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# Can I File a Diminished Value Claim if My Car Has a Branded Title?



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Monday, November 06, 2023



When it comes to filing a diminished value (DV) claim, many vehicle owners may question its viability if their car already has a branded title. Branded titles signify significant damage, which can substantially affect a vehicle's value. So, can you file a DV claim if your car has a branded title? In most cases, having a branded title may invalidate your claim. Let's examine this issue and gain a better understanding of the situation.

### Understanding Branded Titles

Before delving into DV claims, it's crucial to comprehend what a branded title is. A branded title is a special designation given to a vehicle's title by a state agency. This designation indicates that the vehicle has undergone significant damage or other circumstances that could potentially make it unsafe to drive or less valuable than a vehicle with an unbranded title.

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These designations vary, including salvage titles, rebuilt titles, lemon law buyback titles, odometer rollback titles, and water damage titles, among others. Each of these designations reflects a specific condition or history of the vehicle, and they can significantly impact the car's market value.

**Info center:** [Click here to learn more about what is a Branded Title.](#)

## Diminished Value Claims and Branded Titles

DV claims are typically filed to recover the reduced value of a car after it has been in an accident. The premise of a DV claim is that even after repairs, the car may not be worth as much as a similar vehicle with a clean title. However, the ability to file a DV claim largely depends on the starting value of the car and the extent of the damage.

For example, if a car with a clean title is worth \$25,000, and it's involved in a minor accident, it might be worth \$23,000 after repairs, resulting in a diminished value of \$2,000. In the case of a major accident, the value might drop further, down to \$20,000, resulting in a diminished value of \$5,000.

Now, when dealing with a vehicle that already has a branded title, things can get a bit more complicated. If this same car's starting value is under \$20,000 due to its branded title, the accident may not have any substantial impact on its value. In essence, a car with a branded title is already perceived as significantly compromised due to its history.

For this reason, it can be challenging to make a compelling case that an accident has further diminished the vehicle's value when it already carries a branded title. Insurance companies and potential buyers may perceive the car as having a reduced value primarily due to its pre-existing condition.

**Info center:** [Do I Qualify for Diminished Value?](#)

## Is Filing a DV Claim with a Branded Title Possible?

The short answer is yes, you can still file a DV claim if your car has a branded title. However, the chances of successfully recovering a significant amount through the

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claim are really low. This is due to the fact that the vehicle's history already impacts its value, and insurance companies may argue that the branded title is the primary reason for its reduced worth.

In conclusion, while it is possible to file a diminished value claim for a vehicle with a branded title, it's important to be aware of the challenges you may face. Insurance companies and potential buyers are likely to attribute the diminished value primarily to the branded title itself. Therefore, it's essential to gather strong supporting evidence to make your case and potentially recover a portion of the diminished value caused by the accident.