



Motor Vehicle Division Policy Memo 23-09

Mailing Fee Increase to \$5 for License Plates Mailed Under Iowa Code 321.105

DATE: November 29, 2023

FROM: Kelli Huser, Compliance Officer

TO: All MVD staff, Bureau of Investigation and Identity staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurer's staff

SUBJECT

This policy memo explains an increase in the mailing fee from \$3 to \$5 for mailing license plates under Iowa Code 321.105. This change will be effective for January 2024 registration renewals and vehicles purchased on or after January 1, 2024.

SUMMARY

Counties may charge a mailing fee to mail license plates to a customer in the following scenarios:

1. A customer is receiving a replacement license plate under the 10-year plate replacement cycle and the customer has requested the registration renewal and plate be mailed; or
2. The customer has titled and registered a newly acquired vehicle; is not transferring a current plate to the vehicle; and has applied by mail, drop box, or through a dealer-provided application and has requested for the registration sticker and plate to be mailed.

This mailing fee will increase from three dollars to five dollars. This memo explains which customers will see the mailing fee increase.

EXPLANATION OF CHANGE

The mailing fee has been \$3 for many years and is no longer sufficient to cover actual mailing costs. The Iowa DOT and the Iowa State County Treasurers Association (ISCTA) have worked together under Iowa Code to determine a new mailing fee of \$5. This mailing fee more accurately covers the cost to mail license plates.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHY IS THIS CHANGE HAPPENING?

The fee has been \$3 for many years. With postage increases, a fee increase is needed to match actual costs of mailing.

WHAT IS THE AUTHORITY TO INCREASE THIS MAILING FEE?

Under Iowa Code 321.105, a mailing fee may be determined by consultation between the Iowa Department of Transportation and ISCTA.

WHEN WILL CUSTOMERS SEE THIS MAILING FEE INCREASE?

This mailing fee will apply to:

- Customers with a January 2024 registration renewal who receive license plates and
- Customers with a purchase date for the vehicle of January 1, 2024 or later who have a license plate mailed to them as part of the application.

Customers with a January 2024 registration renewal are eligible to start paying their registration renewals on December 1. The Iowa Department of Transportation IT systems have already been updated for these customers to see the new fee.

HOW DOES THIS CHANGE AFFECT LATE RENEWALS OR LATE TITLE APPLICATIONS?

Customers with a registration renewal month of December 2023 or before will have the prior, \$3 mailing fee. Counties who handle the ARTS transactions for late renewals or late title applications will see the prior mailing fee.

WHO WILL BE THE BEST CONTACT PERSON REGARDING QUESTIONS?

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