

# **INFORMATION NOTICE**

## **DIVISION OF MOTORIST SERVICES**

DATE: 09/24/24

Information Notice (INFO)
INFO 24-026

SUBJECT: Towing and Storage Mile Radius Guidelines for Non-

**Consensual Tows** 

#### Overview:

<u>Florida Statute 715.07 (1a) (b)</u>, establishes guidelines for non-consensual tows of motor vehicles and vessels. This statute also establishes mileage parameters based on the population of a county and if a tow company does not exist within the area to provide towing services.

### **Details:**

When a non-consensual tow is completed by a tow company, the following guidelines must be followed:

- In counties with a population of 500,000 or more, motor vehicles or vessels must be stored within a 10-mile radius of the removal point.
- In counties with a population of fewer than 500,000, the motor vehicles or vessels must be stored within a 15-mile radius of the removal point.

These guidelines do not prohibit a tow company from crossing county lines to conduct a non-consensual tow, however the mile radius must be followed. These transactions should not be rejected.

If there is no towing service within the above set mile radius, the following guidelines must be followed:

• In counties with a population of 500,000 or more, motor vehicles or vessels storage can extend to a 20-mile radius from the removal point.

• In counties with a population of less than 500,000, motor vehicles or vessels storage can extend to a 30-mile radius from the removal point.

These guidelines do not prohibit a tow company from crossing county lines to conduct a non-consensual tow, however the mile radius must be followed. These transactions should not be rejected.

For each instance listed above, the tow company must follow county or municipal fees/rates according to where the motor vehicle or vessel was located at the time of tow. Also, a law enforcement agency of the county where the motor vehicle or vessel was located at the time of the tow must be notified.

Note: The mile radius guideline does not apply to consensual tows or law enforcement requested tows.

Tow companies must adhere to the above guidelines and supply complete and legible documentation to the authorized agencies for paperwork to be processed and approved in a timely manner. Failure to adhere to the above guidelines will result in a delay or denial of your tow paperwork processing.

#### **Conclusion:**

If you need additional information, please contact your next level of management or the Field Support Center.