

CHECKLIST · HENDERSONVILLE

Moving to Hendersonville: A Checklist for Your first 30 days (2026)

An ordered list for your first 30 days: it starts with opening your bill and finding out what type of entity your provider is, because that decides which door you knock on in a dispute. The license side is squeezed into one day a week.

SHORT ANSWER

We open this list with four warnings. First: **the city does not operate any of the utilities that reach your home**, and that is the city's own sentence. **But that does not mean the city does nothing:** police, fire, zoning and building permits, parks, a city court and **trash** are the city's own work. Second: **in a dispute, the complaint forum you go to splits four ways depending on what type of entity your provider is**, so the first-day task is to open the bill and note the provider's name and type. Third: **the license side is squeezed into one day a week**; there is no permanent center in town, the mobile unit comes Thursdays only, and testing is in the next town. Fourth: write **January 1, 2027** on your calendar.

The calendar: firm dates and the ones not found

TASK	DEADLINE OR DATE	WHERE
Federal change of address	10 days. Moving within the same neighborhood is still moving	Through your online account or Form AR-11; enter the receipt number of every pending application
Notice to the court	5 days , if you have a pending case	With Form EOIR-33/IC. The court is not in this town ; the only immigration court in the state is in Memphis
Document regime for vehicle registration	January 1, 2027 , for a first registration	Sumner County Clerk. No document at renewal, but the advisory text is on both
Deadline for sheriffs	January 1, 2027	The statute's own calendar; the decision rests with the county sheriff, not the city board
Verification regime for public benefits	July 1, 2026 , but for local governments at the first reprinting of the form	State agencies, local governments and local health departments
Clocks go back	November 1, 2026	After that week the difference with Türkiye grows by one hour
A written state deadline for the license and registration	Not measured this round	Ask the center and the county clerk, and ask for the answer in writing

Two rows in this table mislead readers often. First: **a change of address at the post office does not satisfy the federal notice**, and filing the federal notice **does not automatically update the address in a pending case**; do both, uscis.gov/addresschange. Second: **giving your address to a state or local agency does not satisfy the federal obligation**; no address you give from a utility account to a school enrollment stands in for that notice. One more thing changed in 2026: account for the federal rule that **took effect on June 29, 2026** and reworked alien registration and what counts as evidence of registration, text at federalregister.gov.

Your first thirty days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ On day one, open your bill and find your provider's type	Electricity comes from a cooperative or from a neighboring city's municipal utility, natural gas from a private, regulated company , water from one of two utility districts . Your complaint forum follows from that type
☐ Note what the city actually does	Police, fire, zoning and building permits, parks, the city court and trash are the city's. Switchboard 615-822-1000 , address 101 Maple Drive North
☐ File the federal change of address within 10 days	uscis.gov/addresschange ; if you have a court case, EOIR-33/IC within 5 days
☐ Find out which district supplies your water	There are two separate water districts in this city and neither is the city; which one you fall under depends on the address . See a recent bill before you rent
☐ Ask the right question when you open an account	Do not say you have no number . Ask this: do you have a list of identification documents you accept, can you email it; is a deposit required of everyone and can it be paid in installments . We could not measure these rules , so we give you the question, not the rule
☐ Learn the trash schedule	The city's public works department runs it and has contracted collection to a company; your contact is the city, not the company , phone 615-822-1016 . Yard waste weekly , limbs and brush every six to eight weeks
☐ Sign up for alerts and pick your sheltering spot	Register through the county's current page; an old system page is still live, was written for people living outside the city limits, and misleads . The office is Sumner EMA, 255 Airport Road, Gallatin, TN 37066, 615-452-7584
☐ Arrange your license business for a Thursday	There is no permanent center in town; the mobile unit comes Thursdays only, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. , and testing is at the full-service center in the next town . Fill out the application online and send documents for five business day pre-approval
☐ Register your vehicle with the county clerk	From January 1, 2027 a status document is required for a first registration ; and no plate is issued until the county wheel tax is paid , with two different figures in circulation
☐ If you have no car, build the schedule early	There is a regional express bus route and a dial-a-ride county service ; the second requires 24 hours notice for local trips and 72 hours for trips out of the county. Research found no city-run bus system
☐ Start school enrollment for your children	There is one district and it is the county district . A passport is explicitly accepted as parent photo identification ; if you are staying with relatives you need a notarized affidavit of residence

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Open your health file early	This state did not expand coverage and the gap is real. Assess every person in the household separately: in the same household the mother may be covered while the child is not
☐ Get a library card in your first week	According to the library's card page, anyone who lives in Tennessee may apply, and a passport is explicitly listed as photo identification. But the page could not be read first-hand; call (615) 824-0656 and confirm before you go
☐ If you are marrying, know you can choose the county	The license may be obtained from any county in the state and is valid for 30 days. Research did not find this county's fee; in the four counties we measured the amounts run between 97.50 and 107.50 dollars
☐ If you need a birth certificate, go to your own county	All 95 county health departments can issue birth and death certificates. That sentence is not written for marriage and divorce records
☐ If you are buying, ask two questions the same day	Is this address inside the city limits, and which district supplies the water. The 2025 combined property tax rate is 2.0093 and the residential assessment ratio is 25 percent

WHAT THE CITY DOES, AND WHAT IT DOES NOT

- **The city's own sentence is about utilities only:** the city **does not own or operate the utilities** that reach your home. Water sits with two districts, electricity with a cooperative or a neighboring city's utility, natural gas with a private company.
- **But the city's own work is countable and real:** police, fire, zoning and building permits, parks, **a city court** and **trash**.
- **Structure:** the mayor is **directly elected** and heads the administration; the board has **twelve members** and the city is divided into **six wards** with two members each. **So you have two aldermen, not one.**
- **The city court is a concrete item for you:** a traffic or ordinance citation issued inside the city limits can land in that court. **Before you pay a citation, find out what it was issued for, and do not accept any charge without asking your attorney.**
- **The domain trap:** the city's registered government domain in the federal registry **never resolved** during this research; the live site is on **a different extension**. If you hit an address that does not open, do not assume the city's site is down.
- **And we print a contradiction: two official sources give different years** for the city's incorporation. The state university's municipal directory records **1901**; the city's own page says it was incorporated in **1968** and that its present charter was granted in **1986. We do not pick a side.**

THE COMPLAINT FORUM SPLITS FOUR WAYS

When you dispute a bill, experience a disconnection or cannot agree about a deposit, **the door you go to depends on the type of entity.**

YOUR PROVIDER'S TYPE	WHERE YOU GO
Private, regulated company (natural gas in this city)	Tennessee Public Utility Commission
Utility district (water and sewer in this city)	Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation, within the state comptroller's office
Electric cooperative	Its own member board
Municipal electric utility	The municipality the utility belongs to

Two bills in one household can fall under two separate regimes, and learning that after a dispute starts costs months. Keep a written record of **the date, the time, the name of the person you spoke with and the reference number** for every call.

RENTING: FIVE THINGS TO CHECK BEFORE YOU SIGN

- **Occupancy:** under the city's zoning ordinance, if the members are not all related by blood or marriage, a household **may not exceed five people. Domestic employees working in the home are not counted in that number.** This is a zoning rule; **your lease may set its own limit. We keep the scope of the comparison written:** in another settlement we measured this round the same number is **one**, so do not carry another city's figure here.
- **There is no thirty-day deposit rule.** The real mechanism: **a separate account is required** and its location is **disclosed when the lease is signed**; if the landlord receives **no response within sixty days** of the notice of the return amount, the landlord may keep the money. **Give your landlord your new address in writing on the day you move.**
- **Look for the bold print in the lease.** The state landlord and tenant law says a waiver placed in the lease **in bold type of twelve points or larger completely removes** the tenant's right to a **fourteen-day notice to pay. It cannot shorten the five-day grace period**, but it can remove your right to notice.
- **Eviction law hardened in 2024:** the maximum continuance dropped **from fifteen days to seven**, one appellate route was closed, and **an appeal is accepted only on a bond equal to one year's rent. Reach an attorney or a free legal aid organization the day you receive papers.**
- **On discrimination, your basis is state and federal law:** the protected classes are race, color, creed, religion, sex, disability, familial status and **national origin. Source of income and immigration status are not on the list**, and a preemption provision keeps them from being added locally; **a local fair housing ordinance was searched for in this settlement and not found.** Since **July 1, 2025** complaints go to the attorney general's civil rights enforcement division; any guide still pointing to the closed commission is stale.

APPLYING FOR A PUBLIC BENEFIT: HERE BOTH THE CITY AND THE COUNTY ARE COVERED

- **A state statute effective July 1, 2026** requires state agencies, **local governments** and **local health departments** to verify the lawful presence of applicants over eighteen and to report anyone not verified to the state's **centralized immigration enforcement unit**.
- **And in this settlement the definition opens two doors at once:** the statute's definition of a local government lists **a county and an incorporated city** separately. Both exist here. **Which one provides the service makes no difference under this statute.**
- **The fine point in the timing:** for local governments the duty begins not on July 1, 2026 but when that unit **first reprints the relevant forms** after that date. **A clause that is not on a form today may be there tomorrow**, and the absence of an attestation clause on a form is not an exemption but a matter of timing. **Indeed, no visible attestation clause was found on this settlement's service pages as of October 12, 2026**, but whether that is because those services fall outside the definition or because the forms have not been reprinted **could not be measured, and we do not choose between the two.**
- **The part in your favor is in the statute's own list:** excluded from the definition of a public benefit are **treatment of an emergency medical condition, immunization, testing and treatment of symptoms of communicable disease, short-term in-kind disaster relief and short-term shelter. But the list says verification is not required; it does not say the service is free.**
- **Two more rules favor you:** a document submitted counts as a **presumption of eligibility** until final verification, and an agency **may not delay a benefit solely because verification is pending;** the agency must also keep copies of everything you submit, so **keep your own copies too.**
- **There is a court order and we write it in three layers:** Snader v. Tennessee Dept. of Health, No. 26-0825-I, Davidson County Chancery Court, Chancellor Patricia Head Moskal; temporary restraining order **June 24, 2026**, agreed temporary injunction **July 14, 2026. Its scope is narrow** (one children's health program only), it is **temporary**, and **no decision on the merits was made.** We do not say the law was stopped.
- **Consult your attorney before applying for a benefit**, and if you are handed **an attestation of citizenship or lawful presence signed under penalty of perjury**, ask before you fill it out.

SEVERE WEATHER: TWO REGIMES AT ONCE HERE

- **Winter is real and it has been measured:** the transportation department's statement of **January 25, 2026** describes the icing as **statewide**, says crews were on their **fourth day**, and asks drivers **not to travel**.
- **Salt has a limit:** once the road surface temperature falls below **16 degrees Fahrenheit**, salt stops working well. **The priority order is written too:** highways and freeze-prone points first, secondary state routes after. **Your neighborhood street is near the end of the list.** For road conditions, dial **511**.
- **Research found no mandatory snow tire or chain rule;** the handbook describes winter equipment in the language of **recommendation**. **We do not say there is none; we say we could not find mandatory language.**
- **On shelters we build the sentence carefully:** research found no published, address-listed, standing, publicly open shelter list for this settlement or its county. What was found is a **severe weather shelter registration program**, described by the program itself as free and voluntary.
- **And there is a distinction here:** whether that program is **a system for reporting your own shelter to the agency or a list of publicly open shelters you can go to could not be determined** from the page's text. **We do not choose between the two, and we do not carry another county's finding here. What to do:** before you register, call the agency and ask one question: **is this registration to tell you about my shelter, or will it give me an address I can go to?**
- **Build the plan inside your own building:** lowest floor, an interior room without windows, and away from wide-span spaces such as gymnasiums. **When you look at a rental, ask where the building's sheltering area is.**
- **If an attestation of lawful presence appears when you apply for disaster relief, consult your attorney.**

TAX: WE DO NOT BUILD A "NO TAXES" SENTENCE

There is no state income tax on wages and salaries, and the state's only personal income tax, on interest and dividends, **was repealed effective January 1, 2021. But we do not build a "no taxes" sentence**: the load shifts to the register. **A local wage tax was searched for and not found; we do not say there is none**, so ask your employer whether there is a local deduction on your pay stub. There is a state-level professional privilege tax covering five professions only: **400 dollars a year**, due **June 1**.

And in this settlement the city line works in the opposite direction from what you would expect, so we give the rates with the boundary stated. The figures were read from the state revenue department's own machine-readable rate file on **October 12, 2026**.

WHERE	GENERAL MERCHANDISE AND SERVICES	FOOD AND FOOD INGREDIENTS
Inside the city limits	9.75 percent	6.25 percent
In the part of the county outside the city	9.25 percent	6.25 percent

So your grocery bill is the same on either side of the line, and the rest of your shopping is not. We print the rate but not the reason: research found no mechanism allowing a city to keep a local rate increase off food. **And note**: this is the rate of the place where you shop, not the place where you live. **On property tax the line means whether the city share stacks on top**: the 2025 combined rate is **2.0093** (county share 1.4210 plus city share 0.5883) and the residential assessment is **one quarter of the appraised value**.

MARRIAGE AND VITAL RECORDS: YOU GET TO CHOOSE THE COUNTY

- **The county clerk issues the license and you may obtain it from any county in the state;** the state source's own sentence says the license may be issued **without regard to the residence of the parties or the county where the ceremony is to be performed.** The **"it comes from your county of residence"** line in common guides is wrong. The license is **valid for 30 days.**
- **Research did not find this county's fee** and we print no estimate; in the **four counties** we measured the amounts run between **97.50 and 107.50 dollars.** The **payment method is a real trap:** of those four, one accepts **cash only** and another **does not accept checks.** A four-hour premarital preparation course brings a **60 dollar discount.**
- **We print a contradiction:** the state revenue department says the same discount applies **to people residing outside the state,** while the county technical assistance unit says it applies **in only one county.** **We do not pick a side;** ask the clerk you plan to visit.
- **For a reader without a number the agency has a written answer:** under an attorney general opinion, the statute **does not require having a number** to obtain a license, and **applicants who have not been issued one are not required to provide one.** The field is left blank.
- **A second contradiction:** state sources **recognize no waiting period,** but an old document dated **2010** from another county we measured this round states a **three-day waiting period.** **We do not pick a side;** call the clerk before you fix your wedding date.
- **Research found no witness requirement,** and **notaries may perform ceremonies.** **We do not say there is none;** the clerk's own form may ask for something else.
- **Birth and death certificates are available from all 95 county health departments,** so you do not have to leave this settlement for that step. **That sentence is not written for marriage and divorce records;** those go through the central office or by mail.
- **The identification list favors you: a valid passport is sufficient on its own** and the list does not say a U.S. passport; an alien or resident card and an employment authorization card are also sufficient on their own. **A Social Security card counts only as secondary and only if signed.** **And the most practical way out: if the application is signed and notarized, no additional identification is required.**

HEALTH AND CLINICS: DO NOT CONFUSE TWO SENTENCES

- **This state did not expand Medicaid coverage** and the gap is real: **an adult without children**, whatever their income, generally cannot enter the state program, and marketplace support does not begin below a certain income threshold.
- **From October 1, 2026 refugees and asylees leave the state program**; the state wrote this into its own manual in a policy dated **September 10, 2026**. **An older document dated 2014 sits unflagged on the same server and still shows refugees as eligible; do not use that document as a source.**
- **The pregnancy door is open today**: the agency's own sentence says no immigration documents are required if you are pregnant; an income requirement still applies. **But in the same household the mother may be covered while the child is not**; before the birth, ask which door the child comes through.
- **A sliding-fee clinic is not a free clinic**. The discount is calculated from household income and household size, and **you still pay a fee**.
- **And in this settlement distance is a real obstacle**. We queried the official service listing federally funded health center sites from the center of this settlement on **October 12, 2026: zero sites within a five-mile circle**, and **two sites within a ten-mile circle, both belonging to a single organization and both outside your own county**. **Those circles are the query's own parameter, not a distance between the settlements in this guide**. **We publish no address and no organization name**; query the sites with your own address through the [federal search tool](#).
- **Solve transportation up front**: dial-a-ride trips out of the county require **seventy-two hours** notice and **every county line crossed is added to the fare**. If you are enrolled in the state health program, request transportation **through your plan's own transportation broker**.
- **In the emergency room the rule is different**: under federal law a hospital emergency department must examine and stabilize anyone who arrives, **regardless of ability to pay and regardless of immigration status**. **But that does not mean it is free**.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN HENDERSONVILLE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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