



## What Every Law Enforcement Officer in Oklahoma Should Know

### The Wrecker and Towing Industry in Oklahoma

There are only two classifications of wreckers in Oklahoma: Class “AA” and Class “G”.

- Class “AA” authorized wreckers may perform both **consensual and non-consensual towing**.
- Class “G” authorized wreckers may **ONLY** perform **consensual towing**.

What is consensual and non-consensual towing?

- **Consensual towing** is a mutual agreement between the operator/owner or lienholder of a vehicle and a wrecker company.
- **Non-consensual towing or Nonconsensual Tow”** *means the transportation of a vehicle without the consent or knowledge of the vehicle’s owner, possessor, agent, insurer, lien holder, or any other person in possession of or in charge of any vehicle and includes the transportation or towing of the vehicle under lawful circumstances or necessity for the public interest including removing from the roadway for public safety or public convenience, or accidents, by any law enforcement officer or property agent or removal from public or private property as a result of abandonment or unauthorized parking by the property owner, agent, possessor, or other legal entity for the property owner.*
- **Law Enforcement** means a tow of a vehicle made by an operator when a law enforcement officer compels a vehicle be towed or makes a request for a tow using a law enforcement rotation log and to which the rates and fees as prescribed by the Corporation Commission shall apply.

All licensed wrecker vehicles, regardless of class, must carry a Department of Public Safety (DPS) Cab Card. The DPS Cab Card lists the name of the company, the DPS assigned number, and the description of the wrecker vehicle.

**ALL** wrecker drivers working for Class “AA” and Class “G” wrecker companies must have their information on file with DPS Wrecker Services Division.

State statute requires that any unlicensed wrecker vehicle not displaying a company name and DPS number must have **“Not for Hire”** signage on both sides of the vehicle. Statute prohibits these vehicles from performing any towing services for hire.

- If towing a vehicle, wrecker operators must carry and be able to present vehicle ownership documentation in their name if not licensed by DPS

- An unlicensed wrecker and driver's failure to provide adequate and reasonable vehicle ownership documentation may indicate auto theft.
- Any "AA" licensed wrecker operator performing a non-consensual private property impound must provide a properly documented copy of a **Tow Authorization Form** issued by the Department of Public Safety prior to hooking and transporting a vehicle. Failure to provide TAF documentation to law enforcement could indicate possible auto theft by the operator.
- Repossession wrecker companies are required by state statute to notify law enforcement within 2 hours of repossession of a vehicle. This type of towing operation is considered a consensual tow. No forms are required by DPS for repossessions however the wrecker company must be licensed as a "G" or "AA" wrecker by the Department of Public Safety.

By law, DPS licensed Class "AA" or "G" wreckers must have either a wrecker license plate that begins with the letter "W" or an apportioned license plate issued by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. The Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of the wrecker vehicle is mandatory for registration purposes.

## The Authority of Oklahoma Law Enforcement Officers

Law enforcement officers have the authority to:

- enforce any wrecker laws found in **Okla. State Statute Title 47, Chapter 72.**
- inspect any garage, repair facility, wrecker company, or salvage yard for investigation and detection of stolen vehicles.
- stop a wrecker vehicle at any time to determine licensed authority to "tow-for-hire".
- conduct a VIN inspection, at the request of the public, for the purposes of acquiring vehicle registration and titling in Oklahoma or any other U.S. state that requires a law enforcement VIN inspection.

Law enforcement officers, specially trained by DPS Wrecker Services Division, may perform inspections and approvals to ensure wrecker vehicles have proper registration/documentation and carry designated/required equipment.

**Find further information, including wrecker laws, administrative code rules, and frequently asked questions (FAQ's) on wrecker-related issues on the Department of Public Safety Wrecker Services Division page at:**

**<https://oklahoma.gov/dps/wrecker-services.html>**