

Registrant Moves To New Address

If a registrant moves to some other address than that shown on his/her excise bill, that registrant should take steps to ensure that his/her address is changed on his/her license and registration. G.L. Ch. 90 §26A states:

“Every person in whose name a motor vehicle...has been registered...shall report any change of his name, residential address or mailing address in writing to the registrar within thirty days after the date on which such change was made.”

Methods To Effectuate A Change Of Address

Form #10094

A convenient way for a person to make a change of address in the Registry's data bank is to fill out and submit an orange “Change of Address -- License/ Registration” card, Form #10094. A registrant may also change the address on his/her registration by calling the Registry of Motor Vehicles at (617) 351-4500, although this procedure does not technically comply with the statute's requirement that the change be made in writing.

Change Of Address Labels; Fees

Upon a request made either in writing or by phone, the Registry will provide change of address labels upon which licensee/registrants may enter address changes. These labels may then be affixed, as appropriate, to previously issued licenses and registrations. The Registry provides change of address labels at no charge. Alternatively, a registrant/licensee who changes his/her address may obtain from the Registry an amended license and/or registration(s) displaying the new address. For each amended document, the Registry will assess a \$15.00 fee pursuant to the authority of Ch. 90 §33.

Liability If Notice Of Change Of Address Is Not Given To The Registry:

If a registrant moves and does not change his/her address, the excise bill will be mailed to the registrant's former address, and the bill might not be forwarded by the post office to the new address. So long as a municipality mails the excise bill to the address that appears on a person's registration, the municipality fulfills its duty to give notice to the registrant. The registrant becomes subject to interest and fees if the excise is not timely paid. If a bill does not reach a registrant because that person moved and did not notify the Registry of his/her change of address, the registrant is not entitled to any relief.

Available Relief If Change Of Address Is Given But Not Effectuated Due To Registry Error

On the other hand, if a person moves and properly notifies the Registry of the move but, notwithstanding, does not receive an excise bill, that person may be entitled to relief.

Two particular circumstances should afford such relief:

1. A registrant properly files a change of address; however, due to a clerical error, the change is either not entered, at all, or is incorrectly entered into the Registry's records.
2. A registrant's license and registration are *not integrated* in the Registry's records. The registrant properly files an address change which effects a

change in his/her license file. However, the address in his/her registration file is not concurrently updated, and the excise bill goes to the incorrect address. (This is an infrequent circumstance since the vast majority of the Registry's records are integrated.)

In both of the above circumstances, the assessors are not legally obligated to grant an abatement, if they possess jurisdiction, or to seek authority to grant an abatement under Ch. 58 §8, if they lack such jurisdiction. They possess full discretion in these matters. However, the Department of Revenue believes an abatement is fair and equitable in such situations.