



GREENVILLE COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 207

# GENERAL ORDERS

# VEHICLE TOWING AND IMPOUNDMENT

**PURPOSE:**

This policy establishes guidelines for:

1. Orderly and efficient operation of a countywide wrecker service rotation system.
2. To assure equitable treatment to all wrecker service agencies that meet and maintain service standards established by the Sheriff's Office.
3. To ensure prompt, fair, and efficient accommodation to all citizens and agencies requiring wrecker services.

**PROCEDURE:**

Wrecker services participating in the **“Wrecker Rotation Plan”** are selected:

1. In compliance with the County Ordinance regulating the number of wrecker services allowed.
2. After meeting stringent qualifying requirements established by the Sheriff's Office.
3. After passing an on-site inspection conducted by Selective Enforcement.
4. Guidelines set forth in the Towing Guideline Manual located on PowerDMS under “Misc.”

The Selective Enforcement Division is responsible for maintaining, updating, and supervising the wrecker list and for assuring Communications has a current list at all times

Deputies who receive requests from citizens for wrecker service are to advise the party involved that a Wrecker Rotation System is used by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. Under **no** circumstances are employees of the Sheriff's Office to suggest the services of a wrecker business. If an operator or owner of a vehicle specifically requests a certain wrecker service, the deputy involved is to notify Communications, who will make immediate contact, if possible, with the service requested.

If no particular wrecker service is specified, Communications will notify the wrecker(s) needed from the rotation list. The deputy is advised the identity of the assigned wrecker. The deputy is to ensure each vehicle is released to the appropriate wrecker service.

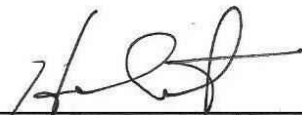
If the Sheriff's Office is towing a vehicle, a **Vehicle Impoundment and Inventory Record** form is to be carefully completed by the on-

scene deputy and signed by the wrecker driver; the deputy's Star Number is to be included on the form. Wrecker drivers receive a copy from the on-scene deputy who will forward the original along with other required investigative reports for processing through normal administrative channels. Sheriff's Office policy dictates all closed or locked containers found during inventory searches shall be inventoried. (Florida v Wells, U.S. 1990).

**COMPLAINTS INVOLVING  
WRECKER SERVICES:**

If unsatisfactory service or lack of cooperation is experienced with any wrecker business by a Deputy, communications personnel or a citizen, a report detailing the issue involved is to be submitted to the Selective Enforcement Division tow rotation supervisor for further investigation. The investigating Deputy will submit a report with the conclusion and place a copy into the wrecker business file. Penalties for not abiding by proper procedures by wrecker businesses are outlined in the Towing Guideline manual. The Selective Enforcement Captain or his designee shall perform an audit semi-annually of charges to vehicle owners through letters, tow company visits, or other means available to maintain compliance with tow regulations.

**NOTE** – Refer to General Order 227 TRAFFIC ANCILLARY SERVICES for guidelines pertaining to towing abandoned vehicles.



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Hobart Lewis, Sheriff