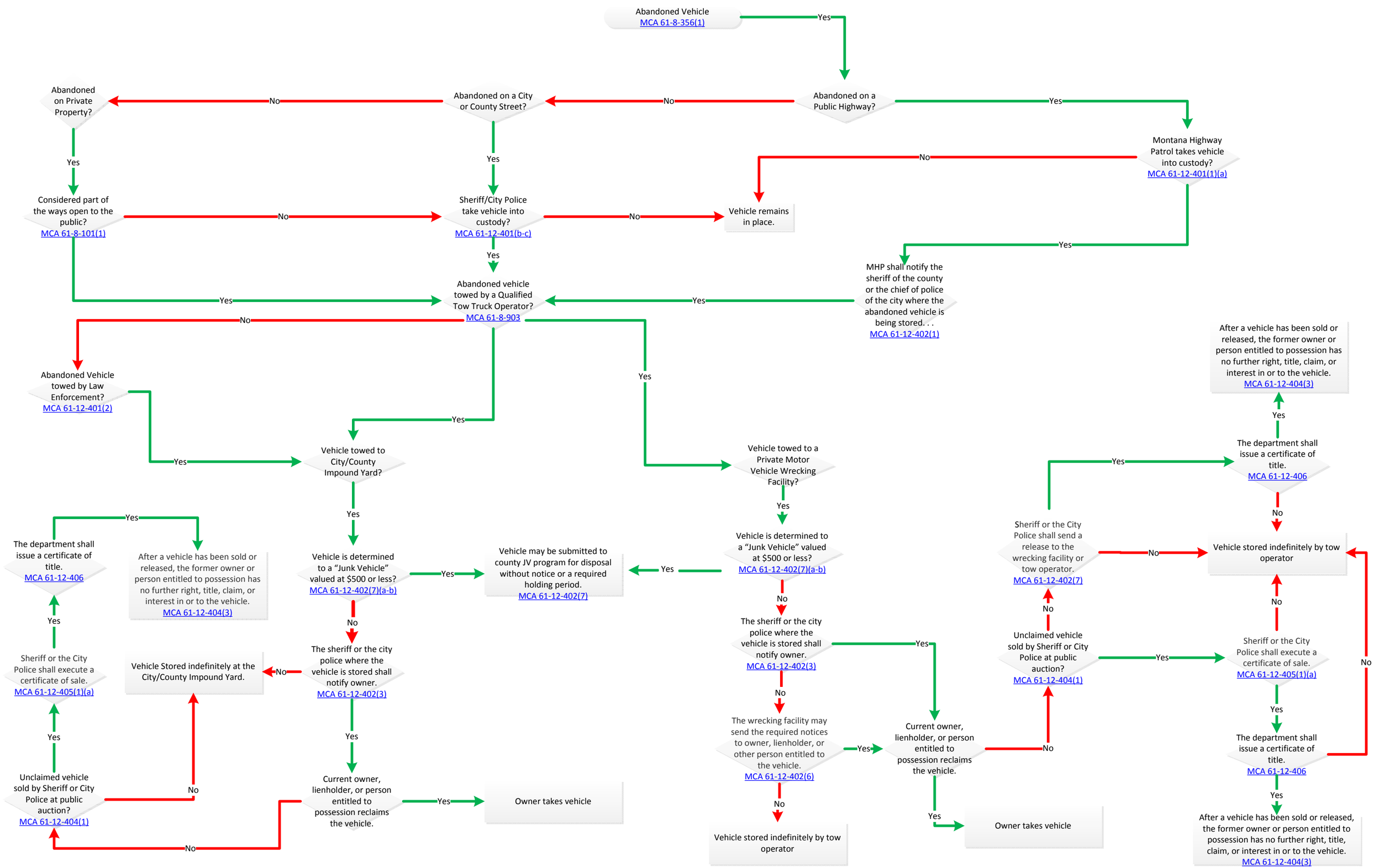
Abandoned Vehicle
MCA 61-8-356(1)
Yes
Abandoned on a Public Highway?
Yes
Montana Highway Patrol takes vehicle into custody?
MCA 61-12-401(1)(a)
No
Vehicle remains in place.
Yes
MHP shall notify the sheriff of the county or the chief of police of the city where the abandoned vehicle is being stored. . .
MCA 61-12-402(1)
Yes
Abandoned on a City or County Street?
No
Yes
Sheriff/City Police take vehicle into custody?
MCA 61-12-401(b-c)
No
Yes
Abandoned vehicle towed by a Qualified Tow Truck Operator?
MCA 61-8-903
Yes
Abandoned on Private Property?
No
Yes
Considered part of the ways open to the public?
MCA 61-8-101(1)
No
Yes
Abandoned Vehicle towed by Law Enforcement?
MCA 61-12-401(2)
No
Yes
Vehicle towed to City/County Impound Yard?
Yes
Yes
Vehicle towed to a Private Motor Vehicle Wrecking Facility?
Yes
Vehicle is determined to a "Junk Vehicle" valued at $500 or less?
MCA 61-12-402(7)(a-b)
Yes
Vehicle may be submitted to county JV program for disposal without notice or a required holding period.
MCA 61-12-402(7)
No
The sheriff or the city police where the vehicle is stored shall notify owner.
MCA 61-12-402(3)
Yes
Current owner, lienholder, or person entitled to possession reclaims the vehicle.
Yes
Owner takes vehicle
No
The wrecking facility may send the required notices to owner, lienholder, or other person entitled to the vehicle.
MCA 61-12-402(6)
Yes
No
Vehicle stored indefinitely by tow operator
Yes
Vehicle is determined to a "Junk Vehicle" valued at $500 or less?
MCA 61-12-402(7)(a-b)
No
Vehicle Stored indefinitely at the City/County Impound Yard.
No
Yes
After a vehicle has been sold or released, the former owner or person entitled to possession has no further right, title, claim, or interest in or to the vehicle.
MCA 61-12-404(3)
Yes
The department shall issue a certificate of title.
MCA 61-12-406
Yes
Sheriff or the City Police shall execute a certificate of sale.
MCA 61-12-405(1)(a)
Yes
Unclaimed vehicle sold by Sheriff or City Police at public auction?
MCA 61-12-404(1)
No
No
Yes
Current owner, lienholder, or person entitled to possession reclaims the vehicle.
No
Yes
Owner takes vehicle
Yes
Sheriff or the City Police shall send a release to the wrecking facility or tow operator.
MCA 61-12-402(7)
No
Vehicle stored indefinitely by tow operator
No
Unclaimed vehicle sold by Sheriff or City Police at public auction?
MCA 61-12-404(1)
Yes
Sheriff or the City Police shall execute a certificate of sale.
MCA 61-12-405(1)(a)
Yes
The department shall issue a certificate of title.
MCA 61-12-406
No
Yes
After a vehicle has been sold or released, the former owner or person entitled to possession has no further right, title, claim, or interest in or to the vehicle.
MCA 61-12-404(3)
Yes
The department shall issue a certificate of title.
MCA 61-12-406
No
Vehicle stored indefinitely by tow operator
After a vehicle has been sold or released, the former owner or person entitled to possession has no further right, title, claim, or interest in or to the vehicle.
MCA 61-12-404(3)