicle(s);

1. The salvor, in accordance with sections 7301, must be licensed by the Pa Department of Motor Vehicles and 7303.1 located within thirty (30) miles of the Municipality.
2. It will be the property owner's responsible to make arraignments with the salvor and Officer will be available to have the vehicle removed.

B. If the property owner elects to use the services of the Municipal Contracted tower, the fees and removal of the abandoned vehicle will be subjected to the terms and conditions set by the tower. (Under the current municipal towing contract, the terms and provisions of the contract do not provide for or require the tower of record to remove an abandoned vehicle(s) from private property.)

