
IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF ODOMETER FRAUD

- Contact an attorney to discuss your options involving the person responsible for the fraud.
- According to Illinois law (Chapter 625 ILCS 5/3-112.1), a person may be awarded \$1,500 or three times the amount of damages plus court costs and attorney fees in fraud cases.
- Secretary of State Police can investigate a criminal complaint filed against a person accused of fraudulent practices.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ISSP District #1
103 W. Roosevelt Rd. • Villa Park, IL 60181
630-693-0551

ISSP District #2
3214 Auburn St. • Rockford, IL 61101
815-484-8100

ISSP District #3
3650 Winchester Rd. • Springfield, IL 62707
217-785-5486

ISSP District #4
220 S. 12th St. • Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
618-244-8343

ISSP District #4A
400 W. Main St. • Belleville, IL 62220
618-236-8765

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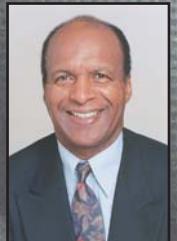


Secretary of State Police

ODOMETER FRAUD

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Jesse White
Illinois Secretary of State

Illinois law prohibits odometer tampering and requires anyone who sells a motor vehicle to disclose the accuracy of its odometer reading. All sellers of a motor vehicle are subject to the law — private citizens as well as car dealers.

Odometer Certification

Chapter 625 ILCS 5/3-112.1

Illinois law requires mileage disclosure for all vehicles, except vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of more than 16,000 pounds, vehicles 10 years old or older, vehicles that are not self-propelled and vehicles manufactured without an odometer.

The seller must complete the Certificate of Title, including the following information:

- Odometer reading at the time of the sale/transfer.
- Date of the sale/transfer.
- Seller's printed name and signature.
- Purchaser's printed name, address and signature.

Purchasing from a Dealer

An Illinois licensed vehicle dealer must provide:

- Bill of sale.
- Odometer statement.
- Copy of Illinois Tax Form.

Inspect Vehicle

- Make sure odometer progresses properly.
- Check brakes, steering, alignment and acceleration.
- Inspect tires — low-mileage vehicles typically have the original tires.
- Check batteries, hoses, clamps and belts.
- Look for excessive interior wear: seats, floor mats and brake pedal.

Used Car Buying Tips

- Have a qualified mechanic examine the vehicle. This may help avoid unexpected repair costs.
- Never sign blank documents. An unscrupulous dealer may complete the document to his/her benefit only.
- Review the title. The vehicle's current mileage should be greater than the mileage shown on the title. Alterations or eraser marks invalidate the title. NEVER purchase a vehicle with an altered title. If the dealer does not have the title, do not purchase the vehicle until a title is provided.

What You Should Know

- Make sure the seller's identification matches the name on the title.
- Check the meeting location to be sure it is a permanent location, not a temporary meeting place.
- Verify the telephone number of the seller. Unlisted numbers or pager numbers are difficult to trace should problems arise with the vehicle.
- Determine the reason the vehicle is being sold: family financial hardship, fast cash, mechanical problems.
- Verify that the issue date on the title coincides with the seller's reason for disposing of the vehicle.
- Pay attention to the seller's story. Inconsistencies often indicate illegal sales.
- Compare the vehicle to a similar model from another seller.