

# TOW HEARING INFORMATION

The following information is provided to assist you in deciding if you wish to have a tow hearing.

A tow hearing is held to determine only two facts.

1. Was the car towed legally?
2. Does the law allow the car to be held for 30 days?

If the answer to both questions above is yes, the car will not be released under any circumstances. The following commonly heard reasons will **NOT** be accepted as reasons to release the car.

1. I can't afford to get it out if it is held for 30 days.
2. It is my only means of transportation.
3. I need it to get to work.
4. I need it to take my kids to school.
5. I will never do it again.
6. I will park the car for 30 days and not drive it.
7. I am disabled or need the car for medical appointments.
8. I loaned the car to a friend and he/she loaned it to someone else.

## THE BAD NEWS

If one of the registered owners of the vehicle was the driver, the car **WILL NOT** be released under any circumstances. This means that if you own the car and were driving when the car was towed, you will not get it back for 30 days.

1. Changing the registered owner after the vehicle is towed will not cause the vehicle to be released. If the driver was the owner at the time the car was towed, it will not be released.
2. It does not matter if there is more than one registered owner listed on the registration. If anyone listed on the registration was the driver, the vehicle will not be released.

## THE BETTER NEWS

There are several valid issues which can be raised to bring about the immediate release of the vehicle. Please read each carefully because there are conditions attached to each one which must be satisfied to obtain a release.

**If you loaned the car to a friend or family member and looked at their driver's license prior to loaning them the car, the car **MAY** be returned to you.**

1. You are required to actually look at the license before loaning the car.
2. You must bring the subject's driver's license with you to the tow hearing to prove the person actually possessed the license. If you do not have it, go get it. No exceptions.

**If someone took the car without your permission, the car MAY be returned to you.**

1. In order for the car to be returned, you must press charges on the driver for vehicle theft.
  - A. This holds true even if the car was taken by a friend or family member....No exceptions.
  - B. Please understand that the person who was driving will be arrested for a felony.

## **THE GOOD NEWS**

**If the driver of the impounded vehicle obtains a valid driver's license after the vehicle is towed, the vehicle WILL be immediately returned.**

1. No tow hearing is required to get the vehicle back.

**If the car was towed for failure to pay child support, the vehicle WILL be immediately returned.**

1. No tow hearing is required to get the vehicle back.
2. Be sure to tell the clerk at the counter your license was suspended for this reason.

**If at the time the car was towed it was being driven by an employee of a licensed repair shop, the vehicle WILL be returned.**

1. The vehicle must have been in for repair and being test driven by an employee of the shop at the time it was towed.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The information contained in this pamphlet is followed to the letter by the hearing officer. If you do not meet the criteria to have your car returned, **DO NOT** request a tow hearing. Further explanation will not result in the return of your car and is a waste of both your time and ours.

The Rancho Cucamonga Police Department understands you need your car. The above criteria are a matter of law and policy and therefore must be followed by our department.