

**Lower Providence Township Police Department
Eagleville, Pennsylvania**

General Order ☒
Special Order ☐
Personnel Order ☐

ORDER NUMBER

508

Subject

Abandoned Vehicle Investigation

Date of Issue

February 3, 2020

Effective Date

February 3, 2020

Expiration Date

**Until Amended or
Rescinded**

Issued by:

Michael Jackson, Chief of Police

Amends

Rescinds

All Previous Orders

Standard Number

1.4.2

Distribution

- 1. General Order Manuals**
- 2. Records Manual**
- 3. Reading Verification to all Personnel**

I PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to ensure proper procedure is followed for investigating and towing abandoned vehicles. This general order is also intended to avoid duplication of investigation.

II POLICY

It is the policy of the Lower Providence Township Police Department that all abandoned vehicle investigations and mandatory paperwork will be completed by the Traffic Unit.

III DEFINITION

A. Abandoned Vehicle

A vehicle (other than a pedacycle) shall be presumed to be abandoned under any of the following circumstances.

1. The vehicle is physically inoperable and is left unattended on a highway or other public property for more than 48 hours.
2. The vehicle has remained illegally on a highway or other public property for a period of more than 48 hours.
3. The vehicle is left unattended on or along a highway or other public property for more than 48 hours and does not bear all of the following:
 - a. A valid registration plate
 - b. A certificate of inspection

- c. An ascertainable vehicle identification number
- 4. The vehicle has remained on private property without the consent of the owner or person in control of the property for more than 48 hours.

IV REGULATION

- A. When a complaint is received of an abandoned vehicle and a member of the Traffic Unit is on duty, the traffic officer will handle the call. If the Traffic Unit is not on duty, the zone officer will respond and verify that it is not stolen. If the abandoned vehicle presents any immediate danger to health, safety or flow of traffic, the officer may tow the vehicle immediately as per appropriate sections of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code relating to removal of abandoned vehicles.
If the vehicle does not present any immediate problem and is not stolen, the officer shall notify the traffic officer who is scheduled next for duty. The written notification shall contain the type of vehicle, registration, VIN, color of vehicle, location of vehicle, and the name and badge number of the said officer.
- B. The traffic officer will investigate abandoned vehicles pertaining to notice to owner.
- C. The traffic officer shall have completed MV-952 – “Police Request for Removal of Abandoned Vehicle” on every abandoned vehicle that is towed. This completed original form is to be handed to the truck driver at the time the abandoned vehicle is towed. The traffic officer must complete section A of the MV-952 form and must sign his name, list his badge number and date of towing. All other data on Section A shall also be completed as to vehicle information, police department, vehicle location, value, certified mail number notice, vehicle damages and missing parts. Copies of the completed MV-952 are to be kept on file by the Traffic Unit, as well as the Incident Reports, towing release, certified mail notices and any other reports relating to an abandoned vehicle investigation
- D. All officers are to be familiar with the salvor application process laws. A copy of the salvor process shall be kept on file in the Traffic Unit office.
- E. Any request from any salvor within Lower Providence Township for a police officer to respond to their location to sign a MV-952 will be given to the Traffic Unit officer. If no Traffic Unit officer is on duty, the salvor will be told that a Traffic Unit officer will respond when one is available.
- F. No police officer other than an officer from the Traffic Unit is authorized to sign a MV-952 except with the permission of the Chief of Police or his designee.

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson
Chief of Police