

District Attorney Marc Bennett  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas



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For Immediate Release, May 25, 2021

**WICHITA, KAN.** – An owner of a used car dealership entered into a consent judgment with the Office of the District Attorney based on allegations he failed to provide title for a car within 60 days of the sale.

The Consumer Protection Division of the District Attorney's Office investigated a consumer complaint against Mohammad Lahowk, the owner of H & R Auto Sales, located at 1400 N. Market in Wichita. The investigation learned Lahowk failed to deliver proper title to a consumer within 60 days of the purchase by failing to sign the title. After the Consumer Protection Division contacted Lahowk to correct the issue he agreed to sign the title, however, he also added a lien not previously noted on the title. When Lahowk failed to provide documentation of a debt to justify the lien to the Consumer Protection Division he agreed to sign a release.

While Lahowk denied intentionally violating the Kansas Consumer Protection Act, he accepted a consent judgment to settle the matter out of court. Lahowk had previously entered into a consent judgment with the office of the District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division in 2018. In the new consent judgment Lahowk agreed to pay \$10,697.00 in civil penalties, court costs, and fees.

The consent judgment also calls for an injunction from engaging in deceptive or unconscionable acts and cooperation with any future complaints. Lahowk will be on a 12-month probationary period with the Consumer Protection Division.

The District Attorney reminds residents that customers should receive certificates of title within 60 days of vehicle purchase and the title should be signed by the seller so that the buyer can register the vehicle. Failure to provide title within 60 days makes the transaction "fraudulent and void" entitling customers to a refund. K.S.A. 8-135(c)(7). Remember, driving without proper registration is against the law.

The consent judgment was approved on May 6, 2021 by Judge Deborah Hernandez-Mitchell. The case was investigated by Kristen Zluticky of the District Attorney's Office.

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