

Magistrate Instructions

These were developed with the Huntsville Police Department and Huntsville Bicycle Advisory and Safety Committee

Most traffic violations are enforced by police officers at the time of occurrence. Citizens can get a warrant for traffic violations if a traffic law has been broken. This is not common practice and should be reserved for exceptional instances. The protocol for citizens obtaining warrants for traffic violations was provided by the City of Huntsville Magistrate.

In order to get a warrant, the citizen will need to make a case report (incident/offense report) with the Huntsville or local police department

- Call and schedule an appointment with the magistrate.
- If the citizen does not know the name, date of birth and address of the offender, a police investigator will need to forward the information to the magistrate once that information has been obtained.
- As with all probable cause hearings, the citizen will have to provide evidence to the magistrate that the crime occurred and the offender “probably” did it.
- If a warrant is issued, the warrant will be stamped not to book the offender in jail, but to bring before the magistrate on duty. The magistrate on duty will allow the offender to sign his/her bond without being booked into jail; the magistrate will then give them an arraignment date to appear in court. However, DUI’s are booked in jail.

City of Huntsville Magistrate, (256) 427-7861

http://www.hsvcity.com/municipalcourt/city_magistrate.php

If the incident occurred outside of Huntsville, the warrant can be requested at the appropriate magistrate office.

City of Madison Magistrate, Clerk's Office at (256) 772-5625

<http://www.ci.madison.al.us/index.aspx?NID=188>

Madison County Magistrate’s Office, (256) 532-3611

<http://www.madisoncountycircuitclerk.org/Magistrate.htm>

Remember you are a driver of a vehicle

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“Cyclists fare best when they ACT and are TREATED as drivers of vehicles” – John Forester