Frequently Asked Questions

- **How will I know if my vehicle has been deemed derelict or abandoned?**
  
  A City of Savannah Code officer will identify any violations and affix two forms to the vehicle.

- **If my vehicle is tagged, what do I have to do before it is towed?**
  
  Contact the Code Officer immediately after receiving notification. Whether the vehicle is on public or private property will determine a timeframe for compliance.

- **What happens to my vehicle if it gets towed?**
  
  Once the vehicle is removed, it will be stored at the contractor’s impounding lot for no less than 30 days. Upon providing proof of ownership and paying all towing and storage fees, the vehicle can be returned. Failure to claim the vehicle can result in the sale or disposal by the contractor.

- **I don’t want the vehicle back. Will I be fined or charged?**
  
  No. You will only be charged if you wish to retrieve your vehicle from impound.

- **What if I move the vehicle to my backyard and cover it?**
  
  All vehicles must adhere to the ordinance unless enclosed in an approved accessory structure. Failure to comply will result in a Recorder’s Court Hearing in which fines of up to $1,000 or 30 days in jail may be imposed.

“**Our goal is to encourage responsible property maintenance while seeking voluntary compliance with the provisions of the City Code.**”

City of Savannah
Code Compliance Department
1700 Drayton Street
Savannah, GA  31401

Phone: 912.651.6770
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For more information please visit our website at: [www.savannahga.gov/codecompliance](http://www.savannahga.gov/codecompliance)
Key Definitions

**Abandoned Vehicle:** Abandoned motor vehicles, as herein defined, when left unattended on a public street, road or highway or other public or private real property within the corporate limits of the city for a period of not less than five (5) days on public property or not less than thirty (30) days on private property constitute a health hazard or unsightly nuisance in that they provide a place for insects, rodents and other animals to exist; attract children, vagrants and other individuals; and may cause injury to them and obstruct the streets and ways on and in which they may be found.

**Timeline for Compliance:**
- Public: 5 days
- Private: 30 days

**Derelict Vehicle:** Derelict motor vehicles, as herein defined, when left unattended on a public street, road or highway or other public or private real property within the corporate limits of the city for a period of not less than three (3) days on private or public property constitute a health hazard or unsightly nuisance in that they provide a place for insects, rodents and other animals to exist; attract children, vagrants and other individuals; and may cause injury to them and obstruct the streets and ways on and in which they may be found.

**Timeline for Compliance:**
- Public: 3 days
- Private: 3 days

Criteria for Derelict & Abandoned Vehicles

- A motor vehicle which is inoperative, unlicensed, in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled.
- Being left unattended on a public street, road, or highway or other public property for a period of at least five days and when it reasonably appears to a code enforcement or law enforcement officer that the individual who left such motor vehicle unattended does not intend to return and remove such motor vehicle.

Violation Notices

The Code Officer will retain a carbon copy of the green vehicle identification form. This document will contain all vehicle information and location.

An electronic case will be created for documentation and tracking.