

TIPS ABOUT TOWING

Each year, over 20,000 cars are towed in Tallahassee. On behalf of your Student Government Association, we would like to offer the following tips on what to do if your car is towed.

* Once your car is towed, you must pick it up within 24 hours to avoid paying extra "storage fees."

* It is often MORE expensive to pick up your car at night than the next morning. Towing companies often charge extra fees for picking up your car "after business hours." For example, if your car is towed at 1am, you will actually pay more money if you immediately go pick it up at 2am, instead of waiting until 8am.

* If you return to your car while it is in the process of being towed, you may pay a "drop fee" of 44 dollars. This fee can ONLY be charged if at least one strap is surrounding one tire. Otherwise, your car should be dropped and you will not have to pay anything. For example, if you return to your car and it is lifted on the tow truck, but no straps have yet been attached, take a picture with a digital camera or cell phone so you will have evidence if you choose to take legal action.

* Never argue with a tow truck driver. If your car is illegally towed, call the Tallahassee Police Department at 850-891-4200 and ask to speak with the "Tow Truck Administrator" to file a complaint. If a towing company has multiple complaints, it can be subject to fines or even lose its business license.

* The laws concerning tow trucks can be found in chapter 715.07 of the Florida Statutes and Chapter 20, Section V of the City of Tallahassee ordinances. Links to these sites are:

http://www.flsenate.gov/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Index&Title_Request=XL#TitleXL
<http://www.municode.com/Resources/gateway.asp?pid=19980&sid=9>

We hope this information helps!

Sincerely,
The 60th Student Government Association, and
The Tow Truck Task Force