

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · HUNTSVILLE

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

The state office is inside the city, but a county counter is never an option for this job. We give you the measured answer and the two questions to ask by phone.

SHORT ANSWER

A driving credential is a **state matter** and Huntsville has no rule of its own. The good news: **the state law enforcement agency's license office is inside the city**, so in this three-county city the counter question does not scatter on the license side. But the real information comes from a measurement, and it is hard: in the agency's own office dataset, **of the 124 offices recorded as local, all 124 do not process foreign nationals, zero exceptions**, and that holds for **both first issuance and renewal**. **Most** state offices do process them, but **not all**. This was measured separately for **the city's three counties**: in all three, **the state office does it and not one county counter does**. One warning on top: the rule follows **the agency's type field, not the name on the office**, so **the name can give you the wrong answer**.

The state office inside the city

Read from the state law enforcement agency's own office page on **October 10, 2026**:

OFFICE	ADDRESS	DAYS AND HOURS
State license office, inside the city	7262 Governors West, Suite 202-203, Huntsville, AL 35806	Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. ; open through lunch

You do not need to know your county for the license in this city, but you do for vehicle registration, property tax and the shelter list, so run [the address lookup](#) on day one anyway. **The cutoff for taking a test varies from office to office, so call before you go. We publish no distance or driving time**; no agency text measures it and we do not estimate.

Processing foreign nationals: the measured answer for three counties

In the agency's driver license office dataset every record shows whether the office is **a state office or a local counter**, and it keeps **foreign national issuance** and **foreign national renewal** as **two separate fields**. The whole dataset was read; for this city's three counties the result is this:

TYPE OF OFFICE	WHAT WAS MEASURED IN THE CITY'S THREE COUNTIES
The state agency's own offices	Madison County has three offices and all three do both issuance and renewal; Limestone County has one office and it does ; Morgan County has one office and it does
County license and registration counters	Madison County has eight counters and not one of them does ; Limestone County has one counter and it does not ; Morgan County has three counters and not one of them does

- **The statewide pattern is firm enough to state as a rule.** Of the offices in the dataset whose type is local, **all 124 of them** handle neither issuance nor renewal, **with no exception at all**. So it is not some of them: **a county counter is never an option for this job**.
- **But you cannot turn the sentence around.** Saying every state office does it would be wrong: the dataset contains **six state offices that do not**, one of them in the state capital. The accurate wording is **most state offices**.
- **For a reader on the Madison side the practical conclusion:** plates and registration are one door, driver license and ID are **a different door**, and they are not in the same building. In most cases that means **two separate agencies on two separate days**.

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 where issuance is not available for a foreign national but renewal is. **So do not ask a single question on the phone**. Ask the questions below 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 option available at this office for applicants who cannot read the written test?

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

NAME TRAP: THE NAME ON THE OFFICE CAN GIVE YOU THE WRONG ANSWER

- **The rule follows the type field in the agency's own dataset, not the name on the office.** In the dataset name and type can come apart: an office carrying the agency's initials in its name can be of local type, and an office named like a license office can be of state type.
- **In this city's three counties name and type do line up, but a reader cannot know that from the name.** The name gives you no assurance; the assurance comes from **the type field**.
- **The correct order:** confirm **the office's type** through the agency's own office finder first, then ask the two questions above by phone. **If you want certainty, go to the state office in the city.**

A printed contradiction: three texts give different durations

Among the documents the agency asks for, the secondary list includes **a document authorizing presence in the United States beyond a stated number of days. That number is not written the same way in three official texts**, and one side of the contradiction is this city's own county department:

TEXT	THE DURATION IT STATES
The state agency's driver manual	presence exceeding 30 days
The same agency's document and fee page	presence exceeding 30 days
The same agency's card page, and this city's county license department's own page	presence exceeding 160 days

We take no side. What it means for you: **do not rely on the number by itself** and ask the office about the document you hold **by its name**.

I have no number: the route the agency writes

The three items asked of an applicant who is not a U.S. citizen are the same on the state agency's page and on this city's county page: **a valid foreign passport with an acceptable visa or residence card, verification of a Social Security number or a letter from the Social Security Administration stating you are not eligible for one**, and **the duration document from the secondary list above**.

The middle item sets your route directly: the number itself is not an absolute requirement, but **if you do not have one, a letter of ineligibility from the administration is required**. So the order for an applicant without a number is this: **get that letter first, then book the license appointment**. Skip that step and the appointment is wasted.

Four things that apply statewide

- **Research found no second driving credential independent of status.** The agency's own driver manual asks every first-time applicant for **proof of authorized presence**, and states that for foreign national applicants who are not employed it **presumes status to be unauthorized until documents are produced**. The same manual also asks an applicant who was previously removed for **a document from the immigration agency**. This door is not a procedural tip, it is **a reason to talk to your attorney**.
- **A new resident has thirty days.** The statute itself requires an Alabama license **within 30 days** of establishing residence in Alabama.
- **The written test is given in eleven languages and Turkish is not among them.** An **oral test** option exists for applicants who cannot read it; ask about that option before your appointment.
- **A Turkish license is not exchanged.** Türkiye does not appear among the reciprocity agreements the agency lists, so the license is obtained **from scratch** and the tests are required.

Fees and a payment trap

ITEM	AMOUNT
Test or out-of-state license transfer fee	5 dollars, and no checks accepted
The license itself	36.25 dollars
Non-driver identification card	36.25 dollars , plus 5 dollars document review on first issuance
Paying by credit card	a 4 percent processing fee on the total

The figures were read from the agency's own page on October 10, 2026. Take **cash or a card**, do not take a check.

Checklist before the appointment

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Target the state office in the city	Not one county counter processes foreign nationals; the measurement came out the same in all three of this city's counties
☐ Look at the office type, not the name	Confirm the type through the agency's own office finder . The name can give you the wrong answer
☐ Ask two separate questions by phone	First issuance and renewal are separate fields in the dataset and the answers can differ
☐ If you have no number, get that letter first	A letter of ineligibility from the Social Security Administration; the agency's list accepts it in place of the number
☐ Ask about the oral test option	The written test is in eleven languages and Turkish is not among them
☐ Ask about your duration by the document's name	The agency's texts contradict each other between 30 days and 160 days ; rely on the name of your document, not the number
☐ Prepare proof of address in week one	In this city power, gas and water come from one utility on one bill ; open the account in your own name and the first bill becomes your proof of residence
☐ Discuss the lawful presence door with your attorney	The agency asks for proof of authorized presence in its own publication and no credential independent of status was found
☐ Put thirty days in 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 closing sentence: this guide tells you **which door is the right door**, but only the answer you get by phone tells you **that your business will be handled at that office**. Treating those as the same thing means a wasted trip in this state.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN HUNTSVILLE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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