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Description of document: The state of Nebraska list of prohibited or banned personalized license plates, procedures for screening personalized license plate applications, and where available, administrative appeals of withdrawn personalized plates, 2012

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Source of document: State of Nebraska  
Department of Motor Vehicles  
Legal Counsel  
Legal Division  
301 Centennial Mall South  
PO Box 94699  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4699

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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# STATE OF NEBRASKA

**Dave Heineman**  
Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**  
**Beverly Neth**  
Director

November 7, 2012

RE: Public records request

In response to your request for public records received on November 2, 2012:

1. The Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) does not maintain a list of prohibited plates or use a guide except for the language in the statute dealing with personalized messaged plates. A copy of the message plate statute is enclosed with this letter for your review.
2. The DMV does not have internal instructions for review of message plates other than the statutory language which has been provided to you.
3. Per Nebraska statute, DMV records relating to individuals are not public records. Such records are subject to the Uniform Motor Vehicle Records Disclosure Act. (UMVRDA) Neb.Rev.Stat. 60-2901, et. seq. and TITLE 250, NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, CHAPTER 2, RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING REQUESTS FOR AND RELEASE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN MOTOR VEHICLE RECORDS PURSUANT TO THE UNIFORM MOTOR VEHICLE RECORDS DISCLOSURE ACT, NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 60-2901-THROUGH 60-2912. Personal information and sensitive personal information in DMV records is protected and may not be disclosed except for limited purposes provided in statute. Names of individuals, license plate numbers (including messages), and addresses are among the types of information protected by UMVRDA and are not considered public records. As such DMV is not able to release names and addresses of applicants whose plates were denied or recalled, nor can we release their particular plate or request for a plate.

Nothing in your requests falls within any of the statutory exceptions which would allow DMV to disclose of such personal information to you. In contrast, court records are public information in Nebraska but Nebraska has not had any license plate cases go to court within the time frame mentioned in your letter. For that matter, to the best of my knowledge, no Nebraska license plate case has gone to court for at least twenty years.

Sincerely,

Noelle Ackermann Sherdon  
Legal Counsel

Enclosure

**60-3,118. Personalized message license plates; conditions.**

(1) In lieu of the license plates provided for by section 60-3,100, the department shall issue personalized message license plates for motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or cabin trailers, except for motor vehicles and trailers registered under section 60-3,198, to all applicants who meet the requirements of sections 60-3,119 to 60-3,121. Personalized message license plates shall be the same size and of the same basic design as regular license plates issued pursuant to section 60-3,100. The characters used shall consist only of letters and numerals of the same size and design and shall comply with the requirements of subdivision (1)(a) of section 60-3,100. A maximum of seven characters may be used, except that for motorcycles, a maximum of six characters may be used.

(2) The following conditions apply to all personalized message license plates:

(a) County prefixes shall not be allowed except in counties using the alphanumeric system for motor vehicle registration. The numerals in the county prefix shall be the numerals assigned to the county, pursuant to subsection (2) of section 60-370, in which the motor vehicle or cabin trailer is registered. Renewal of a personalized message license plate containing a county prefix shall be conditioned upon the motor vehicle or cabin trailer being registered in such county. The numerals in the county prefix, including the hyphen or any other unique design for an existing license plate style, count against the maximum number of characters allowed under this section;

(b) The characters in the order used shall not conflict with or duplicate any number used or to be used on the regular license plates or any number or license plate already approved pursuant to sections 60-3,118 to 60-3,121;

(c) The characters in the order used shall not express, connote, or imply any obscene or objectionable words or abbreviations; and

(d) An applicant receiving a personalized message license plate for a farm truck with a gross weight of over sixteen tons or a commercial truck or truck-tractor with a gross weight of five tons or over shall affix the appropriate tonnage decal to such license plate.

(3) The department shall have sole authority to determine if the conditions prescribed in subsection (2) of this section have been met.

**Source:** Laws 2005, LB 274, § 118; Laws 2007, LB286, § 39.