

Applying for a Wrecker Service License

1. Determine if you need a wrecker service license:

- **Definition** of a wrecker or wrecker vehicle as stated in [47 O.S. §72-951](#). 1 “means any motor vehicle that is equipped with any device designed to tow another vehicle or combination of vehicles”. Tow or towing means the use of a wrecker vehicle to lift, pull, move, haul or otherwise transport any other vehicle by means of attaching the vehicle to and pulling the vehicle with the wrecker vehicle or loading the vehicle onto and transporting the vehicle upon the wrecker vehicle.
- **Exceptions** to needing a wrecker license are:
 1. When the operator owns both the wrecker vehicle and the towed vehicle and the wrecker vehicle displays on both sides in plainly visible letters the words “NOT FOR HIRE” (not less than two (2) inches in height).
 2. When the service is performed by a transporter defined as a person engaged in the business of delivering vehicles of a type required to be registered hereunder from a manufacturing, assembling or distributing plant to dealer or sales agents of a manufacturer or from the place of business of a dealer, sales agent or auto auction to a place of business of the same or another dealer, sales agent or auto auction.
 3. When the service is performed in conjunction with the transportation of household goods and property.
 4. Where the wrecker vehicle is owned or operated by the United States government, the State of Oklahoma, or any department or political subdivision thereof.
 5. Where the service is performed by an out-of-state wrecker service at the request of the vehicle owner or operator, the vehicle is not involved in a collision, and is being towed:
 - In either direction across the border between Oklahoma and a neighboring state or through Oklahoma in transit to another state; provided the out-of-state wrecker service shall comply with all other requirements regarding interstate commerce as set forth in law.

2. Determine what type of license you want to apply for:

- **G class wrecker services with no storage** can tow vehicles, at the owner's request, from one location to another but **cannot** take the vehicle back to their home or store the vehicle in another's storage facility.
- **Class G wrecker service with storage** (many do repossessions) may pick up vehicles at the owner or lien holder's request and take back to their storage facility. They **cannot** tow a vehicle from private property at the property owner's request and they **cannot** tow for law enforcement agencies.
- **Class AA wrecker services** must have an office in Oklahoma, where business can be conducted, and have an outdoor storage facility. They may also have an indoor storage facility. Class AA can tow owner request, private property and be on law enforcement rotation.
 - They can tow all vehicles as long as you do not go over the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of your wrecker vehicle.

3. Determine if you qualify. License Prohibited.

- A. No person under eighteen (18) years of age shall be licensed or employed as a wrecker operator.
- B. No person shall be licensed as a wrecker/towing service operator or employee who has been convicted of:
 - i. a felony offense constituting a violent crime as defined in [57 O.S. § 571](#), larceny, theft. Felony convictions expunged through deferred sentencing will not be considered as convictions; or
 - ii. any provision of [21 O.S. § 1029](#) while providing wrecker services; or
- C. No person shall be licensed as a wrecker/towing service or employed by a wrecker/towing service until completion of the sentence for the conviction, including probation or supervised release.
- D. Any person who is required to register as a sex offender, as required by [57 O.S. § 582](#), shall be prohibited from owning or working for a wrecker service for a period of time the person is or is required to be registered.
- E. Nothing in this section prohibits the Commissioner of Public Safety or his or her designee from approving, denying, suspending, cancelling, or not renewing a wrecker license if it is determined to be in the best interest of public safety.

4. Requirements to get a wrecker license are:

- **Own or lease a wrecker vehicle.**
 1. Registration must be in the owner's name or business name as shown on the wrecker service license.
 2. When leased the wrecker service name must be on the wrecker vehicle registration as the lessee.
- **Have an office location.**
 1. It must be a permanent structure, not mounted on wheels, occupied by the wrecker operator at the physical address of the wrecker service, as shown on the wrecker license application.
 2. The business must have phone service (cell phones are allowed) but must have functioning utilities including but not limited to electricity and water.
 3. The business must be located in Oklahoma, where normal business is transacted and all wrecker service records are to be maintained.

4. A business sign, (G class with no storage are exempt). The sign must be 2' x 4' with letters at least 3" high displaying at a minimum, the wrecker service name and a phone number accessible 24 hours a day.
- **Outdoor storage facility (All Class AA wrecker services must have an indoor or outdoor storage facility and may have both).**
 1. Must be at the same location as the office or no more than two (2) miles from the office.
 2. It must be accessible to the public by way of an all-weather road.
 3. It must have a business sign (required at both office and storage locations if different).
 4. The entrance to the storage facility must be separate from any other business entity.
 5. Shall be designed to be a minimum of 5,000 square feet for small truck storage and a minimum of 15,000 square feet for storage of large trucks.
 6. Shall be surrounded by at least a 6' fence of wood, metal design or chain link.
 7. Shall have at least one gate of the same material and height as the fence. It must be locked if not attended.
 8. The storage lot surface shall be an all-weather surface such as concrete, asphalt, blacktop, gravel, or any materials equivalent and cover the complete area of the storage lot. It must be maintained at all times to include removal of tall weeds, overgrown vegetation and debris.
- **Indoor storage facility.** An operator may also provide an indoor storage facility as either a primary or secondary storage facility. It must be:
 1. A permanent structure.
 2. Have a solid roof.
 3. Have a solid hard-surface floor.
 4. Have solid walls which fully enclose all sides, corner to corner, floor to roof. The wall may have windows and doors that must be fully operable to make the facility fully enclosed.
- **Training**
 1. Each new wrecker owner and driver of a wrecker/towing vehicle must have successfully completed a minimum of 16 hours of Department approved course of training or have a minimum of 2 years of experience on the following:
 - i. Traffic Incident Management (TIMS) enroll at www.oktim.org (*Required*)
 - ii. Wrecker vehicle recovery controls
 - iii. Connecting or loading vehicle onto wrecker
 - iv. Tie down and secure vehicle to wrecker
 - v. Wrecker operation safety
 - vi. Annually complete 4 hours of continuing education approved by the department (*you must submit documents to DPS Wrecker Services via fax (405)425-2031 or email: wrecker@dps.ok.gov*)

5. Filling out the Original Application for Wrecker/Towing Service License.

- A. Download [Original Wrecker License Application](#).
- B. Choose a Wrecker Service Name. Make sure the name is available by checking our web page at [OK Licensed Wrecker Services](#). Names will not be approved if another wrecker service already has that name. Wrecker Service names registered with the Secretary of State will be accepted.
- C. Complete all pages of the application. It must be signed and notarized. A partnership must have two signatures. All officers of a Corporation or LLC should be listed and at least two sign the application.
- D. If the wrecker service is a Corporation or LLC a copy of the Corporation certificate or LLC certificate from the Oklahoma Secretary of State must be submitted with the application.
- E. Get Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation background checks done on all owners/officers listed on the application. [OSBI Website \(Click Here\)](#) The OSBI background check must be current; any report over ninety (90) days old will not be accepted. If the owners/officers listed have not lived in Oklahoma for preceding five (5) years, a criminal history check from their state or prior state of residence must also be submitted with the application.
- F. If the office, indoor or outdoor storage facility is being leased then a lease agreement must be submitted with the application. The lease agreement must be for a minimum of one (1) year showing the same address as it is listed on the application. Both the lessor and lessee must sign the lease agreement.
- G. Include the \$500.00 application fee, payable to the Department of Public Safety, by cashier's check, money order or personal check. Please send NO CASH with the application.
- H. Have your insurance company fax 405-425-2031 or email wrecker@dps.ok.gov a Department of Public Safety Certificate of Insurance (WA) filing. (WA180)

6. Mail all documents that apply to:

Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, Wrecker Services Division
 PO Box 11415
 Oklahoma City, OK 74136-0415