

**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

Dave Phalen, Sheriff

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sheriff's Office Investigating Tom's Toys owner for illegal sales of vehicles

(Lancaster, Ohio, November 8, 2017) The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office is investigating Tom's Toys located at 2445 Columbus-Lancaster Rd. Lancaster, Ohio for allegedly selling recreational vehicles and failing to provide titles to the owners. The reports filed at this time are from purchases in July and August of 2017.

The owner of Tom's Toys Inc. has been charged with selling recreational vehicles without titles at their Port Clinton location, according to Ottawa County Prosecutor James VanEerten.

Thomas Owens, 42, of Marblehead, was indicted on 15 felony counts that include theft, grand theft, grand theft of a motor vehicle and prohibited acts involving certificates of titles.

Owens is alleged by police to have sold recreational vehicles and failed to provide titles to the owners and is also accused of falsifying information on titles.

The indictment alleges on or about the period from Oct.19, 2016 through Feb. 23, 2017, Owens sold or transferred motor vehicles without providing certificate of title, salvage or a manufacturer's certificate assigned to the purchase.

Sheriff Phalen states that investigators in Fairfield County have reason to believe that the business may be involved in the same type of exploitation locally.

Sheriff Phalen asks anyone has purchased a recreational vehicle who has yet to receive a title from Tom's Toys in Fairfield County to contact the Sheriff's Office and file an incident report.

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