



# NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CLIENT RETURN OF GAME TAG

Game tags may be returned to the Department under conditions illustrated in NAC 502. For reasons of **death, medical disability, Armed Forces transfer, or extenuating circumstances**, adequate documentation **MUST** be provided when the tag is returned to the Department before the tag return can be accepted. Tags may be returned for **“any reason”** as defined in NAC 502.422.

**Mail or return physical tag, supporting documentation and completed form to:**

Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Data and Technology Services Division – Tag Return  
6980 Sierra Center Pkwy Ste 120  
Reno, NV 89511

**TAG INFO:**

TAG HOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_ CLIENT ID: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIES \_\_\_\_\_ WEAPON: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT(S): \_\_\_\_\_ SEASON: \_\_\_\_\_

Pursuant to NAC 502.422, I acknowledge that a game tag must be **RECEIVED** by the Department 1 business day before the opening day of the season for which the tag is issued to qualify for an any reason return. Pursuant to NAC 502.385, I acknowledge that a game tag must be **RECEIVED** by the Department no later than fourteen (14) business days into the earliest season for which the tag was issued to qualify for all other return options. If a tag is returned to the Department after legal shooting hours for the tag’s season and is denied eligibility by the Department, the tag will be considered used, and no return options will be available to the tag holder. This request will be processed according to NAC 502.385 and Department approved standard operating procedures.

Client initials \_\_\_\_\_

- YES.  NO. Tag return is due to an Armed Forces location transfer. If yes, continue to section **A**.
- YES.  NO. Tag return is due to the tag holder being diagnosed as terminally ill. If yes, continue to section **B**.
- YES.  NO. Tag return is due to a death of a family member. If yes, continue to section **C**.
- YES.  NO. Tag return is due to an extenuating circumstance: the tag holder or family member of the holder incurring a severe and unanticipated injury or illness which prevents the holder from hunting. If yes, continue to section **D**.
- If all above have been answered “NO”, continue to section **E**.

A. If an Armed Forces transfer makes it impractical for the holder to hunt in the area for which the tag was issued, the holder may choose to return their tag for a restoration of bonus points or defer their tag to the next applicable hunting season with the verification of a copy of his or her mobilized and/or deployed orders or other proof satisfactory to the Department. Choose one:

BONUS POINT RESTORATION    **OR**     DEFERANCE

B. If the tag holder is diagnosed as terminally ill before the start of their tag’s season, the holder may return their tag for a restoration of bonus points, defer their tag to the next application hunting season or transfer their tag to another person who is otherwise eligible to hunt big game in Nevada. “Terminally ill,” as defined in NRS 449A.081, means a medical diagnosis made by a physician that a person has an anticipated life expectancy of not more than 12 months. Choose one: **Section B. continued on next page.**

**B. Continued**

BONUS POINT RESTORATION    **OR**     DEFERANCE    **OR**     TRANSFER

Complete for transfer only. Transfer recipient and signature information:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLIENT ID: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP TO TAG HOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

D.O.B: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Transfer Recipient)

**Waiting periods and bonus point cost will be applied to BOTH parties.**

C. If a death of a family member to the tag holder occurs, a certificate of death can be provided to the Department for the restoration of any bonus points or the choice to defer the tag to the next applicable hunting season. Choose one:

BONUS POINT RESTORATION    **OR**     DEFERANCE

D. If the tag holder or family member of the tag holder incurs a severe and unanticipated injury or illness which prevents the holder from hunting during the tag's season, the holder may choose to return their tag for a restoration of bonus points or defer their tag to the next applicable hunting season with the verification of the injury or illness in writing by a physician. Choose one:

BONUS POINT RESTORATION    **OR**     DEFERANCE

E. A tag holder may return their tag to the Department for a restoration of bonus points for any reason. Tag returns falling within this category must be **RECEIVED** by the Department at least one (1) business day before the opening day of the tag's season. **Party tag returns will not receive a bonus point refund unless all members of the party return their tag (excluding medical, military, or death exemptions) NAC 502.422 Subsection 5 (CGR 490, approved by the Leg Commission in 2020).** Reason for tag return:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* By signing this form, all parties attest that all information provided is correct and the tag being returned was in no way utilized to pursue game in the field with the intention to harvest. In the case of a death to a family member of the tag holder, the holder attests that their relationship falls within the definition of family provided in NRS 502.103. In the case of a tag transfer, both the original holder of the tag and the new recipient of the tag acknowledge that BOTH parties will be treated as if he/she drew the tag with respect to any applicable waiting periods and bonus points. If a tag is returned to the Department after legal shooting hours for the tag's season and is denied eligibility by the Department, the tag will be considered used, and no return options will be available to the tag holder. Deferrals are subject to approved quotas set by the Board of Wildlife Commission and will be issued by oldest year and lowest draw number assigned for all qualifying requests.

Signature of tag holder returning the tag:

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Department employee receiving the returned tag:

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**NRS 502.103** – Authorizes the Commission to establish a program allowing for the transfer, deferral or return of a big game tag.

**NAC 502.385 Section 2** – Establishes the tag transfer and defer program. Extenuating circumstances are defined in NAC as:

- (a) The death of a family member of the holder of the tag, as verified by a certificate of death;
- (b) The holder of the tag or a family member of the holder incurs a severe and unanticipated injury or illness which prevents the holder from hunting during the season for which the tag was issued, as verified in writing by a physician; or
- (c) The holder of the tag is serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and is transferred to a location which makes it impracticable for the holder to hunt in the area for which the tag was issued, as verified by a copy of his or her orders or other proof satisfactory to the Department.

To ensure program consistency and fairness to deferral participants, the Department will utilize NRS 232.4854 as a guide for extenuating circumstance qualifications. Each deferral request will be vetted on an individual basis by the Director or Deputy Director of the agency in a timely manner.

**NRS 232.4854** – “Serious illness” means a medical illness, physical injury or condition that substantially affects the quality of life of a person for more than a short period of time.

Examples of qualifying extenuating circumstances include but are not limited to:

- Car accidents
- High risk pregnancies, including those that require bedrest
- Unplanned surgeries resulting from unanticipated accidents or illnesses
- Blood clot
- Broken bones
- Death of a family member, as defined in NRS 502.103

Examples of extenuating circumstances that **DO NOT** qualify:

- Cold and flu
- COVID 19 which does not result in a hospital stay
- Pregnancy due date around the tag’s season
- Return to work notes depicting “light duty”
- Elective or planned surgeries
- Natural disasters or property damage such as wildland fires
- Government closures and shutdowns

As used in this section, “family member” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 502.103. “Family member” means:

- (1) A spouse of the big game hunter;
- (2) A person who is related to the big game hunter within the first degree of consanguinity; or
- (3) A stepchild of the big game hunter.

“Terminally ill” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 449A.081. “Terminally ill” means a medical diagnosis made by a physician that a person has an anticipated life expectancy of not more than 12 months.

Tags may also be transferred to a qualifying organization who would facilitate the tag transfer to an individual with a disability or life-threatening medical condition or a youth 16 years of age or younger, whose household income signifies poverty. For more information on this tag transfer program, contact the Department at 775-688-1500.

**NAC 502.422** – Outlines the ability of a tag holder to return their tag to the Department for the restoration of their bonus points. Tag holders selecting this option will be treated as if the tag had not been issued and the applicant was unsuccessful in obtaining the tag. **Per regulation, no tag fees will be returned for this option.**