

# Tow or Impound Vehicle with Obstructed VIN

## Scenario

- Vehicle legally parked on the public way.
- Vehicle doors are locked.
- Plates are missing or do not match vehicle.
- Driver side front windshield VIN plate is visually obstructed.
- No indicators (note, signage, etc) are present to provide ownership of vehicle.
- No person present at scene to confirm ownership of vehicle or provide access to the interior of vehicle.

## The Question

- Can you tow/impound the vehicle for confidential VIN check?

## Comments

- Directives state you have to include the key or key fob with the tow report, which is not applicable since no one can provide this in this scenario.
- Tow or Impound Report
  - Either report can be used, unknown which is the correct report
    - There has been instances of successful vehicle removals utilizing either Tow or Impound Report, check with your district's operating procedure.
  - Possible statute [MCC 9-76-160\(a\)\(7\)](#) - It is unlawful for any person, in an effort to hinder a peace officer from obtaining the registration or plate number for the enforcement of a violation of the Illinois Vehicle Code ... or to knowingly cause such plate to be obstructed ...
    - **Must include specific articulable facts evidencing a specific effort to hinder a peace officer from obtaining the plate number**
    - [Special Order S07-03-05](#)
  - Narrative should also include applicable portion of Special Order S07-03-05
- Case Reporting
  - Still is a question as to the need of documenting this on a Case Report
    - I personally would document this on a case report, so it can be digitally searched, where as an Impound/Tow Report is still on paper.
  - Possible IUCR's
    - 5002 - Other Crimes Involving a Motor Vehicle - Other Offense - Other Vehicle Offense

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