



SAVANNAH
Code Compliance

ABANDONED & DERELICT VEHICLES



non-compliant

The Code Compliance Department promotes a safe, clean and healthy environment by enforcing a wide variety of local ordinances to including:

- property maintenance
- residential parking
 - sanitation
- short-term vacation rentals
 - tourism
- towing operators
- vehicles for hire
- zoning



CALL

912.651.6770



FAX

912.651.6975





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How will I know if my vehicle has been deemed derelict or abandoned?

A: A City of Savannah Code Officer will identify any violations and affix two forms to the vehicle.

Q: If my vehicle is tagged, what do I have to do before it is towed?

A: Contact the Code Officer immediately after receiving notification. The location of the vehicle on public or private property will determine the timeframe for compliance.

Q: What happens to my vehicle if it gets towed?

A: Once the vehicle is removed, it will be stored at the contractor's impounding lot. Upon providing proof of ownership and paying all towing and storage fees, the vehicle can be returned. Failure to claim the vehicle within 30 days can result in the sale or disposal of the vehicle by the contractor.

Q: Will I be fined or charged if I don't want the vehicle back?

A: No. You will only be charged if you wish to retrieve your vehicle from impound.

Q: What if I move the vehicle to my backyard and cover it?

A: 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.

CRITERIA FOR ABANDONED & DERELICT VEHICLES

- A motor vehicle which is inoperative, unlicensed, in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled.
- A vehicle which is 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.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Abandoned Vehicle: Abandoned motor vehicles 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, 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

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.

The image shows two forms. The top form is a green 'NOTICE TO REMOVE DERELICT VEHICLE, BOAT OR TRAILER' form from the City of Savannah, Georgia. It contains fields for vehicle type (Car, Truck, Boat, Other), year, make, model, color, VIN, and license plate. It also has checkboxes for 'Public Property' and 'Private Property'. The bottom form is a yellow 'SAVANNAH' form with a red box around the text 'ALL VIOLATIONS MUST BE CORRECTED BY: NO AVOID FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION'. Dashed arrows point from the text 'Compliance Date' and 'Officer's Name' to the corresponding fields on the forms.