

(1) License plate issuing officials may issue undercover license plates to law enforcement agencies to carry out investigations and surveillances (Attorney General Opinion 86-00271). Prior to the issuance of an undercover license plate, the license plate issuing official must ensure that the requesting Alabama law enforcement agency has obtained the appropriate state, county, or municipal license plate from the Department of Revenue as provided under § 40-12-250, Code of Ala. 1975. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) is responsible for issuing state license plates to vehicles owned and operated by the ALEA.

(2) Requests for Undercover License Plates.

(a) The request must be provided to the licensing official on the Department of Revenue Application for Undercover License Plates, (form MV UC).

(b) The United States General Services Administration (GSA) requires that federal law enforcement agencies provide a copy of the Manufacturer's Statement of Origin (MSO) with the Application for Undercover License Plates (form MV UC). If the MSO cannot be provided, the agency must submit documentation from GSA to allow exemption from this requirement.

(c) The ALEA requires their employees to return a copy of the completed Application for Undercover License Plates (form MV UC) to the Secretary of the ALEA.

(3) Undercover License Plate Record.

(a) If the undercover license plate record is to be reflected in the state registration database, the applicant must provide the name and address as it is to appear in the database (this may be a fictitious name and address).

(b) If the undercover license plate record is not to be reflected in the state registration database, the county license plate issuing official shall not upload the undercover license plate information to the database so that anyone performing a license plate query would receive a "no record" response.

(4) Undercover License Plate Issued.

(a) A pre-numbered standard license plates shall be issued free of charge for use on undercover motor vehicles, including automobiles, trucks, truck-tractors, trailers and recreational vehicles and is not subject to the payment of license taxes levied on motor vehicles.

(b) The God Bless America pre-numbered license plates may be obtained for undercover vehicles without payment of any additional fee. For any other distinctive or collegiate license plate, additional fees must be collected.

(c) Undercover license plates may not be issued to vehicles owned/used by non-law enforcement agencies, even if law enforcement officials work part-time security for these non-law enforcement agencies.

(5) Documentation Security. Information involving undercover vehicles must be kept confidential. Accordingly, license plate issuing officials must retain any documentation involved with the issuance of undercover license plates in a locked secure location. Information may be provided to Examiners of Public Accounts in conjunction with an audit that is otherwise authorized by law.

Author: Sherry Helms.

Authority: §§40-2A-7(a)(5) and 40-12-250, Code of Ala.1975, and 1986 Op. Att’y Gen. No. 86-00271

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