



The Honorable Maryellen O'Shaughnessy
Franklin County Clerk of Courts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Revised Court Order Process for Auto Titling

June 28, 2013 – In cooperation with the Court of Common Pleas, the State of Ohio Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Franklin County Clerk of Courts office will institute the revised court order process for Auto Titling effective July 1, 2013.

The Clerk of Courts' issuance of Auto Titles is governed under Ohio Revised Code 4505.10, and permits the title office to generate a title for the customer. However, occasionally there are circumstances that require the Court's judgment and approval before the clerk's office can issue a title. For example, if a vehicle was abandoned on private property, that property owner would petition the Court of Common Pleas for a judgment of a certificate of title request. Beginning July 1, new steps have been introduced to the original process and are necessary to satisfactorily complete before filing a petition to the Court for a judgment. Among those enhancements, the petitioner will be required to send certified letters to the vehicle owner and the lien holder. Also, the State of Ohio Highway Patrol must inspect the vehicle to verify if it was stolen or salvaged, and that it meets the Patrol's inspection standards.

"Administrative Judge for the Court of Common Pleas, Judge Schneider wanted to insure that the Court's judgment of granting auto titles follow a thorough review process, and that the result would provide the safest and most credible outcome for the petitioner. These new procedural requirements not only protect the interests of the original car owner, lien holder, and petitioner, but the general public also will be well served. The Clerk's Auto Title office will continue to meet its goal of issuing good, clear titles," stated Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, Clerk of the Courts.

Instructions for this new process will be available on the clerk's website at <http://Clerk.FranklincountyohioGov> by linking to "Auto Title" under the *FORMS and FEES* header or, at any of the clerk's four Auto Title offices located throughout Franklin County. Office locations are also on the clerk's website, under the Auto Title Division's prompt.

In 2012, Franklin County Auto Title offices processed more than 517,000 auto title transactions. Total revenue generated last year exceeded \$113,000,000 with cash balancing accuracy rate of 99.99%.

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The Franklin County Clerk of Courts' functions include: receiving, receipting, managing and retaining all legal documents filed through the Court of Common Pleas; processing vehicular titles; processing U.S. Passport applications; and, recording notaries public's commissions. Staff goals are to be courteous, timely, and accurate in their daily responsibilities