

**ADVICE OF RIGHTS ON INITIAL
APPEARANCE BEFORE JUDGE
(Misdemeanor or Municipal Ordinance Violation)**

Case Number

IN THE _____ COURT OF _____, ALABAMA
(Circuit, District or Municipal) (Name of County or Municipality)

STATE OF ALABAMA

MUNICIPALITY OF _____ v. _____
Defendant

This is a first appearance hearing. You are charged with committing the offense(s) of _____ in this court in violation of _____. The primary purpose of this hearing is to ensure that you know and understand the charge or charges against you. At this hearing, there will be no determination made about your guilt or innocence of the crime charged, but only a determination that you know and understand the charge or charges against you and the rights you have under the law at this time. If you are before the court on a complaint following a warrantless arrest, the judge will determine whether there is probable cause for the charge against you and the rights you have under the law at this time.

In addition, the purpose of this hearing is to determine whether bail should be set in your case; or, if it has been already set, if it should remain the same, be raised, be lowered, or whether you should be released upon your personal recognizance (that is, your promise to appear for future court proceedings) or released in the custody of some responsible person. In order to make this determination, it will be necessary for the judge to ask you some questions concerning your ties with the community.

You are entitled to be represented by an attorney. You have a right to have your own attorney and will be given time and opportunity to retain an attorney. If you are unable to afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you by the court if you qualify for such representation. It will be necessary for you to complete an indigency questionnaire under oath in order for the court to make this determination.

You have a right to talk with your attorney, family, or friends and, if necessary, reasonable means will be provided in order to enable you to do so. You have the right to remain silent. Anything that you say may be used against you.

You have the right to have a trial. Some charges are automatically scheduled for trial. If you plead "not guilty," the case will be set for trial as soon as is possible.

If you are released from custody (whether personal recognizance or otherwise), you must:

- 1) Appear to answer and submit to all orders and process of the court having jurisdiction in the case.
- 2) Refrain from committing any criminal offense.
- 3) Not depart from the State of Alabama without the leave of the court having jurisdiction of this case.
- 4) Promptly notify the court of any change of address or the phone number.
- 5) Other conditions: _____

The provisions of the Release Order may be revoked or modified by the court for cause. The Release Order and any appearance bond executed in compliance with it will continue in force and effect until the dismissal, acquittal, or conviction on the charges, unless sooner revoked or modified by the court. Upon report of a violation of any of the above conditions, a warrant for your arrest will be issued.

Date

Judge

I have read or have been advised of the matters herein set forth. I understand the explanation of procedures, rights, and information given to me at the initial court appearance. I understand the conditions of my release and the penalties applicable in the event that I violate any conditions imposed herein. I also understand that failure to appear as required may subject me to additional charges in the revocation of release.

Date

Defendant