



# Huntsville, Alabama

305 Fountain Circle  
Huntsville, AL 35801

## Cover Memo

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**Meeting Type:** City Council Regular Meeting **Meeting Date:** 4/9/2026

**File ID:** TMP-6759

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**Department:** Police

**Subject:**

**Type of Action:** Approval/Action

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a memorandum of understanding between the City of Huntsville and Crisis Services of North Alabama.

Resolution No.

**Finance Information:**

**Account Number:** n/a

**City Cost Amount:** n/a

**Total Cost:** n/a

**Special Circumstances:**

**Grant Funded:** n/a

**Grant Title - CFDA or granting Agency:** n/a

**Resolution #:** n/a

**Location: (list below)**

**Address:** n/a

**District:** District 1  District 2  District 3  District 4  District 5

**Additional Comments:** MOU that allows for the collaboration between the Huntsville Police Department and Crisis Services for services provided to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-\_\_\_\_**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement by and between the City of Huntsville and Crisis Services of North Alabama, on behalf of the City of Huntsville, a municipal corporation in the State of Alabama, which said agreement is substantially in words and figures similar to that certain document attached hereto and identified as “Memorandum of Understanding : Partnership Agreement for Community Collaborations” consisting of Five (5) pages, and the date of April 9, 2026 appearing on the margin of the first page, together with the signature of the President or President Pro Tem of the City Council, an executed copy of said document being permanently kept on file in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Huntsville, Alabama.

**ADOPTED** this the 9th day of April, 2026.

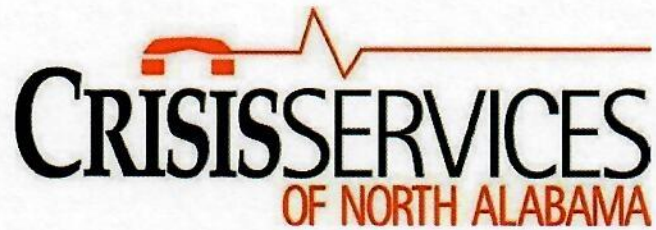
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President of the City Council of  
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

**APPROVED** this the 9th day of April, 2026.

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Mayor of the City of  
Huntsville, Alabama



## Memorandum of Understanding:

### Partnership Agreement for Community Collaborations

#### *I. Introduction & Purpose*

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a formal partnership dedicated to transforming our community's response to domestic violence and sexual assault. Our collective mission is to deliver a unified, unwavering message: intimate partner violence and sexual assault have no place in our community. Together, we commit to:

- **Ensuring Equitable Access:** Providing all survivors with streamlined access to essential services that prioritize their safety and dignity.
- **Upholding Absolute Confidentiality:** Recognizing that privacy is the cornerstone of victim safety.
- **Empowered Information Sharing:** Exchanging critical data only when it enhances service delivery and abuser accountability, and strictly through the lens of informed, victim-led consent.

#### *II. Key Definitions*

- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV):** Any pattern of abuse or aggression occurring within an intimate relationship, regardless of whether the individuals are current or former spouses, dating partners, or cohabitants.
- **Sexual Assault:** Any nonconsensual sexual act as defined by Federal, State, or Tribal law, including instances where a survivor lacks the capacity to consent.

#### *III. Primary Partner Agencies*

- Crisis Services of North Alabama (CSNA)
- Huntsville Police Department (HPD)
- City of Madison Mayor (for Madison Police Department and Madison City Clerk)
- Madison County Sheriff's Department (MCSD)
- Madison County Circuit Clerk

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President of the City Council of the City of  
Huntsville, Alabama  
Date: 4-9-2020

#### ***IV. Partner Roles and Responsibilities***

The signatories of this MOU have established a multi-disciplinary partnership to ensure survivors of IPV and sexual assault have seamless access to services that prioritize their safety and protect their privacy. In every collaborative interaction, the primary determining factor for any action taken will be whether it enhances the victim's safety and privacy.

#### **Crisis Services of North Alabama (CSNA)**

**Historical Context:** CSNA maintains a long-standing partnership with law enforcement and the Madison County Courts to provide a safety net of confidential services. Their team brings over 300 years of cumulative experience to the community. CSNA's IPV Program complies with standards established by the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Administrative Code Chapter 305-4-4. Their Sexual Assault Program complies with standards established by the Alabama Coalition Against Rape.

- **24/7 Crisis Access:** Operates the **HELpline**, a 24-hour crisis line providing compassionate trauma response to victims of violence, emergency shelter access, and forensic exam coordination. It is accredited by the International Council of Helplines.
- **Information & Referral (2-1-1):** Serves as the local 2-1-1 provider, connecting vulnerable populations to a comprehensive database of public services 24/7.
- **Comprehensive Survivor Support:** Provides safety planning, emergency shelter, case management, and adult/child counseling and support groups.
- **Specialized Forensic Exams:** CSNA 's Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNE) are trained to provide forensic exams to victims of IPV, sexual assault, and elder abuse. Child physical and sexual abuse exams are also provided within the guidelines of the local Children's Advocacy Center MOU. CSNA uses protocols that were established by the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) and the FNE Program Director and Coordinator holds an IAFN SANE-A (Adults and Adolescent) and an IAFN SANE-P (Pediatrics) certification.
- **Advocacy & Navigation:** Offers personal and court advocacy to help survivors navigate the social service and legal systems.
- **Community Leadership:** Educates partners on emerging IPV/sexual assault research and works to resolve systemic barriers to victim resources.

## **Law Enforcement (HPD, MPD, MCSD)**

**Historical Context:** Law enforcement and CSNA have collaborated since early the 1980's to ensure reporting victims receive immediate forensic and supportive referrals.

- **Service Referrals:** Refers the following to HELPLine, CSNA 's 24-hour crisis line, at 256-716-1000:
  - IPV victims for shelter and supportive services
  - IPV victims not in need of shelter for advocacy and supportive services
  - Sexual assault victims for advocacy and supportive services
  - Victims of crime for emotional support
- **Forensic Coordination:** Contacts the CSNA FNE Program via their confidential line **(256-430-1407)** for the documentation of physical injuries, strangulations, and forensic evidence collection for adults, children, and the elderly.

*\*The Forensic Nurse Examiner number is for law enforcement only and should not be given to the victim.*

- **Operational Support:** Provides office space for Domestic Violence Responders (within HPD) and ensures the DV Responder Coordinator has access to cases to assist victims of IPV.

## **The Circuit Clerk**

**Historical Context:** Since the formation of HOPE Place in the early 1980s, the Madison County Courts have partnered with CSNA to assist victims through the evolution of protection laws.

- **Judicial Navigation:** Refers IPV victims to the HELPLine and the Madison County Domestic Violence Victim Services Coordinator for assistance in filing **Protection From Abuse (PFA)** orders and understanding court processes.
- **Courtroom Advocacy:** Allows CSNA advocates into courtrooms, magistrates' offices, and quiet meeting spaces to provide direct support and emotional stability for victims.
- **Survivor-Centric Referrals:** Ensures victims of any crime are referred to CSNA for emotional support and comprehensive crisis services.

## **V. Commitment to Confidentiality**

All partners acknowledge that CSNA maintains a rigorous confidentiality mandate. No personally identifying information (PII) will be shared without an informed, written, and time-limited release from the survivor, except in instances where state-mandated reporting for child abuse or neglect is triggered.

**VI. Duration and Terms of Agreement**

By signing the MOC, the parties agree to uphold the terms of this MOU. Any party may amend their roles and responsibilities of the MOU by written request. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the representative and shall be reviewed and revised as needed.

Signature Kirk Giles Date: 03.17.26  
Print Name: KIRK GILES Title: POLICE CHIEF  
Agency: HUNTSVILLE POLICE DEPT.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/9/2026  
Print Name: Tommy Battle Title: Mayor  
Agency: City of Huntsville, AL

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_