

Retrieving a Towed Vehicle

Vehicle owners are legally required to maintain current registration and insurance on vehicles driven on the roadway. An unregistered vehicle will not be released until appropriate fees are paid to the Department of Motor Vehicles and the vehicle is registered before a release is authorized. In addition, anyone driving a vehicle must possess a valid driver's license. If necessary vehicle information is stored in a towed vehicle, the owner may contact the tow company to arrange to retrieve the information.



To recover your vehicle, you will need the following:

- Valid driver's license
- Current vehicle registration
- Pay the appropriate Vehicle Release Fee.
- Pay tow service fees

Important Numbers

All Emergencies (Police, Fire or Ambulance)
911

Animal Care Center (City of Indio)
(760) 391- 4135

Animal Control (All other areas)
(760) 391- 4051

Business Licenses
(760) 391- 4197

City Hall
(760) 391- 4000

Code Enforcement
(760) 391- 4123

Crime Free Multi-Housing Program
(760) 391-4037

Fire Department (Business)
(760) 347- 0756

Indio Golf Course
(760) 391- 4049

Indio Police Dept Main Line (24-hours)
(760) 391- 4057

Indio Police Department Non-Emergency
(760) 391- 4051

Indio Water Authority (Business)
(760) 391- 4038

Graffiti Removal Hot Line
(760) 391- 4143

Neighborhood Watch
(760) 391-4037

Office of the Chief of Police
(760) 391- 4035

Senior Center
(760) 341- 4170

Special Events (Garage Sale and Event Permits)
(760) 391- 4175

Teen Center
(760) 541-4400

Coachella Valley Crime Stoppers (Anonymous Tips)
(760) 341-STOP

**This brochure was developed by the Indio
Police Department's C.H.I.P. program
(Citizens Helping Indio Police)**



Vehicle Storage and Impound Guide



**“Our Community
Our Commitment”**

Indio Police Department

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Why Was My Vehicle Towed?

There are many reasons a vehicle may be removed from the roadway or private property. The California Vehicle Code contains many laws that grant a peace officer/city representative, the authority to remove a vehicle due to illegal parking, abandonment, or because a driver or vehicle owner is accused of violating certain laws, licensing or registration requirements. Most of the laws regarding towing may be found under section 22651 of the California Vehicle Code.

It is important to know that the removal of a vehicle is not considered a “punishment.” Instead, a peace officer is required to provide protection for a vehicle and cannot assume the risk or liability for leaving a vehicle parked on a roadway or private property following the drivers or occupant’s arrest for an alleged crime.

Why Was My Vehicle Impounded For 30 Days?

Whenever it has been determined by a police officer that a person was driving a vehicle while:

- His/her driving privilege was suspended or revoked
- His/her driving privilege was restricted under section 13352 or 23575 and the vehicle was not equipped with a functioning/certified interlock device
- Having never been issued a driver’s

The California Vehicle Code Section 14602.2 requires the “removal” of the vehicle “ A vehicle so impounded shall be impounded for 30 days.

The vehicle may be released prior to the end of the 30 day period when:

- The Vehicle is a stolen vehicle
- When the vehicle is subject to bailment and the driver of a vehicle is an employee of the business

Vehicle Impound Recovery Fees & Vehicle Impound Hearings

Vehicle Impound Recovery Fees

California Vehicle Code Section 22850.5 allows the city, county or state to enact a regulation, ordinance, or resolution to impose a charge that is equal to its administrative costs related to the removal, impound, storage, or release of vehicles. This fee is collected by the Indio Police Department on behalf of the City of Indio where your vehicle was towed.

Presently, the vehicle impound recovery fee for the City of Indio is \$ 200.00 and is payable to the City of Indio prior to the vehicle being released from impound.

Vehicle Impound Hearings

California Vehicle Code Section 22852 allows a vehicle’s registered and/or legal owners to request a post storage hearing.

The hearing is conducted by the hearing officer to determine two issues:

1. Was the vehicle storage justified by the proper use of a vehicle storage law.
2. Is there a legal reason to release the impounded vehicle, as described in Vehicle Code Section 14602.6 (b)

Please read the back of the vehicle storage form (CHP form 180) to understand your requirements when making a request for a post storage hearing.