**Texas Legal Update**

**Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Will No Longer Be A Defendant**

Effective June 1, 2020, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) will actively dispute any civil cases that list them as a Defendant for the purposes of placing a hold on title.[[1]](#footnote-1) Any lawsuit brought against the TxDMV (other than an appeal of a TAC hearing under Texas Transportation Code §501.052(e)) may be subject to dismissal on the grounds of sovereign immunity.[[2]](#footnote-2)

TxDMV recognizes there will be times when a lawsuit arises between private parties over ownership of a vehicle when title is missing. In order to place a hold on title, parties can email copies of petitions with service of citation, summons, complaints, emergency motions, and subpoenas to GCO\_General@txdmv.gov. Hand delivery of documents will not be accepted. This process will replace the previous practice of naming the TX DMV as a Defendant to a sequestration suit. Temporary 10 day holds on title can still be requested by email to VTR\_TitleLitigation@txdmv.gov.

For full information, you can visit: <https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/buying-or-selling-a-vehicle/title-litigation>

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1. *See* <https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/buying-or-selling-a-vehicle/title-litigation> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *See* TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE § 101.021. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)