

CHECKLIST · HEFLIN

Moving to Heflin Checklist: The First 30 Days (2026)

The list starts with one task and nothing in this town comes before it: do you have an address? Utilities, school, the library card and the exemption all run through it.

SHORT ANSWER

This list starts with one task and nothing in this town comes before it: **make sure your address exists**. In a rural county a property **may not have an address yet**, and here there is a **separate process** for getting one: the county highway department takes a **new address application**, and the form asks for the **nearest physical address** and **coordinates**. Why it heads the list: **utilities, school enrollment, the library card and the property tax exemption all depend on the address**. And there is one more trap here: **three separate services apply three separate residence tests, and none of them publishes what counts as proof of residence**. We do not invent an answer; we give you the question and the phone number.

Day one: do you have an address

The county runs the **new address application** and the driveway pipe request through the same door; the counterpart is the county highway department at **302 Haley Road, Heflin, AL 36264**. The form asks for the **nearest physical address** and **coordinates**; the county states in its own words that the coordinates can be taken from **a handheld device or a location app on a phone**.

WHAT DOES NOT HAPPEN WITHOUT AN ADDRESS	RESULT
Water, sewer and trash account	No bill can be opened
School enrollment	No proof of residence can be produced
Library card	Cannot be obtained
Property tax exemption	The application does not settle

What to do: ask whether the place you are moving to has a 911 address **before you sign the lease**. If it does, ask the landlord for it in writing; if it does not, apply to the county highway department and find out **how long it takes**. **The order is this: address first, then everything else.**

Three separate residence tests, and all three differ

SERVICE	WHICH RESIDENCE	RATE
Trash	City residence	City resident \$13.00 a month, out-of-city resident \$16.00 , non-residential \$14.00, extra container \$10.00 one time
Library card	County residence	Free to county residents, and no identification number appears in the published requirements
Lake park fishing permit	County residence	County residents \$2.00 , visitors from outside the county \$5.00

AND THE SHARED GAP: NONE OF THEM PUBLISHES WHAT COUNTS AS PROOF OF RESIDENCE

- **Three separate institutions, three separate rates, zero published document lists.** A lease, a utility bill, a driver license, how recent it has to be: none of it is written down.
- **We do not invent an answer in this guide** and we do not hand you a document list. Instead we give you the question and the phone numbers.
- **For the trash rate and city residence:** the town's single line, **256-463-2290**.
- **For the library card and county residence:** the town library, **256-463-2259**.
- **For the fishing permit:** city hall, **256-463-2290**. Also, **whether a state license is required in addition to the town permit could not be determined**; a city permit is not a state license, so ask before you go.
- **Use one sentence on the phone:** *which document do you accept as proof of residence, and how recent does it have to be.* Write the answer down; the same document will serve you at school enrollment and on the exemption application.

Two structural rescues for a small settlement

- **You do not drive to another city for a birth certificate.** In Alabama the register is **statewide and single**, and the agency states in its own words that you can go to **any county health department in the state** to get a certified copy of an Alabama birth certificate. **Most birth certificates are issued while you wait.** In this town that desk is at **90 Brockford Rd, Heflin**, telephone **256-463-2296**; **the agency's statewide page does not give the hours of county departments**, so call before you go. The ID answer also favors the reader: on the primary document list **a U.S. or foreign passport appears without qualification**, so a **Turkish passport alone is enough**. Two traps: **the Social Security card is explicitly not accepted** (only **correspondence** appears, on the secondary list), and a primary document may be **expired by no more than 60 days**.
- **A marriage form can be recorded in any county, so you choose the county.** In this state **there is no such thing as a marriage license**; the couple completes a form, signs it **before an Alabama notary**, and files it with the probate court of **any county**. Each court sets its own recording fee, **this county's fee could not be verified and we publish no figure**, but **you can compare fees and hours and choose the county that suits you**. Something that is normally a disadvantage in a small settlement turns into an advantage here. **Three things are critical:** the form must **reach the court within 30 days** and the **postmark does not**

count, the notary must be an **Alabama notary**, and for a person who has never been issued a number the number field is left blank.

We print two contradictions, and we pick a side on neither

TWO PHONE NUMBERS FOR ONE OFFICE, TWO NAMES FOR ONE OFFICE HOLDER

- **The water and sewer board's telephone.** The board's own site gives **256-463-2011**; the town's **street department page** gives **256-463-2201** for the same office. **Two official sources, two numbers, one office.** We do not say which is right; **try both**, or go to the office in person. **The office address is the same in both sources** and that is the most reliable item: **1219 Almon Street, Suite F, Heflin, AL 36264**, weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **The name of the mayor.** The town's **home page** gives one name, and the **government and council page** on the same site gives another. **Both pages are official, both were read on October 10, 2026, and they do not agree. So this guide presents no name as the single correct one.** If you are writing a petition or an official letter, confirm the form of address by calling the clerk's office: **256-463-2290**.

Water, trash and electricity: who is regulated and who is not

- **Water and sewer come from a separate town board; the trash account is opened at the same office**, but collection is done by **the town street department** and **the day is Wednesday**.
- **The board's deposit amount, which identification documents it accepts, and the water and sewer tariffs could not be read in this research.** The pages sat behind a bot wall. **We publish no figure, we do not carry another settlement's tariff over, and we do not write a sentence saying an account can or cannot be opened with a passport.** The desk that opens the account is at the office; go and ask.
- **Which company sells electricity to this town could not be verified, and no natural gas provider was found.** That is not a detail, because **the protection depends on the provider's institutional type**.
- **The disconnection rule applies only in cold weather:** the rule says residential electric or natural gas service may not be disconnected for nonpayment if the forecast temperature for that calendar day is **32 degrees Fahrenheit or below. No heat threshold was found**, so we cannot point to a state protection against an air conditioning disconnection in summer; **we do not say there is none, we say research did not find one**.
- **The scope is electricity and natural gas only. Water, sewer and trash are entirely outside this rule**, and in this town those three come from **the municipal board and a town department**.
- **And it binds only regulated entities.** The state regulator writes in its own words that it **does not regulate electric cooperatives, most water companies and municipal utilities**, and that it therefore **has no authority to resolve complaints about them. So a reader whose water is disconnected has no state forum to go to**; the appeal goes directly to the board and the town. **Talk about payment trouble early**.
- **Ask one question on moving day: who sells electricity to this address.** The answer changes three things at once: whether the cold weather rule applies to you, whether the deposit cap applies, and whether there is a state forum for your complaint.

Severe weather: two seasons, and a shelter gap

- **There are two separate seasons and a newcomer does not know the second one.** The weather office's own text describes the main season as **spring** and the second as running from **early November to mid December**, and writes that tornadoes can occur **in any month of the year**.
- **The moment to go to a shelter is the watch, not the warning.** A Tornado Watch is the point at which conditions are favorable and **that is the moment to go to a community shelter**.
- **Research found no published community shelter list for this county. We do not say there is none, we say research did not find one**, and we tell you **not to build a plan around a shelter that could not be found**.
- **In a manufactured or mobile home the official advice is not to shelter in place** but to leave in advance for a sturdy building. **This is a rental decision. We publish no risk ratio**, because no numerical ratio could be verified from any agency page.
- **Warnings are issued by county:** warning texts go out by county name, shelter lists are published by county, and emergency management varies by county. This town sits in a single county and **the county seat is the town itself**. The county emergency management and 911 unit is in town; its non-emergency line is **256-463-8911**.

The first thirty days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Make sure your address exists	A rural parcel may have no address; the county highway department takes a new address application. Ask before you sign the lease
☐ File the federal address report within 10 days	uscis.gov/addresschange ; enter the receipt number of every pending application. If you have a case in immigration court, also file Form EOIR-33 within 5 days
☐ Open the water, sewer and trash account	All at the water and sewer board office : 1219 Almon Street, Suite F. Two official phone numbers conflict , try both: 256-463-2011 and 256-463-2201
☐ Open electricity in your own name and ask about the provider type	A bill in your name serves as proof of residence at many doors. If it is a cooperative or a municipal utility, the cold weather rule may not apply
☐ Ask the right question when you open an account	Do not say I have no number. Ask this: what do you accept as alternative identification, is a passport on the list, does applying in person change anything. Ask for the answer in writing
☐ Note the trash day	Wednesday. For limbs, leaves and container requests, 256-463-2290
☐ Get a library card	Free to county residents and no number appears in the published requirements. The town library is at 541 Ross Street , and the town is also the headquarters of the regional library system serving five counties
☐ Settle all three residence tests in one round of calls	Trash is city , library is county , fishing permit is county . None of them publishes a document list; ask and write it down

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Build the license appointment around Wednesday	The state office is open Wednesday only, no test after 3:15 p.m. , and the county probate counter does not handle foreign national transactions
☐ Register the car within thirty days	The counter is in the same building, Room 101. The annual ad valorem tax is collected before the plate is issued
☐ If you have children, call the school district	The district belongs to the county but its center is in town: 141 Davenport Drive · 256-463-5624. The document list could not be read , ask for it in writing, and report your interpreter need in advance
☐ If you need a birth or marriage certificate, go to the county health department	Any county department will do and most birth certificates are issued while you wait. 90 Brockford Rd · 256-463-2296
☐ Ask your employer whether a local deduction appears on your payroll	Research did not find an occupational tax in this town, but that does not mean there is none. The test is not residence but where the work is performed ; if you work in another city the answer changes
☐ Find out which side of the city limit your address is on	The city sales tax is 3 percent inside the city and 1.5 percent in the police jurisdiction . The total inside the city is 9 percent on general merchandise and 7 percent on food
☐ Keep the automatic emergency alerts on your phone turned on	No registration is required , they go automatically to compatible phones, and in a tornado this is the main channel
☐ Decide where you will shelter before a storm arrives	An interior room without windows on the lowest floor. Research found no published community shelter list for this county
☐ If you bought a home, calendar the exemption dates	The tax year begins October 1 ; for that year's exemption the window is October 1 through December 31 . If you miss it you can apply during the year and have it take effect the following year . The application goes to the county , revenue office 256-463-2873

Home and rent: five questions before you sign

- 1 Does this property have a 911 address?** Without one, your utilities, your school enrollment and your library card are all delayed.
- 2 Is the address inside the city limit, in the police jurisdiction, or outside both?** The trash rate, some tax rates and the service area of the demand response transit depend on it.
- 3 Which company sells the electricity, and what type of institution is it?** The cold weather rule and your complaint route depend on it.
- 4 Does this building have a designated shelter area, and where is it?** Whether a landlord is obliged to provide or point out such an area **could not be verified**, so you have to ask the question yourself.
- 5 Which identification is accepted for a water account?** The board's published rule could not be read; if you cannot open the account, your moving date can slip.

- **Protected classes:** the state's fair housing section lists race, color, religion, sex, familial status and **national origin**. **Source of income and immigration status are not on the list**, and **disability is not listed in this section** (disability protection in housing comes from **the federal housing statute**, and the two are separate bodies of law). For a Turkish reader the real anchor is **national origin**.
- **There is a retaliation ban, but it is narrow:** it operates in only three situations. A complaint **to a public agency** about a building or housing code violation, a complaint **to the landlord** about a violation under a specific section of the statute, and membership in a **tenant organization** or the formation of one. **These three are written out, not generalized into tenants are protected.**
- **On property tax there is a twofold difference between owner-occupied and rented:** an owner-occupied single family home is in one class and is assessed at **ten percent** of market value; vacant land or property **not exclusively occupied by its owner** is assessed at **twenty percent**. **The penalty for a false declaration is back taxes and interest.**
- **And one more conflict, with no side taken:** the **same page** of the county revenue office shows an owner-occupied home at **ten percent** in one paragraph and, in the calculation formula it gives two paragraphs later, shows **the same class at thirty percent**. **One page, two rates. Do not produce your own tax estimate from that page's formula;** call the revenue office for an estimate.
- **The answer to the number question is at the county, not the state. No identification number appears anywhere in the state rule** for the exemption, but the **county** takes the application and **this county's document list could not be read.**

The one-sentence summary of this list: in Heflin almost every door runs through **your address**, and **verifying rather than assuming** that the address exists is the most profitable task of the first thirty days.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN HEFLIN

Have a question about your immigration status?

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