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Description of document: State of North Dakota policy regarding prohibited personalized license plates and administrative appeal letters for each plate rejected or reclaimed, 2010-2012

Released date: 27-February-2013

Posted date: 04-March-2013

Source of document: North Dakota Department of Transportation  
608 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0700

Note: Not all requested items were available from all respondents  
This material from state Motor Vehicle Departments contains references to language and material that some people may find offensive and may not be suitable for all ages.

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**Agency:** North Dakota Department of Transportation  
**Division:** Motor Vehicle  
**Group:** Executive Policy Manual  
**Category:** II-Management, Project and Program Development  
**Policy Number:** II 11-1  
**Title:** Motor Vehicle Division Policy Personalized License Plates  
**Original Date:** 08/08/2005  
**Revised Date:** 10/15/2010  
**Review by Date:** 10/15/2012

**PURPOSE:** The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), in section 39-04-10.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is charged with the task of issuing personalized license plates. The Motor Vehicle Division of NDDOT is responsible for the purchase and issuance of these license plates.

**POLICY:** The Motor Vehicle Division retains the right to refuse to issue any license plates with any combination of letters or numbers, presented in any language, which, when read forward or backwards, may carry connotations that are offensive to good taste and decency, or would be misleading, including but not limited to:

1. A vulgar word or term, including a swear word or term defined in dictionaries as profane, obscene, or having an explicit sexual connotation.
2. A word or term that is offensive to or contemptuous of a racial or ethnic group.
3. A word or term that advocates lawlessness or advocates lawless activities or that refers to illegal drugs.
4. A word or term that could be reasonably expected to provoke a violent response from viewers.
5. A foreign word or term that falls into any of the above categories.
6. A combination that conflicts with the NDDOT's regular license number system.

Any restrictions on issuing personalized license plates must be reasonable and viewpoint neutral. The availability of a personalized license plate selected on the NDDOT website, by mail, or through any other means, is subject to final approval by the Motor Vehicle Division. If a request for a personalized license plate is denied, Motor Vehicle Division will inform the

Deputy Director for Driver and Vehicle Services prior to the decision being communicated to applicant. A person denied a personalized license plate for any of the reasons listed above may appeal that decision to the NDDOT Director or the Director's designated representative. The decision of the Director is final. Any license plates that are inadvertently issued may be recalled.

**Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.**  
**Director**

October 1, 2012

Mr. Citizen  
Xyz, 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
AnyTown, ND 58503

RE: Your License Plate – Recalled plate listed here

Dear Mr. Citizen,

As you know, we approve many license plates as special letter plates, commonly called vanity plates. During the approval process, we use the notes of the individual as well as the resources at our disposal to ensure we do not approve a letter or number set which is offensive to our citizens.

Occasionally, either a letter/number slips through our review, or over time certain letter/numbers take on a new meaning, or a citizen(s) report they are offended by a plate set and we are forced to recall those plates. We only take this action if we have had concerns raised by citizens in regards to the impropriety of a letter/number set.

Your plate falls into this category. We have received input from citizens the plate denotes a slang phrase that is potentially offensive. Due to this, we are required to recall your plate.

Please contact the Bismarck Central Office at 701-328-2725 option 2 and coordinate with a consumer service agent for a replacement for your tag. As we issued the original license plate and are recalling it, there will be no charge for the new license plate.

If you have any further information needs, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division

**ORDER TO SUPERINTENDENT, NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL**

North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division

SFN 2930 (Rev 10-2003)

By virtue of authority granted in Section 39-04-05.1, 39-04-06, and 39-05-09.2 of the North Dakota Century Code,

registration plates bearing number \_\_\_\_\_ (and) (or) title bearing number

\_\_\_\_\_, have been rescinded for the following reason:

Date	Owner(s) Name			
Address		City	State	Zip Code
Year	Make	Model		Style
Vehicle Identification Number				

Section 39-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code declares that "All vehicle license plates issued by the department continue to be the property of the State of North Dakota for the period for which the plates are valid," and

Section 39-04-40 of the North Dakota Century Code provides that the North Dakota Highway Patrol and all other road or police officers shall enforce the provisions of the North Dakota vehicle registration laws.

☐ **Therefore, it is ordered** that you repossess the North Dakota registration plates numbered \_\_\_\_\_, and return the same to the Motor Vehicle Division, North Dakota Department of Transportation.

☐ **Therefore, it is ordered** that you repossess the North Dakota certificate of title numbered \_\_\_\_\_, and return the same to the Motor Vehicle Division, North Dakota Department of Transportation.

☐ Collect the following amount in cash, certified check or money order:

Amount of Check \_\_\_\_\_

Collection Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Miscellaneous \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BY ORDER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Motor Vehicle Division

MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION  
ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
608 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE  
BISMARCK ND 58505-0780  
(701) 328-2725



# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
Director

Jack Dalrymple  
Governor

June 8, 2012

**COPY**

[REDACTED]  
RE: Your License Plate – LARAZA

Dear [REDACTED]

As you know, we approve many license plates as special letter plates, commonly called vanity plates. During the approval process, we use the notes of the individual as well as the resources at our disposal to ensure we do not approve a letter or number set which is offensive to our citizens.

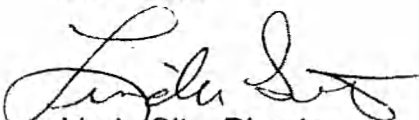
Occasionally, either a letter/number slips through our review, or over time certain letter/numbers take on a new meaning, or a citizen(s) report they are offended by a plate set and we are forced to recall those plates. We only take this action if we have had concerns raised by citizens in regards to the impropriety of a letter/number set.

Your plate falls into this category. We have received input from citizens the plate denotes a slang phrase that is potentially offensive. Due to this, we are required to recall your plate.

Please contact the Bismarck Central Office at 701-328-2725 option 1 and coordinate with a consumer service agent for a replacement for your tag. As we issued the original license plate and are recalling it, there will be no charge for the new license plate.

If you have any further information needs, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division



# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
*Director*

Jack Dalrymple  
*Governor*

June 15, 2012

**COPY**

[REDACTED]

RE: Your License Plate – PAULICE

Dear [REDACTED]

As you know, we approve many license plates as special letter plates, commonly called vanity plates. During the approval process, we use the notes of the individual as well as the resources at our disposal to ensure we do not approve a letter or number set which is offensive to our citizens.

Occasionally, either a letter/number slips through our review, or over time certain letter/numbers take on a new meaning, or a citizen(s) report they are offended by a plate set and we are forced to recall those plates. We only take this action if we have had concerns raised by citizens in regards to the impropriety of a letter/number set.

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If you have any further information needs, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division

**ORDER TO SUPERINTENDENT, NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL**  
North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division  
SFN 2930 (Rev 10-2003)

**COPY**

By virtue of authority granted in Section 39-04-05.1, 39-04-06, and 39-05-09.2 of the North Dakota Century Code,

registration plates bearing number PAULICE (and) (or) title bearing number

\_\_\_\_\_ have been rescinded for the following reason:

Vehicle is a former law enforcement vehicle, still has some law enforcement equipment, plates too closely resemble law enforcement vehicles.

Date 6/14/2012	Owner(s) Name [REDACTED]			
Address [REDACTED]		City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	Zip Code [REDACTED]
Year [REDACTED]	Make [REDACTED]	Model [REDACTED]		Style [REDACTED]
Vehicle Identification Number [REDACTED]				

Section 39-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code declares that "All vehicle license plates issued by the department continue to be the property of the State of North Dakota for the period for which the plates are valid," and

Section 39-04-40 of the North Dakota Century Code provides that the North Dakota Highway Patrol and all other road or police officers shall enforce the provisions of the North Dakota vehicle registration laws.

☒ Therefore, it is ordered that you repossess the North Dakota registration plates numbered PAULICE, and return the same to the Motor Vehicle Division, North Dakota Department of Transportation.

☐ Therefore, it is ordered that you repossess the North Dakota certificate of title numbered \_\_\_\_\_, and return the same to the Motor Vehicle Division, North Dakota Department of Transportation.

☐ Collect the following amount in cash, certified check or money order:

Amount of Check	_____
Collection Fee	_____
Miscellaneous	_____
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

BY ORDER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Motor Vehicle Division

MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION  
ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
608 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE  
BISMARCK ND 58505-0780  
(701) 328-2725





# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
Director

Jack Dalrymple  
Governor

June 20, 2012

# COPY

[REDACTED]  
RE: Your License Plate [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

LKMYJNK  
you

As you know, we approve many license plates as special letter plates, commonly called vanity plates. During the approval process, we use the notes of the individual as well as the resources at our disposal to ensure we do not approve a letter or number set which is offensive to our citizens.

Occasionally, either a letter/number slips through our review, or over time certain letter/numbers take on a new meaning, or a citizen(s) report they are offended by a plate set and we are forced to recall those plates. We only take this action if we have had concerns raised by citizens in regards to the impropriety of a letter/number set.

Your plate falls into this category. We have received input from citizens the plate denotes a slang phrase that is potentially offensive. Due to this, we are required to recall your plate.

Please contact the Bismarck Central Office at 701-328-2725 option 1 and coordinate with a consumer service agent for a replacement for your tag. As we issued the original license plate and are recalling it, there will be no charge for the new license plate.

If you have any further information needs, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division



# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
*Director*

Jack Dalrymple  
*Governor*

June 20, 2012

# COPY

[REDACTED]

RE: Your License Plate – DOOBARU

Dear [REDACTED]

As you know, we approve many license plates as special letter plates, commonly called vanity plates. During the approval process, we use the notes of the individual as well as the resources at our disposal to ensure we do not approve a letter or number set which is offensive to our citizens.

Occasionally, either a letter/number slips through our review, or over time certain letter/numbers take on a new meaning, or a citizen(s) report they are offended by a plate set and we are forced to recall those plates. We only take this action if we have had concerns raised by citizens in regards to the impropriety of a letter/number set.

Your plate falls into this category. We have received input from citizens the plate denotes a slang phrase that is potentially offensive. Due to this, we are required to recall your plate.

Please contact the Bismarck Central Office at 701-328-2725 option 1 and coordinate with a consumer service agent for a replacement for your tag. As we issued the original license plate and are recalling it, there will be no charge for the new license plate.

If you have any further information needs, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division

September 13, 2012

NDDOT Motor Vehicle Division; Personalized License Plates

Bismark, North Dakota

To whom it may concern:

In a recent attempt to validate a previous registration for the personalized license plate "HONKY" for my pickup, I was informed that it was decided this was no longer appropriate to use.

I respectfully disagree, and this letter is written with the intent to display my dissatisfaction and humbly ask that this decision be reconsidered and I be allowed to continue the use of this personalization.

I first applied and was granted authorization to use the license plate "HONKY" in 1999 I used it from 1999-2004. During this time frame there were no issues that arose. In 2004, I discontinued the use of the plate as I was not using the vehicle and I therefore did not have a need to register it.

Now that the vehicle is again being used and the need to register it is present, I would like to use the same plate that I used for many years prior.

Unfortunately negative connotations can be improperly placed on words and the outcome of this, regrettably, is a situation as I seemingly find myself in currently. While I'm unable to control the thoughts of others and what one might perceive to be the meaning of the choice for my personalized plate, it is with the greatest integrity that I selected this word to be placed on my vehicle.

While it is understood that it was determined the personalization I've chosen could be considered distasteful, it is with the utmost veneration that I wish to continue the use of this plate. The understanding of this word is to be used with the phrase "Honky tonk". This is in reference to an establishment providing musical entertainment, usually country music.

It is with this in mind, that I am hopeful that the decision previously made by the esteemed group of individuals on the Personalized License Plate board for the Motor Vehicles Division, North Dakota reconsiders and allows me to continue the use of the personalization for my vehicle.

Thank you for your consideration and time on this matter. The personal meaning I hold for this plate is very special and I only hope that the respect I show for this personalization be considered as your decision is reevaluated.

I have included my phone number below as well. I would be more than happy to provide additional insight and field any questions or concerns you may have as you review this decision.

Respectfully yours,

[Redacted signature block]

M.V.D.

12 OCT 11 PM 12:13

10-29-12

Approved by  
Linda Sitz



# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
*Director*

Jack Dalrymple  
*Governor*

October 1, 2012

# COPY

[REDACTED]  
RE: Your License Plate – BTCH4LF

Dear [REDACTED]

As you know, we approve many license plates as special letter plates, commonly called vanity plates. During the approval process, we use the notes of the individual as well as the resources at our disposal to ensure we do not approve a letter or number set which is offensive to our citizens.

Occasionally, either a letter/number slips through our review, or over time certain letter/numbers take on a new meaning, or a citizen(s) report they are offended by a plate set and we are forced to recall those plates. We only take this action if we have had concerns raised by citizens in regards to the impropriety of a letter/number set.

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Please contact the Bismarck Central Office at 701-328-2725 option 2 and coordinate with a consumer service agent for a replacement for your tag. As we issued the original license plate and are recalling it, there will be no charge for the new license plate.

If you have any further information needs, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division

12/28/2012 11:05 FAX 701 857 8230

Minot DMV  
FROM

0002/0004

**MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT  
MINOT BRANCH OFFICE**

1600 2nd Ave. SW, Suite 4 • Minot, ND 58701  
Phone (701) 857-8221

SUBJECT

DATE

15-Nov-2012

MESSAGE:

- Your plate MUFFMAN has been denied  
by Bismarck - you may come into the  
MVD and change your plates to  
another Special Letter Plate or change up  
to a Regular Standard Plate.  
Thank You MVD

ORIGINATOR-DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

REPLY TO

SIGNED

REPLY

I use this vehicle for my company and also advertising. That is  
why I want these plates. Thank You

**COPY**

DATE

12-28-12

SEND PARTS 1 AND

WITH REPLY

RM-658-3  
PRINTED IN U.S.A.



# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
*Director*

Jack Dalrymple  
*Governor*

March 16, 2011

**COPY**

[REDACTED]  
Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Recall License Plate Number 10

As you know, Motor Vehicle Division approves many license plates from our office. We at the DOT pride ourselves on providing outstanding service to our citizens. However, even with the best practices in place, sometimes a process can seem difficult to work with.

Recently, it has come to our attention that you were issued plate number 10. This plate number has been issued to another individual since 2003; therefore, we are recalling your plate number 10.

Please contact the Bismarck Central Office at 701-328-2725, option 1, to coordinate with a Consumer Service agent for replacement plates. Since we issued this plate number to you in error and are recalling it, there will be no charge for the new license plates.

If you have questions about this plate issue, please contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division

10/lgb

**COPY**

April 4, 2011

Motor Vehicle Division  
608 East Boulevard Ave  
Bismarck ND 58505

[REDACTED]

RE: Personalized Plate PLAYBOY

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to request reconsideration of the plate PLAYBOY. I have been informed that the plate I requested has been denied because it is considered unacceptable by your department.

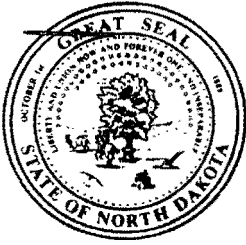
My interpretation of the word PLAYBOY is one who lives a lavish lifestyle, one who likes sports cars, fancy clothes, and expensive vacations and in no way is it meant to be offensive or sexual in nature. I recall recently that someone wanted to express their religious disbeliefs on their license plate and got it issued.

I was told that this plate was issued in the past but recently a change was made to allow it to be reissued if it had not been used in 36 months. I don't understand why it was acceptable in the past but is not now.

Please reconsider allowing me to use the license plate PLAYBOY for I do not intend to offend anyone or make inappropriate suggestions.

Sincerely;

[REDACTED]



# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
*Director*

Jack Dalrymple  
*Governor*

April 8, 2011

# COPY

[REDACTED]

RE: License Plate Request - RENOB

Dear [REDACTED]

As you know, we approve many license plates as special letter plates, commonly called vanity plates. During the approval process, we use the notes of the individual as well as the resources at our disposal to ensure we do not approve a letter or number set that is offensive to our citizens.

Occasionally, either a letter/number slips through our review, or over time certain letter/numbers take on a new meaning, or a citizen(s) report they are offended by a plate set and we are forced to recall those plates. We only take this action if we have had concerns raised by citizens in regards to the impropriety of a letter/number set.

Your plate falls into this category. We have received input from citizens the plate denotes a slang phrase that is potentially offensive. Due to this, we are required to recall your plate.

Please contact the Bismarck Central Office at 701-328-2725 option 1 and coordinate with a consumer service agent for a replacement for your tag. As we issued the original license plate and are recalling it, there will be no charge for the new license plate.

If you have any further information needs, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division





# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
*Director*

Jack Dalrymple  
*Governor*

April 13, 2011

# COPY

[REDACTED]  
RE: License Plate – ROLNFAT

Dear [REDACTED],

It has been brought to my attention that the license plate ROLNFAT for [REDACTED] was sent to your address in error. I am requesting you to return this plate to the North Dakota Department of Transportation.

North Dakota Century Code §39-04-11 states - All vehicle license plates issued by the department continue to be the property of the state of North Dakota for the period for which the plates are valid

Please contact me at the Bismarck Central Office at 701-328-1986 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division



# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
*Director*

Jack Dalrymple  
*Governor*

June 7, 2011

**COPY**

RE: Your License Plate – DBAG

Dear [REDACTED]

As you know, we approve a lot of license plates as special letter plates, commonly called vanity plates. During the approval process, we use the notes of the individual as well as the resources at our disposal to ensure we do not approve a letter or number set that is offensive to our citizens.

Occasionally, either a letter/number slips through our review, or over time certain letter/numbers take on a new meaning, or a citizen(s) report they are offended by a plate set and we are forced to recall those plates. We only take this action if we have had concerns raised by citizens in regards to the impropriety of a letter/number set.

Your plate falls into this category. We have received input from citizens that the plate denotes a slang phrase that is potentially offensive. Due to this, we are required to recall your plate.

Please contact the Bismarck Central Office at 701-328-2725 and coordinate with a consumer service agent for a replacement for your plate. As we issued the original license plate and are recalling it, there will be no charge for the new license plate.

If you have any further information needs, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division



# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
*Director*

Jack Dalrymple  
*Governor*

August 18, 2011

**COPY**

In section 39-04-10.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, the North Dakota Department of Transportation is in charge of issuing personalized license plates. The Motor Vehicle Division of NDDOT is responsible for the issuance of these license plates. The MVD retains the right to refuse to issue any license plates with any combination of letters or numbers, presented in any language, which, when read forward or backwards, that may carry connotations that are offensive or not in good taste or decency or misleading.

Your recent request for a Personalized License Plate for your 2005 Dodge Ram of S R F has been denied by the Motor Vehicle Division's Plate Review Committee. The Committee felt the plate request was in violation of the Personalized License Plate Policy and was also unable to verify the meaning of the plate of Solid Rock Feeder.

Please visit or contact the Motor Vehicle Division to choose a different Personalized License Plate or a Standard License Plate to complete the plate order application.

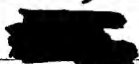

If you feel your plate request does not violate the Plate Policy, you may appeal the committee's decision by writing a letter to the North Dakota Department of Transportation's Division Director Linda Sitz. Please provide any verification of the meaning for the Personalized License Plate you are requesting to appeal.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Motor Vehicle Division at 701-328-2725.

Brandi Caya, Administrative Officer-Motor Vehicle Division

COP

Linda

I regards to SRF. SRF stands  
for Solid Rock Feeders. My wife   
and I run a 950 ~~head~~ head Feeder  
and that is the name of it. The land we  
live on is very rocky and that is the  
name we came up with. So please  
reconsider my request. 



Now  
Address



Old ~~date~~  
address

SLD RF available?

**ORDER TO SUPERINTENDENT, NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL**  
North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division  
SFN 2930 (Rev 10-2003)

**COPY**

By virtue of authority granted in Section 39-04-05.1, 39-04-06, and 39-05-09.2 of the North Dakota Century Code,

registration plates bearing number JBD524 (and) (or) title bearing number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ have been rescinded for the following reason:

Salvaged Vehicle needs inspection

Date <u>9-7-11</u>	Owner(s) Name [REDACTED]			
Address [REDACTED]	City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	Zip Code [REDACTED]	
Year [REDACTED]	Make [REDACTED]	Model [REDACTED]	Style [REDACTED]	
Vehicle Identification Number [REDACTED]				

Section 39-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code declares that "All vehicle license plates issued by the department continue to be the property of the State of North Dakota for the period for which the plates are valid," and

Section 39-04-40 of the North Dakota Century Code provides that the North Dakota Highway Patrol and all other road or police officers shall enforce the provisions of the North Dakota vehicle registration laws.

☒ **Therefore, it is ordered** that you repossess the North Dakota registration plates numbered \_\_\_\_\_ and return the same to the Motor Vehicle Division, North Dakota Department of Transportation.

☐ **Therefore, it is ordered** that you repossess the North Dakota certificate of title numbered \_\_\_\_\_ and return the same to the Motor Vehicle Division, North Dakota Department of Transportation.

☐ Collect the following amount in cash, certified check or money order:

Amount of Check \_\_\_\_\_  
Collection Fee \_\_\_\_\_  
Miscellaneous \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BY ORDER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

X [Signature]  
Director, Motor Vehicle Division

MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION  
ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
608 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE  
BISMARCK ND 58505-0780  
(701) 328-2725



# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
Director

John Hoeven  
Governor

March 3, 2010

**COPY**

RE: License Plate - URAFI

Dear [REDACTED]

As you know, we approve a lot of license plates as special letter plates, commonly called vanity plates. During the approval process, we use the notes of the individual as well as the resources at our disposal to ensure we do not approve a letter or number set that is offensive to our citizens.

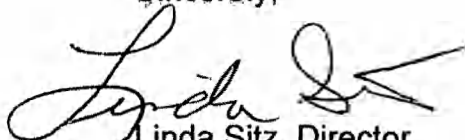
Occasionally, either a letter/number slips through our review, or over time certain letter/numbers take on a new meaning, or a citizen(s) report they are offended by a plate set and we are forced to recall those plates. We only take this action if we have had concerns raised by citizens in regards to the impropriety of a letter/number set.

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If you have any further information needs, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division

20 May 2010

**COPY**



Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
NDDOT Director  
608 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Mr. Ziegler,

This letter is an official appeal of the rejection of my application for a personalized license plate for my North Dakota-registered personal vehicle.

On Monday, May 17, I mailed the application with the required \$25 fee for a plate that reads ISNOGOD. On Wednesday, May 19, I received a call from [REDACTED] (she didn't give me a last name) informing me that my application was rejected. I asked her what would be involved in appealing that decision. She informed me that I needed to talk to Linda Sitz, the section direction, and was transferred to her voicemail.

After leaving her a voicemail she was nice enough to call me back quickly and our two subsequent conversations resulted in her telling me that an official written appeal needed to be directed to you.

Over the past few months I have seen and taken pictures of three vehicles with "GOD" included in their personalized plates: PRZZGOD, ILOVGOD, TRI GOD. (I have enclosed copies of the pictures I took.) Because it is obvious that the state has allowed its property (license plates) to be used to proclaim a religious point of view by at least three individuals, I have put in my application, too.

The only reason I was given for the rejection was that it might offend North Dakotans and would be likely to be challenged for that reason and have to be recalled.

I am a member of a growing minority of people who does not believe in deities of any kind. The point of view expressed in the license plates I have seen can be an offense to people like me because it is a government endorsement of a religious point of view, which should never happen. If the state would allow anyone to express their point of view freely through the same government-owned medium, then the endorsement would be removed. However, if the state only allows one point of view on religion to be expressed on its property, then it is an endorsement of that point of view. There is even a panel of people who make that decision, which means it is a deliberate choice being made by the state in favor of one position in regard to this issue.

I am requesting one of two actions:

1) Approve my application for the license plate ISNOGOD, or


2) Recall any of the plates already issued which proclaim a religious point of view of any kind and stop any others from be made.

These are the only real choices if the state is going to achieve a position of fairness to everyone in the state when it comes to religious endorsement.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,



Enclosures

cc:

Senator Carolyn Nelson  
1 Second Street South #5-402  
Fargo, ND 58103-1959

Representative Kathy Hogan  
710 South University Drive  
Fargo, ND 58103-2632

Representative Steven L. Zaiser  
802 Seventh Street South,  
Fargo, ND 58103-2706

The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead  
101 5th Street North  
Fargo, ND 58102

The Bismarck Tribune  
P.O. Box 5516  
Bismarck, ND 58506

The Grand Forks Herald  
375 2nd Ave. N.  
Grand Forks, ND 58201





# North Dakota Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.  
*Director*

Jack Dalrymple  
*Governor*

December 10, 2010

**COPY**

RE: Your License Plate – POLICE

Dear [REDACTED]

As you know, we approve a lot of license plates as special letter plates, commonly called vanity plates. During the approval process, we use the notes of the individual as well as the resources at our disposal to ensure we do not approve a letter or number set that is offensive to our citizens.

Occasionally, either a letter/number slips through our review, or over time certain letter/numbers take on a new meaning, or a citizen(s) report they are offended by a plate set and we are forced to recall those plates. We only take this action if we have had concerns raised by citizens in regards to the impropriety of a letter/number set.

We have received input from the Police and citizens that the plate you are currently displaying creates confusion with the official Police plate and are thereby we are recalling your plate.

Please contact the Bismarck Central Office at 701-328-2725 and coordinate with a consumer service agent for a replacement for your plate. As we issued the original license plate and are recalling it, there will be no charge for the new license plate.

Please contact the Bismarck Central Office at 701-328-2725 and coordinate with a consumer service agent for a replacement for your plate request.

If you have any further information needs, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda Sitz, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division

**ORDER TO SUPERINTENDENT, NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL**  
North Dakota Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division  
SFN 2930 (Rev 10-2003)

**COPY**

By virtue of authority granted in Section 39-04-05, <sup>#1</sup> 39-04-06, and 39-05-09.2 of the North Dakota Century Code,

registration plates bearing number POLICE (and) (or) title bearing number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ have been rescinded for the following reason:

plate recalled due to confusion over official  
POLICE plates

Date <u>12.23.10</u>	Owner(s) Name [REDACTED]			
Address [REDACTED]		City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	Zip Code [REDACTED]
Year [REDACTED]	Make [REDACTED]	Model [REDACTED]	Style [REDACTED]	
Vehicle Identification Number [REDACTED]				

Section 39-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code declares that "All vehicle license plates issued by the department continue to be the property of the State of North Dakota for the period for which the plates are valid," and

Section 39-04-40 of the North Dakota Century Code provides that the North Dakota Highway Patrol and all other road or police officers shall enforce the provisions of the North Dakota vehicle registration laws.

☒ **Therefore, it is ordered** that you repossess the North Dakota registration plates numbered POLICE<sup>#1</sup> and return the same to the Motor Vehicle Division, North Dakota Department of Transportation.

☐ **Therefore, it is ordered** that you repossess the North Dakota certificate of title numbered \_\_\_\_\_ and return the same to the Motor Vehicle Division, North Dakota Department of Transportation.

☐ Collect the following amount in cash, certified check or money order:

Amount of Check \_\_\_\_\_

Collection Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Miscellaneous \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BY ORDER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

X [Signature]  
Director, Motor Vehicle Division

MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION  
ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
608 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE  
BISMARCK ND 58505-0780  
(701) 328-2725