

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · HOOVER

Getting a Driver License in Hoover: Which Office? 2026 Guide

The city spans two counties, research found no license counter inside it, and an office name misreports its type. We give you no shortcut, we give you two questions.

SHORT ANSWER

A driving credential is a **state matter** and Hoover has no rule of its own. But there are two more questions here, and both turn on your address. First: **Hoover spans two counties** and **research found no license counter inside the city itself**, so which office you go to depends on **whether you live on the Jefferson side or the Shelby side**. Second, and harder: the agency's own office layer was read for **all 203 offices** and the result is this: **of the 124 offices recorded as local, all 124 do not process foreign nationals, zero exceptions. Most** state offices do, but **not all**. And the part specific to this city: the rule follows **the agency's type field, not the name on the office, and on the Shelby side name and type come apart**.

Find your county first, then book

Almost every item in this city starts with the same question, and the license is no exception. Hoover's boundary is split between **Jefferson County** and **Shelby County**; on a calculation from the Census Bureau's own boundary data, the city's land area is divided **roughly in half** between them. **The postal address on your envelope does not tell you your county**. The first thing to do is run [the Census Bureau address lookup](#) and learn the name of your county; the service asks for no registration and no key.

WHICH SIDE YOU LIVE ON	THE LICENSE OFFICE YOU USE	DAYS AND HOURS
Jefferson side	Trooper Post, 908 Bankhead Hwy W, Birmingham, AL 35201	Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Shelby side	Shelby County Courthouse Annex, 1022 County Services Drive, Pelham, AL 35124	Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Three warnings. First, **we publish no distance or drive-time figure**; no agency text measures it and we do not estimate. Second, these hours were read from the agency's own office pages on **October 10, 2026**; the last hour for testing varies from office to office, so **call before you go**. Third and most important: **this table tells you which county your address is in, not that the office there processes foreign nationals**. On the Shelby side in particular those are not the same question.

Processing foreign nationals: the measured answer

The state law enforcement agency's own office layer was read for **all 203 offices on October 12, 2026**. The dataset carries fields showing whether an office processes foreign nationals, and the result is clear:

TYPE OF OFFICE	FOREIGN NATIONAL TRANSACTIONS
Local, meaning a county counter	None of them do it. All 124 offices recorded as local give the same answer, and it holds for both first issuance and renewal . Zero exceptions
State office	Most do, but not all. Six state offices do not , including the one in the state capital. That is why we do not write that every state office does it

The first consequence: going to a county counter achieves nothing on this item. **The second:** going to a state office is not enough on its own either, because six state offices do not handle it.

Issuance and renewal are separate fields, so ask two questions

The dataset keeps **first issuance** and **renewal** separately, and **the two do not give the same answer at every office**: there is an office that does not issue to a foreign national but does renew. **So do not ask one question on the phone**. Ask these separately and write the answers down separately.

- 1 I am getting an Alabama license for the first time. Do you handle first issuance for a foreign national applicant at this office?**
- 2 I am renewing an Alabama license I already hold. Do you handle renewal for a foreign national applicant at this office?**
- 3 Is the oral test available at this office for applicants who cannot read the written one?**

Record each answer **with the name of the person you spoke to**. These three questions can produce three different answers at the same office.

A NAMING TRAP: ON THE SHELBY SIDE THE OFFICE NAME MISREPORTS ITS TYPE

- The rule follows the type field in the agency's own dataset, not the name on the office.** And in this county the name and the type come apart.
- The office in Pelham whose name carries **the agency's own abbreviation** is recorded in the dataset as **local**, which means **it does not process foreign nationals**.
- The offices along the Shelby 280 corridor named **License Office**, by contrast, are recorded as **state**, which means **they do**.
- So a reader on the Shelby side who goes by the name gets it wrong in both directions:** they see the agency's abbreviation, assume **this will work here**, go, and are turned away; or they see **License Office**, assume **that is the county counter**, and **miss the office that would have handled their business**.
- On the Jefferson side the name and the type agree; on the Shelby side they do not.** The correct order: confirm the **type** in the agency own office finder, then ask the two questions above by phone.

Four things to know on the state side

- **Research found no second, status-independent driving card.** The agency's own driver manual requires every first-time applicant to **submit proof of authorized presence**, and states that for non-working authorized foreign national applicants it **presumes their status to be unauthorized** until documents are presented. This door is not a procedural tip, it is **a reason to talk to your lawyer**.
- **A new resident has thirty days.** The statute's own text requires every new resident of Alabama to obtain an Alabama driver license **within 30 days** of establishing residence.
- **The written test is given in eleven languages and Turkish is not among them.** An **oral test** is available for applicants who cannot read the written one; ask about that option before your appointment.
- **A Turkish license is not exchanged.** Türkiye does not appear among the reciprocity agreements the agency names, so the license is obtained **from scratch** and the tests are required.

Checklist before the appointment

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Learn your county and write it down	The address lookup returns the county, the municipality and the school district in a single query. Do not trust the city name on your envelope
☐ Look at the type of the office, not its name	Confirm the type in the agency own office finder . An office whose name carries the agency's abbreviation can be local ; an office named License Office can be state
☐ Ask two separate questions by phone	First issuance and renewal are separate fields in the dataset and the answers can differ
☐ Ask whether the oral test is available	The written test is given in eleven languages and Turkish is not among them
☐ Prepare proof of address in week one	Open power and gas in your own name first, then water. In this city which utility supplies the water depends on your neighborhood
☐ Talk to your attorney about the authorized presence door	The agency asks for proof of authorized presence in its own publication and no status-independent card was found . Get advice before you build the file
☐ Put the thirty days on your calendar	30 days after establishing residence in Alabama
☐ Do not take your Turkish license in for an exchange	Türkiye is not on the reciprocity list; prepare for the tests

One last sentence, and it is the only shortcut here: this guide tells you **which office matches your address**, not **that your business will be handled there**. Treating those as the same thing means a wasted trip in this city.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN HOOVER

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients across Hoover, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation:
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