

The Village of Skokie Encourages Drivers to “Be Safe: Stop on Red”

The Village of Skokie is committed to increasing roadway safety. We strongly encourage the driving community to “Be Safe: Stop on Red”. Remember, lives depend on it!

Intersections represent a disproportionate share of public safety problems on roadways. In fact, motorists are more likely to be injured in urban crashes involving red light running than in any other type of motor vehicle accident. Unlike collisions in which drivers have no control of the outcome, those caused by red light running can be prevented.

The Village of Skokie in partnership with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is committed to increasing roadway safety, especially at intersections. The location for Red light enforcement systems are:

- Dempster Street and McCormick Boulevard monitoring southbound.
- Oakton Street and McCormick Boulevard monitoring northbound, southbound and westbound
- Howard Street and McCormick Boulevard monitoring southbound and westbound.

Due to significant traffic congestion at these locations, we are confident that these enforcement systems will make a life-saving difference.

In order to educate and inform the community about this important safety initiative, we are launching a public awareness campaign, “**Be Safe: Stop on Red.**” Remember, lives depend on it!

On this web site you will find information regarding the extent of the problem, the automated red light enforcement solution and frequently asked questions and answers.

DID YOU KNOW?

Red Light Running is a Serious and Growing Traffic Safety Problem

- 63% of all Americans will witness a red-light running incident more than once each week, according to a survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the American Trauma Society.
- Intersection-related vehicle accidents caused more than 8,700 casualties in 2012, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- One in three Americans knows someone who has been injured or killed in a red light running crash.
- Traffic crashes are the single, most significant cause of preventable death and injury in North America.

Red Light Cameras: A Proven Solution

- Among the 89 percent of drivers who are aware of the camera programs in their cities, a majority say the devices have made intersections safer.
- More than 500 communities across the country look to red-light safety cameras to help protect their roadways against dangerous and distracted drivers.
- Over time, numerous studies suggest that red light cameras can save lives and increase traffic safety by:
 - Changing behavior leading to safer driving habits
 - Significantly reducing traffic crashes and dangerous driving
 - Increasing police officer safety and public safety

***We strongly encourage the driving community to “Be Safe: Stop on Red.”
Remember, lives depend on it!***

VILLAGE OF SKOKIE
“BE SAFE: STOP ON RED”
AUTOMATED RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
(FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS)

Detecting Violations

What is a Red Light Violation?

There are two (2) types of Red Light Violations:

1. **Entering an intersection after the traffic signal has turned red.**
2. **Right Turn on Red** – You may be cited with a Red Light Violation if you fail to bring your vehicle to a **complete stop** before turning right on red (where permissible). You may be cited with a Red Light Violation if you turn right on red where it is expressly prohibited and/or if you turn right on red on days and/or during hours prohibited by law (expressly or implicitly).

Can I see the images of my vehicle online?

Yes, your vehicle was captured by photo-enforcement cameras. You may view the images of your vehicle by going to www.payonlineticket.com. Enter your ticket number and follow the directions as they appear. If you do not have your ticket number, you may still view the vehicle images by entering the license plate number, driver's license number of the registered owner (or lessee) or the VIN (vehicle identification number) of the registered vehicle.

What if I am already in the intersection, when the light turns red?

If you entered the intersection when the light was green or yellow, you will not receive a “Notice of Violation.” It is legal to clear the intersection if you are already in the intersection when the light turns red.

What if I was not driving at the time of the recorded violation? Do I still have to pay the ticket?

Under Illinois State Law, the registered owner (or lessee) of a vehicle is liable for any automated traffic law violations that occur. It does not matter who is driving the car (unless the vehicle has been reported stolen prior to the time of violation – refer to list of “Defenses”).

What are the defenses to a Red Light Violation?

The defenses to a Red Light Violation are as follows:

1. The operator of the vehicle was issued a Uniform Citation by a police officer for the same incident as captured by the Red Light Enforcement Camera.
2. The violation occurred at a time during which the vehicle or its license plate was reported to a law enforcement agency as having been stolen and the vehicle or license plate had not been recovered by the owner at the time of the alleged violation.
3. The vehicle was leased to another, and within sixty (60) calendar days after the citation was mailed to the lessor, lessor submitted to the municipality, the correct name and address of the lessee of the vehicle identified in the violation notice at the time of the alleged violation, together with a copy of the lease agreement, the lessee's driver's license number and any additional information that may be required.
4. The vehicle was an authorized emergency vehicle or it was yielding the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle.

5. The vehicle was lawfully participating in a funeral procession.
6. The respondent was not the registered vehicle owner, lessee or renter of the cited vehicle at the time of the violation.

What if the car was a rental?

Under the law, the person(s) designated as the driver of the vehicle on the rental or lease agreement is responsible for any assigned violations during the rental/lease period.

Do red light cameras violate a motorist's privacy?

No, driving is a regulated activity on public roads. By obtaining a license, a motorist agrees to abide by certain rules, such as to obey traffic signals. Neither the law nor common sense suggest drivers should not be observed on the road nor have their violations documented/recorded. The use of RLR cameras in support of traffic safety has been upheld by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals for the Northern District for Illinois.

Isn't the main purpose of red light cameras to make money?

No. The goal of red light camera enforcement systems is to improve public safety by reducing injuries and deaths caused by accidents. Drivers are advised of camera systems at each intersection that photo enforcement is in use by way of signage. Revenue is generated from fines paid by drivers who continue to run red lights, which is a serious traffic safety problem.

Other Questions

What if I have other questions that were not answered here?

You may call toll free **1-877-262-3318** or 1-877-262-3356 if you are hearing impaired. Phone lines are open Monday – Friday, 9 AM - 5 PM (excluding legal holidays).

Collecting Fines

How much is the fine?

When issued a Notice of Violation, it is mailed to the owner, lessee or renter of the vehicle indicating a fine amount of \$100. The violation notice needs to be contested or paid (in full) by or before the "Contest By" or "Pay By" date shown on the notice. If no action is taken, a Late Notice will be issued. The Late Notice will be mailed to the registered owner, lessee or renter of the vehicle to inform the violator that the violation needs to be paid for the fine amount of \$150 or they have the option to petition to set aside the determination of liability. As a result of the failure to petition to set aside the determination of liability or pay the Late Notice, a Final Determination of Violation Liability will be issued to the owner, lessee or renter of the vehicle. The Final Determination of Violation Liability includes a penalty of \$200. The payment of the fine amount listed on the Final Determination of Violation Liability is required by or before the "Pay By" date shown on the notice, if this is not paid, the Village of Skokie will take further enforcement and collection action.

How much time do I have to pay?

You must either pay the fine or contest the violation by or before the "Pay By" or "Contest By" date listed on the front of the Notice of Violation.

How can I pay the fine?

You can pay online at www.payonlineticket.com, in person at the Skokie Village Hall, or by mailing the Notice Violation Liability Stub and your check or money order to Village of Skokie, PO Box 7642, Carol Stream, IL 60197-7642. Additionally, you may call 1-877-262-3318 to pay the violation over the phone.

If I pay the fine, will it go against my driving record?

No. A violation under Illinois law will not affect your driving record or insurance rates (it is similar to a parking ticket).

What happens if I forgot to pay the fine by the "Pay By" date or forgot to contest by the "Contest By" date?

A Late Notice is mailed to the registered owner, lessee or renter of the vehicle to inform the violator that the violation needs to be paid for the fine amount of \$150 or they have the option to petition to set aside the determination of liability. Failure to petition to set aside the determination of liability or pay the Late Notice, a Final Determination of Violation Liability will be issued to the owner, lessee or renter of the vehicle. The Final Determination of Violation Liability includes a penalty of \$200. Failure to respond may also result in a suspension of driving privileges of the registered owner, lessee or renter of the vehicle. The Village of Skokie must notify the Secretary of State about a registered owner having 5 (five) or more unpaid automated traffic law violations.

Can I make installment payments?

No. Payment of the fine (and any penalty) must be paid in full by the date posted on the notice.

Can I contest the fine after I have already made payment?

No, you cannot. Once you have paid the fine it is considered an admission of liability.

What if I want to contest the Notice of Violation?

The registered owner, lessee or renter may contest the Notice of Violation by mail or in-person.

To contest by mail - please place a check mark in the box next to "Contest by mail" on the "Notice of Violation Liability Stub." Enclose the "Notice of Violation Liability Stub" along with a statement signed by the registered vehicle owner, lessee or renter of the vehicle setting forth facts that establish a defense (see list of "Defenses"). Also enclose any supporting evidence, such as photographs, affidavits, official police vehicle theft and/or recovery reports (send copies and not originals as these documents will not be returned to you). An administrative hearing officer will determine whether you have met the burden of proof or whether you must pay the fine.

To contest in person - please place a check mark in the box next to "In Person Hearing" on the "Notice of Violation Liability Stub." Mail the "Notice of Violation Liability Stub" in the return envelope. Alternatively, you may call 1-877-262-3318 to register for your assigned In Person hearing. Please appear at the In Person Hearing on the date and at the time set forth on the front of the "Notice of Violation Liability Stub". The In Person hearing location is The Skokie Village Hall located at 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, IL 60077.

Please note that all registered owners, lessees or renters must register before appearing at the assigned In Person hearing.

You must contest by the "Contest By" date found on the front of your Notice of Violation.

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