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Inherited Car Checklist

Owner's name _____ Date of death _____

Year / make / model _____ Odometer reading _____

VIN _____ Where the title is kept _____

1. First week

- [ ] Keys, title, registration and loan or lease papers found
- [ ] Car parked safely; no one is driving it
- [ ] Insurer called; coverage kept until sold or retitled
- [ ] Lender or leasing company called; payoff or turn-in amount asked
- [ ] Certified death certificates ordered

2. Who can sign

- [ ] Co-owner on the title (check the wording)
- [ ] Executor / administrator with court papers
- [ ] Heirs using the state's form (e.g. CA REG 5, TX VTR-262)
- [ ] Lender's lien released or paid off

3. Decide

- [ ] Keep in the family
- [ ] Sell it yourself
- [ ] Dealer or instant-offer site
- [ ] Estate sale company (ask if they sell cars)
- [ ] Auction
- [ ] Donate (keep the charity's written acknowledgment)

4. Hand-over day

- [ ] Paid in cleared funds before keys and title change hands
- [ ] Title signed by the right person; bill of sale “sold as-is”
- [ ] Odometer reading recorded
- [ ] Plates handled per state rules; release of liability filed if required
- [ ] Insurance cancelled only after the transfer

Quote 1 / source _____ Quote 2 / source _____

General information, not legal or tax advice. Forms and rules vary by state; check your DMV. estatesalefinder.net/blog/what-to-do-with-a-car-when-someone-dies