



Tow Hearing Information

The following information is provided to assist you in deciding if you wish to have a tow hearing.

A tow hearing is held to determine only two facts:

- 1) Was the car towed legally?
- 2) Does the law allow the car to be held for 30 days?

If the answer to both questions above is yes, the car will not be released under any circumstances. The following commonly heard reasons will **NOT** be accepted to release the car.

- I can't afford to get my vehicle out if it is held for 30 days
- It is my only means of transportation
- I need my vehicle to get to work
- I need my vehicle to take my kids to school
- I won't make the same mistake again
- I will park the car for 30 days and not drive it
- I am disabled or need the vehicle for medical appointments
- I loaned the car to a friend and he/she loaned it to someone else

If one of the registered owners of the vehicle was the driver, the car **WILL NOT** be released under any circumstances. In other words, if you own the car and were driving it when the car was towed, you will not get it back for 30 days.

- a) Changing the registered owner after the vehicle is towed will not cause the vehicle to be released. If the driver was the owner at the time the car was towed, it will not be released.
- b) If there is more than one registered owner listed on the registration, the vehicle will not be released.

There are several valid issues which can be raised to bring about the immediate release of the vehicle. Please read the following carefully as there are conditions to each one that must be satisfied to obtain a release.

- **If you loaned the car to a friend or family member and looked at their driver's license prior to loaning them the car, the car MAY be returned to you.**
 - You are required to have taken a look at the license before loaning the car

- You must bring the subject's driver's license with you to the tow hearing to prove the person actually possessed the license. No exceptions are allowed.
- **If someone took the car without your permission, the car MAY be returned to you.**
 - In order for the car to be returned, you must press charges on the driver for vehicle theft.
 - This applies even if the car was taken by a friend or family member, there are no exceptions.
 - Please note that the person who was driving the car will be arrested for a felony.
- **If the driver of the impounded vehicle obtains a valid driver's license after the vehicle is towed, the vehicle WILL be immediately returned.**
 - No tow hearing is required to get the vehicle back
- **If the car was towed for failure to pay child support, the vehicle WILL be immediately returned.**
 - No tow hearing is required to get the vehicle back
- **If at the time the car was towed it was being driven by an employee of a licensed repair shop, the vehicle WILL be returned.**
 - At the time it was towed the vehicle must have been in for repair and being test driven by an employee of the shop.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tow hearing information is followed by a letter from the hearing officer. If you do not meet the criteria to have your car returned, **DO NOT** request a tow hearing. Further explanation will not result in the return of your car and is a waste of both your and our time.

The California State University, Monterey Bay Police Department understands you need your vehicle. The above criteria are a matter of law and policy and therefore must be followed by our department.