

The City of Lincoln

Junk Car Ordinance

Addressing Unregistered, Wrecked or Junked Vehicles

Why is there an ordinance for this?

The ordinance exists because citizens spoke out about the large number of “junk cars” accumulating on private property. These vehicles pose health and safety problems and distract from the quality of life in Lincoln’s neighborhoods.

Who should be concerned?

You should be concerned if you have:

- ▶ an unregistered vehicle on your property. If you have owned or possessed a vehicle for over 30 days, you have to register it -- whether it is on your property or not.
- ▶ a vehicle on your property for over 30 days that does not run. If it is wrecked, junked, or partially dismantled, it does not matter if it is registered or not.

If either of the above statements is true, you need to take immediate steps to avoid being in violation of this ordinance. This applies to you whether you own the property or live there as a tenant or lessee.

Are there any exceptions?

This ordinance does not apply if you have a vehicle:

- ▶ in a permanent, enclosed building,
- ▶ on the premises of a legally operating business and there is a clear relationship between that vehicle and operation of the business,
- ▶ in an appropriate, legal storage place, or
- ▶ on your property and you have obtained a hobbyist permit for that vehicle.

How can I get a hobbyist permit?

A hobbyist permit is for the restoration or repair of up to 2 vehicles. The location of the vehicle must be the same as the applicant's address. These are the steps:

- ▶ Get an application from the City Clerk's Office in the County-City Building at 555 S. 10th Street, Suite 103, or online.
- ▶ Fill out the application and file it with the City Clerk.
- ▶ Pay \$50.00 fee for each vehicle. Permits are good for 180 days.

What are the penalties?

Any person violating any provisions of these regulations can be found guilty of a misdemeanor. If convicted, they can be fined up to \$500. Minimum fines are \$100 for the first



offense, \$200 for the second offense, and \$300 for the third and any following offenses. Each day a violation continues to exist constitutes a separate offense.

Are there other ways to comply besides the hobbyist permit?

If you do not intend to obtain a hobbyist permit, you can:

- ▶ Contact a salvage company and have your vehicle removed. [Some companies may accept the salvage rights as payment for the tow.]
- ▶ If you are the property owner and **do not own the vehicle**, contact the Police Department for a Waiver Assignment and Grant Access form and request that the city tow the vehicle.
- ▶ If you are a renter and the vehicle is not yours, contact the property owner or manager and request that it be removed immediately.



**For information, contact the
Lincoln Police Department
402-441-6000**

Ordinance 10.42.110: Keeping of Unregistered, Wrecked or Junked Vehicles Unlawful; Exceptions; Penalty.

It shall be unlawful for any person in charge or control of any property within the city, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise, to allow any non-operating, wrecked, junked, or partially dismantled vehicle to remain on such property longer than thirty days.

It shall be unlawful for any person in charge or control of any property within the city, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise, to allow any vehicle which has been unregistered for more than thirty days to remain on such property.