

EXPLANATION

Research for this text is inclusive of cases through May 1, 2026, legislation through the 2026 regular session of the Alabama Legislature, and amendments to the Alabama Rules of Criminal Procedure through May 1, 2026. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to the Code of Alabama are to the 1975 edition.

Useful websites can be found at

- www.alacourt.gov,
- <http://eforms.alacourt.gov>,
- <http://alisdb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLogin.asp>, and
- <https://judicial.alabama.gov/rules/index>.

Alabama courts use an electronic filing system. All practitioners should watch for electronic filing updates, both statewide and locally. Each attorney or party filing electronically must register online at <http://efile.alacourt.gov>.

A new appellate court electronic filing and case management system developed by Thomson Reuters Court Management Solutions went into effect in March 2022. Attorneys must create an account in C-Track and file documents electronically with the Supreme Court of Alabama, the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, and the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. The appellate courts will no longer accept e-filed documents through ACIS, but the ACIS homepage will provide a link to the C-Track registration page.

It should be specifically noted that on December 30, 2025, the Alabama Supreme Court issued an order amending the Alabama Pattern Jury Instructions for criminal cases, along with corresponding instruction use notes. The order consists of 171 pages. (See <https://judicial.alabama.gov/Library/JuryInstructions; Order-on-Ala.-Pat.-Jury-Instr. 2025.12.30.pdf>). For ease of reference, the pattern jury instructions are available on the Alabama Supreme Court's website at <https://judicial.alabama.gov/Library/JuryInstructions>.

For those using Westlaw, it should be noted that there are now AI enhancements for research purposes found in Westlaw Edge. Counsel

are reminded that all AI, no matter how advanced, is a tool, and by signing pleadings, counsel verify that the information presented is factually correct. Attorneys have been sanctioned in Alabama and across the country for including AI “hallucinations” in their filings.

To save space and keep this form book in a single-volume presentation, we have eliminated case captions and signature blocks where possible and refer users to a standard case caption and signature block at the end of Chapter 1.