

## 435 Abandoned, Stolen, and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

### 435.2 ABANDONED/~~JUNKED~~ NUISANCE MOTOR VEHICLES

- ~~(a) Generally, routine calls regarding abandoned/junked vehicles shall not be dispatched to field officers.~~
- ~~1. Communications shall obtain what information the complainant can give and forward it to the Abandoned Vehicle Unit. Communications shall direct the complainant to contact the Abandoned Vehicle Unit for further assistance.~~
  - ~~2. An officer should be dispatched to the scene if the complainant reports that the vehicle may be stolen, is creating an immediate traffic problem, or appears to have been involved in the commission of a crime.~~
- ~~(b) When Communications and/or officers receive a complaint regarding an alleged violation of the Parking in a Front or Side Yard City Ordinance (16-5-22) they shall direct the complainant to the appropriate District Representative Unit.~~
- ~~(c) Follow-up on all calls for service referred to the Abandoned Vehicle Unit shall become the responsibility of the Abandoned Vehicle Unit. The supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring that the proper follow-up investigation is conducted.~~
- ~~(d) Tagging Abandoned Vehicles~~
- ~~1. If a field officer tags an abandoned vehicle on public property, the officer will initiate an incident report using the "Abandoned Vehicle" title code.  
(a) The Abandoned Vehicle Unit will be responsible for follow-up on the removal of the vehicle.~~
  - ~~2. Field officers shall not tag abandoned vehicles on private property. Officers shall contact the Abandoned Vehicle Unit or appropriate District Representative officer for assistance with abandoned/junked vehicles on private property.~~
- ~~(e) Unless the vehicle is a traffic hazard, officers will not tow any tagged vehicle except as authorized by the Abandoned Vehicle Unit.~~
- (a) Generally, routine calls regarding abandoned/nuisance vehicle shall not be dispatched to patrol officers. When a 911 call is received, the 911 operator will obtain information regarding the type of vehicle the complainant is reporting.
1. An officer will be dispatched if there is an immediate need to investigate the vehicle. Examples of calls requiring an officer to be dispatched are traffic hazards, suspicious activity or location (ex. Narcotics activity /Homeland Security issues), possible stolen vehicle, or involvement in the commission of a crime.
  2. If the complainant is reporting an abandoned/nuisance vehicle, the 911 operator will refer the complainant to 311 to make a report of abandoned vehicle. The Vehicle Abatement Unit (VAU) will conduct a follow up to the 311 report.
  3. When Communications and/or officers receive a complaint regarding an alleged violation of the Parking in a Front or Side Yard City Ordinance (16-5-22) they shall direct the complainant to the appropriate District Representative Unit.
- (b) Procedures for dealing with abandoned/nuisance vehicles.
1. Patrol Officers who locate or who are dispatched to a vehicle that is determined to be an abandoned/nuisance vehicle on public property will not write a Versadex report. Instead, officers shall initiate a Customer Service Request (CSR) by calling 311, making an online report at <https://austin-csrprodwi.motorolasolutions.com/Home.mvc/Index> , or using the 311 application available on city issued cell phones.  
(a) When using the 311 on-line reporting, or the 311 application on the city cell phone, officers shall provide all requested information including a photograph of the vehicle, complainant contact name, and email.  
(b) The Vehicle Abatement Unit (VAU) will conduct follow-up on all 311 CSR reports. The VAU will be responsible for determining if a vehicle meets removal requirements, and impound as necessary. Vehicles will only be impounded after proper notice has been given by appropriate tagging of the vehicle.

2. Patrol officers shall not tag abandoned/nuisance vehicles without approval from a VAU officer or District Representative.
  - (a) Unless a tagged vehicle is creating an immediate hazard or danger, officers shall not tow a tagged vehicle without approval from the VAU or appropriate District Representative.
  - (b) Officers who are dispatched to or who locate vehicles that have been tagged and that constitute a traffic hazard will follow APD policy 348 Disabled Vehicles and Stranded Motorist, and 350 Vehicle Towing and Impound.
3. Officers shall contact VAU or the appropriate District Representative officer for assistance with abandoned/nuisance vehicles on private property.
4. The supervisor of VAU will ensure proper follow-up is conducted on reports of abandoned/nuisance vehicles by the VAU. The VAU supervisor is responsible for ensuring VAU officers properly update and close the 311 CSR, and that proper reporting procedures are followed regarding APD policy 350 Vehicle Towing and Impound.

#### ~~435.2.1 ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES ON UT PROPERTY~~

##### ~~(a) Abandoned Vehicles on Public Streets~~

- ~~1. The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD) directly provides abandoned vehicle information to the Abandoned Vehicle Unit.~~
- ~~2. Upon receipt, the Abandoned Vehicle Unit shall handle the complaint in the same manner as any other abandoned vehicle in the city limits.~~

##### ~~(b) Abandoned Vehicles on Private Property~~

- ~~1. UTPD directly provides the Abandoned Vehicle Unit with the private property affidavit signed by the owner of the property stating that the owner wants the vehicle removed.~~