

Towing From Private Property

The Sheriff's Office cannot become involved in towing from private property. The Sheriff's Office cannot tow or remove a vehicle from privately owned property unless the vehicle has been seized by the Sheriff's Office as the result of a criminal violation.

Private Property owners may, themselves, arrange for the towing of any motor vehicle that has been left or abandoned without permission or consent on their property. The Property Owner will be responsible for contacting a towing service to have the vehicle removed.

Private Property- Business and Communities may arrange for towing of any motor vehicles that has been left or abandoned without permission or consent on their property. The Business Property Owner or management will be responsible for contacting a towing service to have the vehicle removed within the strict guidelines and regulation of state statutes. These guidelines must adhere to regulation as it applies to authority, consent and notice.

Contesting Private Property Towing

If you wish to contest a non-consent tow or the impoundment of your vehicle, you must request a tow hearing. The tow hearing must be scheduled within 14 days of the vehicle being towed. The Justice of the Peace responsible for the Vehicle Storage Facility (VSF) where your vehicle was towed will hold the tow hearing. For additional details on tow hearings please contact the responsible Justice of the Peace's Office at:

- a. Justice of the Peace PRECINT 1: Northeast 854-7000
- b. Justice of the Peace PRECINT 2: Northwest 854-4545
- c. Justice of the Peace PRECINT 3: Southwest 854-6763
- d. Justice of the Peace PRECINT 4: Southeast 854-9479
- e. Justice of the Peace PRECINT 5: Central 854-9049

State

Wreckers are commercial motor vehicles regulated by the **Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation**. Complaints and concerns should be directed to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation at 1-800-803-9202 or e-mailed to towing@license.state.tx.us and or <http://www.license.state.tx.us/towing/towing.htm>

City

If you think your vehicle has been towed illegally within the City of Austin please call **311**, have an offense report generated, then contact the **Austin Police Department's Wrecker Enforcement Unit at 512-974-8119 / 974-8110** with your offense number or e-mail wrecker.enforcement@ci.austin.tx.us