

# Sheriff Rolls Out Mobile Booking Unit

## Procedure Causing Controversy

*Reported By Nancy Amons*

POSTED: 8:13 pm CST December 16, 2010

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** -- The Davidson County Sheriff's Office has a new mobile booking unit.

The mobile booking unit is equipped with everything required to book suspects, from cameras for taking mug shots to fingerprint equipment and multiple computers.

A temporary lock-up area has room for nine prisoners.

Sheriff Daron Hall said he hopes the mobile unit will cut booking time in half.

"The average arrest in Nashville takes an officer out of his or her zone an average of four hours," Hall said.

Right now, an officer has to drive downtown, then wait to appear before a commissioner. On the bus, the suspect would appear before a commissioner via teleconference.

But there's a missing step that's causing some concern: the officer never appears before the commissioner.

Attorney David Raybin said the officer's sworn statement before the commissioner is a crucial step that can't be cut out.

"It's unconstitutional. It's illegal. The warrant is worthless if you do that," Raybin said. "The felony bus makes a lot of sense, but it's a step backward if they are going to cut out the constitutional requirements," Raybin said.

Hall said he's gotten a legal opinion that it's OK for a sheriff's department employee to present the officer's case.

"The question becomes, who appears before the commissioner? We agree that someone has to. Who has to be that person?" Hall said.

The sheriff said the process may need some tweaking.

The mobile booking unit is expected to roll out in January. It would be used at times when a number of arrests are expected, such as New Year's Eve or during a DUI checkpoint.