

# TIPS FOR BUYING VEHICLES ONLINE



## **1** GOLDEN RULE

If the price is too good to be true - **BEWARE!**



## **4** REQUEST A PIC OF THE SELLER

This will help you identify the seller



## **2** ASK FOR VEHICLE ID NUMBER

If the VIN isn't provided - **BEWARE!**



## **5** REQUEST DOCUMENTS

State-issued photo ID + 2nd form of ID



## **3** USE A VIN CHECKING SERVICE

This can tell you if the car is reported stolen



## **6** MEET IN A PUBLIC PLACE

Meet during the day + bring a friend

**CLICK FOR MORE INFO >>>>**



**Title Check  
Look Before You Buy**



**National Insurance  
Crime Bureau**

**<<<< CLICK FOR MORE INFO**

## CRIME PREVENTION

Sales of stolen vehicles to unsuspecting buyers is a significant trend. Proving who the actual suspects are is impossible in 99% of the cases. Often, buyers have no idea they've purchased a stolen vehicle until they go to the TX DMV to register it. Here are a few tips and tools that MAY help you avoid becoming a victim of this scam:

1. The golden rule for buying anything applies here, too: If the price is too good to be true – Beware!
2. Before meeting in person, ask for the 17 digit Vehicle ID Number (VIN) and the license plate number and state of issue. If they are unable or unwilling to provide that basic information to you – Beware!
- \* 3. You can check the VIN on public databases to see if it matches the make and model of the car advertised and possibly to determine if it is stolen.
4. Before meeting, request a photo of the seller by email or text to recognize them at a location. Again, if they are unwilling or unable to do so – Beware!
5. Request that the seller bring these items to the meeting, 1) the vehicle title 2) a state-issued photo ID and 3) a second form of identification for verification, such as mail with their name and current address. Again, if this person is unwilling or unable to do so – Beware!
6. Always meet in a public place during the daytime, or that is well lit and open for business at the time. If possible, bring at least one other person with you. If you buy the vehicle, get all sets of keys.

Strongly consider changing (re-keying) the door and ignition locks to your newly purchased vehicle quickly.

\* VINCHECK by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) checks the status of a vehicle. VINCHECK only reports stolen cars that STILL HAVE CURRENT INSURANCE. Some victims cancel insurance on their stolen vehicles immediately so keep in mind the car may be stolen, but won't show it here. While not 100% guaranteed, it is worth checking on this site. It takes about 3 business days for an insured stolen vehicle to be reported on this website. If you're buying a vehicle, resist being rushed to buy now.