

An unsolicited email from a baffled car buyer to the attorney of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles urging the repeal of laws preventing vehicle consultation services in regards to purchase of a new motor vehicle.

A local company informed me that they could not offer their vehicle consultation services, since I was interested in purchasing a *new* vehicle. I was informed that Texas does not allow car finding services for new vehicles. The company literally could not legally offer their services, which includes locating vehicles, showing vehicles to clients at said client's workplace, assistance in the bargaining process, etc.

The law as I understand it is intended to 'protect' the consumer, yet I fail to see how. I believe the law is actually intended to 'protect' the large car dealers, who likely lobbied hard to get the law passed in the first place. I submit that the law specifically allows exception to dealers and/or those services that employed by the vehicle's manufacturer. Thus, the service is only legal if sponsored by a vehicle's manufacturer. The law is exceedingly intended to favor the dealer, who is able to charge higher premiums to the uniformed buyer. I fail to see how the vehicle purchase is any different than a defendant seeking legal counsel for purposes included research, discovery, and consultation, according to expertise. I As a busy professional, I'd much rather pay someone else to do the new car research, discovery, and haggling process.

Thus, it is impossible for a service to provide assistance to a new car buyer in the state of Texas. The only way a service can offer assistance is if said service purchases the vehicle and registers it in the company's name, and then sells it to me. Since the initial purchase is considered the original sale, the company would need to pay tax, and I would need to pay tax again on the second purchase.

I'd like clarification on whether or not the State of Texas intends to prohibit assistance services that aid in the vehicle discovery and purchase process?

John Sullivan  
Problem Solver