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OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

GREENSBORO - Sheriff Ellis would like to remind the citizens of Hale County when you receive a summons to serve as a potential juror, you are required by law to appear in court. Recently there have been several instances where people who were summoned for jury duty, failed to show up. Below is a copy of Alabama State Law relating to failure of persons summoned as jurors to obey summons;

Code of Alabama 1975, Section 12-16-82

"If any person summoned as a grand or petit juror shall fail to obey such summons without good excuse, to be determined by the court, he or she shall be deemed guilty of contempt of court; and , if no sufficient excuse is rendered for him or her, at the time of his or her default, an order shall be entered for him or her to show cause why he or she shall not be adjudged guilty of contempt and punished accordingly; and , if he or she shall fail at the next session after the service of such notice to render such excuse, he or she shall be fined by the court not more than three hundred dollars (\$300) and may be imprisoned in the county jail for not more than ten (10) days.

Sheriff Ellis also said, he understands disruptions happen in our lives that will cause us to miss jury duty, however, the proper thing to do is to notify the Hale County Circuit Clerk's Office at 334-624-4334, if you know you will not be able to be present on your summons date. Sheriff Ellis said the for the first offense his office will send out a letter, and for the second offense he will send a deputy.