

Case Study

Father, A Car Collector, Passed Away

Barn Find Studebaker, Court-Ordered Title in Illinois



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Jeanette's Title Situation

Jeanette's father had always been a car lover. In particular, he collected Studebakers, repaired them, and sometimes sold them. When her father passed away, he left one Studebaker in his barn, where it has **sat without being titled for years.**

The barn-find Studebaker was acquired in 2011 by her father when an acquaintance *"just dropped off the vehicle"*. It then **sat in the barn for 15 years**, and the prior owner *"just disappeared"*. Jeanette had *no title* for the vehicle, and attempts to reach the prior owner all failed. Jeanette even attempted to hire a lawyer, but *all the lawyers contacted were not interested* in taking on this case. **Jeanette contacted CarTitles** to get assistance obtaining a title for this vehicle and used our Court-Ordered Title process.

"I was so frustrated by the title situation that I even tried to hire a lawyer, but no lawyer would help me."



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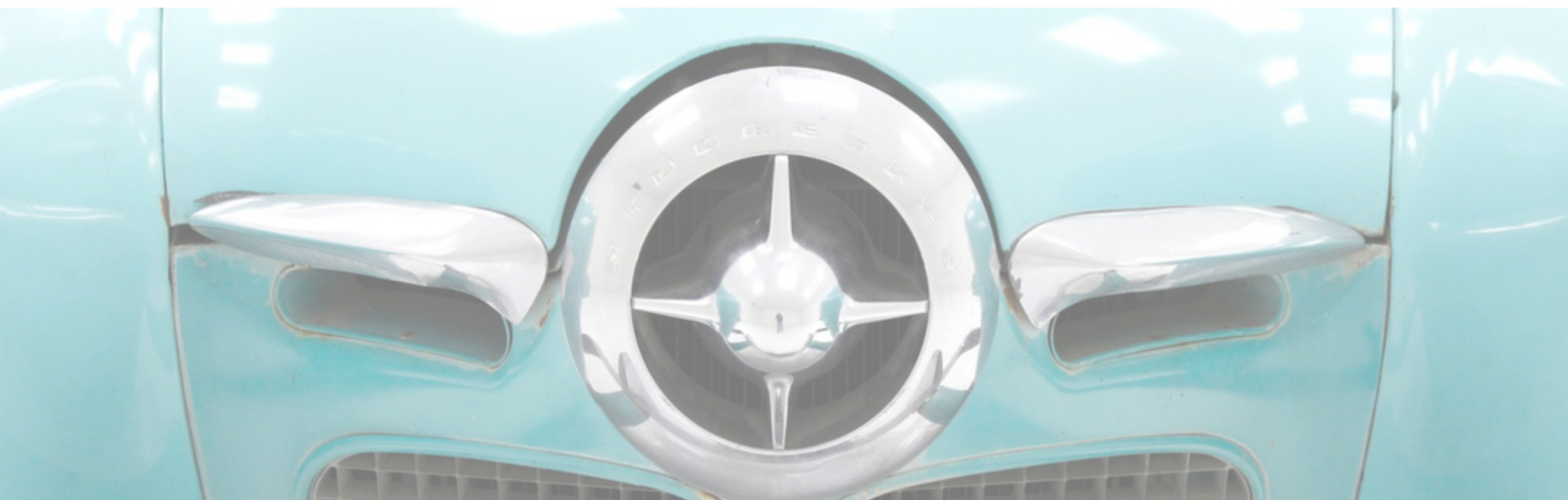
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Jeanette's Court-Ordered Title Process (Paperwork Only Service)

Jeanette purchased the Court-Ordered Title paperwork from CarTitles, and pre-filled documents were **promptly shipped** to her with *pre-addressed, stamped envelopes and supporting documentation*. Jeanette completed the sections requesting information on how the vehicle came into her possession and the attempts she had made to contact the prior owner. Once completed, she mailed the documents to the court.

The court requested that she conduct a more thorough search for the prior owner. She was able to locate the prior owner **using the record search documents** provided in her Court-Ordered Title packet. The prior owner turned out to be an “85-year-old living in the Blue Ridge Mountains”. After serving the prior owner a summons, the prior owner reached out & provided more information.

The prior owner stated that he bought the vehicle at an auction and had forgotten about it due to changing life circumstances. When he purchased the vehicle, he was going through a divorce, and the car simply drifted out of his memory. He stated that he “didn’t want the car”. Jeanette prepared an affidavit explaining the *prior owner’s situation* and **submitted it to the court.**



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Receiving a Judgment and Obtaining a Title

Once the affidavit was submitted to the court along with other supporting documentation, **the court issued a judgment**, but Jeanette's work was not done. When she took the judgment to the DMV, the clerk *"had no idea" what to do with the judgment*. The clerk eventually got a manager, who *"took it all the way to the top"*. Jeanette worked with the manager to send the judgment and related DMV documents to the central DMV office in Springfield, Illinois. After paying the necessary taxes on the vehicle, **a title was sent in the mail**.



Key Takeaways:



Strong Evidence

Having **strong documentation** related to the prior owner is critical to the success of a Court-Ordered Title. Without strong evidence that the prior owner no longer has a claim to the vehicle, a Court-Ordered Title will be unsuccessful.



DMV Coordination

The *DMV does not always know what to do with a judgment from the court*. It is important to work with the DMV headquarters where the knowledge of a Court-Ordered Title resides.





Contact Us

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