



BUYERS BEWARE!

CONSUMERS BE CAUTIOUS WHEN PURCHASING A MOTOR VEHICLE

The Cameron County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office, the Cameron County Automobile Crimes Enforcement Task Force, and the South Texas Auto Theft Enforcement Task Force urge consumers to be cautious when purchasing a motor vehicle. In order to register a Motor Vehicle in Cameron County, Texas, the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. The vehicle title must be registered in the name of the seller.
2. Purchaser and seller must each sign both the title and the title application form (Form 130-U is available at the Cameron County Tax Office or at www.dot.state.tx.us).
3. Out of state purchases from a new/used car dealer require an invoice or purchase order.
4. A copy of buyer's current drivers license will be required.
5. The purchaser must then go to any Cameron County Tax Office location and file the title application.
6. Proof of current automobile insurance will be required. If the registration is not current, there may be a registration fee.
7. Title transfers as a result of a gift must have a notarized Affidavit of Motor Vehicle Gift Transfer Form (Number 14-317), as required, with one of the donors identified. This new state law took effect September 1, 2009.

When purchasing a vehicle from a licensed Texas dealer, the dealer is required to complete all the paperwork necessary to title and register the vehicle in your name. The dealer is also required to file the documents with the Cameron County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office within 20 business days of the date you purchased the vehicle.

Be especially cautious when purchasing a vehicle from an individual. A consumer who buys a vehicle from a person that is not a licensed Texas dealer runs a risk that:

- The vehicle may be stolen;
- You may not be able to get a clear title;
- The vehicle may have a rolled-back odometer;
- The vehicle may be a salvaged, reconditioned, or flood damaged vehicle;
- The vehicle may have a lienholder who has not been paid;
- Vehicle may have been sold for export only.

A new state law took effect on October 1, 2006, that requires all Texans who buy a used vehicle from anyone other than a licensed car dealer to pay sales tax on the vehicle's Standard Presumptive Value.

For more information contact the CCACETF at 956-544-0800, or to report a stolen vehicle phone our Hotline at 956-574-8162, Crime Stoppers at 956-350-5551, Toll Free at 1-866-350-5551, or 956-548-TIPS



CAMERON COUNTY AUTOMOBILE CRIMES ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE

OFFICE OF THE TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

SOUTH TEXAS AUTO THEFT ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE

BROWNSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A GRANTEE OF THE TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY



TONY YZAGUIRRE, JR.
TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

LT. JOE A. MIRELES,
CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS

**OFFICE OF THE TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR
CAMERON COUNTY**

Brownsville Main Office 964 E. Harrison (956) 544-0800 FAX: 544-0808 From 8:00am - 4:30pm	Harlingen Branch Office 3302 Wilson Road (956) 427-8013 FAX: 427-8017 From 8:00am - 4:30pm	San Benito Branch Office 1390 W. Expway 83 (956) 361-8232 FAX: 361-8235 From 8:00am - 4:30pm	Los Fresnos Branch Office 105 Ocean Blvd (956) 233-4494 FAX: 233-6154 From 8:00am - 4:00pm	La Feria Branch Office 200 Industrial Way (956) 797-3075 FAX: 797-9239 From 8:00am - 4:30pm
Port Isabel Branch Office 505 Highway 100 (956) 943-8101 FAX: 943-0184 From 8:00am - 4:30pm	Rio Hondo Branch Office 130 Colorado (956) 748-2345 FAX: 748-4622 From 8:00am - 4:00pm	Brownsville Southmost Branch Office 2900 Southmost Road (956) 574-8176 FAX: 574-8176 From 8:00am - 4:00pm	Brownsville Westside Branch Office 1763 Military Highway (956) 542-5854 FAX: 542-6673 From 8:00am - 4:00pm	

OFFICES COUNTYWIDE TO BETTER SERVE YOU

PAYMENTS OPTIONS: Taxpayer may pay the total amount due by cash, check, credit card, or make partial payments. Partial payments do not qualify for discounts in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 31.07(c), unless an entire taxing entity is paid in full. If total current tax is paid by January 31, no penalty and interest is charged. Any current amounts not paid by January 31 will begin to draw penalties and interest until paid. Taxpayer may establish an Escrow Account, or sign a payment agreement by June 30 for current year taxes only, to avoid paying an attorney collection fee. A four-payment option is available for individuals who are disabled or at least 65 years of age with a residential homestead exemption. This plan spreads property tax bill over four payments in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 31.031.

PAYMENTS IN PERSON: If you wish to pay in person, you may pay at any of the above locations. Drive Thru windows are located at our Brownsville Main Office (on East Van Buren between East 10th Street and 8th Street), Port Isabel and Harlingen Branch Offices. Drive-thru transactions are limited to three (3) per vehicle to expedite traffic flow. Business Hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm.

DROP OFF BOXES: Tax payments may be dropped-off at the Drop-Off-Boxes located at the Brownsville Main Office (on East Van Buren between East 10th Street and 8th Street), and Port Isabel Branch Office located above. Payments dropped off after business hours and next day before 8:00am will be processed with the previous day's date. All payments dropped off after 8:00am will be processed the next business day.

PAYMENTS BY MAIL: Mail must be postmarked for the month in which payment is due in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 1.08 (Check must include current driver license #). If we have to return your payment for any reason (error in amount, check not signed, etc.) the postmark date of your reply envelope is the controlling date.

PENALTY AND INTEREST: Taxes on this statement are delinquent if not paid prior to February 1 of each year and will have Penalty and Interest added as shown in the front of this statement in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 33.01 (a). Also, "A delinquent tax accrues interest at a rate of one (1) percent for each month or portion of a month the tax remains unpaid".

On April 1 of each year, all delinquent personal property taxes are turned over to a tax attorney for collection. At that time, in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 6.30 (c) and Sec. 33.11, an attorney's fee and collection expense will be added. Also, on July 1 of each year, all delinquent real estate taxes are turned over to a tax attorney for collection. At that time, in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 6.30 (c) and Sec. 33.07, an attorney's fee and collection expense will be added. (Please refer to the back of the Original Tax Statement regarding the percentage of individual attorney fees by taxing unit).

Late Rendition Penalty: Texas Property Tax Code Sec 22.28 (Penalty for Delinquent Report) states that "the chief appraiser shall impose a penalty on a person who fails to timely file a rendition statement or property report required by this chapter in an amount equal to 10 percent of the total amount of taxes imposed on the property for that year by taxing units participating in the appraisal district." Also stated, "The assessor shall add the amount of the penalty to the original amount of tax imposed on the property and shall include that amount in the tax bill for that year."

Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 31.01(g) states that "failure to send or receive a tax bill does not affect the validity of the tax, penalty or interest, the due date, the existence of a tax lien, or any procedure instituted to collect a tax."

Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 33.045 states that, "If you are 65 years of age or older or are disabled and the property described in this document is your residence homestead, you should contact the appraisal district regarding any entitlement you may have to a postponement in the payment of these taxes."

Cameron Appraisal District (CAD) uses the same account number for all taxing entities. The CAD is a separate local agency and is not part of County Government or the Cameron County Tax Office.

GENERAL INFORMATION: EXEMPTIONS: Exemptions are very limited and do not apply to all taxing jurisdictions. Review carefully the Exemptions (if any) which are shown on your statement. The CAD decides; what property is to be appraised, it's appraised value, whether to grant exemptions, who the property owner is and their address, and what taxing jurisdictions can tax the property. If there are any changes to any of the items listed above, please contact the Cameron Appraisal District at P.O. Box 1010, 2021 Amistad Drive, San Benito, TX. 78586 **(956) 399-9322, 541-3365 or 428-8020 or www.cameroncad.org**

INTERNET PAYMENTS: Can be made by going to www.cameroncountytax.org a convenience fee will be charged based on a fee schedule.

Discover, Master Card, Visa and Internet Check (iCheck).
THERE ARE NO SPLIT PAYMENTS ALLOWED

MAIL PAYMENTS TO:

**TONY YZAGUIRRE JR.
TAX ASSESSOR – COLLECTOR
P.O. BOX 952
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 77522-0952**



**MASTER CARD, VISA ACCEPTED OVER THE COUNTER AT
ALL TAX OFFICE LOCATIONS, PLUS 2½%
PROCESSING FEE**