

# Frequently Asked Questions Intersection Safety Program

## Why has the City of South Pasadena decided to implement the Intersection Safety Program?

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, annually nearly 2 million crashes occur in intersections. In 2005, red light running resulted in 800 fatalities and over 165,000 injuries.

It is believed that an Intersection Safety Program will reduce the number of red light crashes and injuries associated with such crashes. The purpose of this program is to increase traffic safety in the City of South Pasadena. The goal of the program is to reduce red light running violations, red light crashes, and red light injury crashes without impacting City funds.

## What is a red light running violation?

Pursuant to Florida Statutes §§ 316.0083, 316.074(1) and 316.075(1)(c)1, it is a violation of the red light if a vehicle proceeds into an intersection equipped with a photographic traffic control monitoring system when the traffic control signal for that vehicle's direction of travel is emitting a steady red signal. When a motorist receives a Notice of Violation, it has been determined that their vehicle has proceeded into an intersection by entering the crosswalk on the near side of an intersection when the traffic control signal, for the direction in which the vehicle was traveling, was emitting a steady red signal. Motorists already in the intersection when the signal changes to red, when waiting to turn for example, are not considered red light violators.

## Why did I receive this Notice of Violation?

Based upon images captured by the automated system, your vehicle was determined to have failed to comply with a steady red signal. As the owner of the vehicle, the Notice of Violation is mailed to you. For every violation captured by the cameras, the images and video are reviewed and approved by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department before a Notice of Violation is issued and mailed to the vehicle's registered owner.

## If I am in the intersection when the light is yellow and the light changes to red, will I receive a Notice of Violation/Infraction?

No. The automated camera system only becomes active once the red light is showing. It will not capture a vehicle if the vehicle enters the intersection prior to the light changing to red. If you entered the intersection on yellow, it is legal to clear the intersection if the light turned red while you were still in the intersection.

## What if I am not the driver/owner of the vehicle at the time of the violation?

As the registered owner of the vehicle, you are deemed responsible for the violation and the payment the penalty unless, in compliance with Florida Statute § 316.0083(1)(d)1.a-d, you establish by a sworn affidavit that a statutory exemption applies. The exemptions are that the motor vehicle: (a) passed through the intersection in order to yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle or as part of a funeral procession; (b) passed through the intersection at the direction of a law enforcement officer; (c) was, at the time of the violation, in the care, custody, or control of another person; or (d) a UTC was issued by a law enforcement officer to the driver of the motor vehicle for the violation of Florida Statute § 316.074(1) and § 316.075(1)(c)1 stated in this Notice. **The affidavit must be sworn before a notary public or other person authorized to administer oaths.**

If you assert that the vehicle was in the care, custody, or control of another person, you **must** provide the name, address, date of birth, and, if known, the driver's license number of the person who leased, rented, or otherwise had care, custody, or control of the vehicle at the time of the violation. ACCEPTANCE OF THIS ASSERTION BY THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WILL RESULT IN THE ISSUANCE OF A UNIFORM TRAFFIC CITATION TO THE PERSON NAMED IN THE AFFIDAVIT. If the vehicle was stolen, then the affidavit **must** include a copy of a police report showing the vehicle to have been stolen. If you assert that a UTC was issued by a law enforcement officer for the violation of Florida Statute § 316.074(1) and 316.075(1)(c)1 stated in the notice, then you must include the serial number of the UTC. For faster processing, you may, but are not required to, include a copy of the UTC.

You may download and print the **Affidavit of Non-Responsibility** form from the links at the bottom of the page on [www.violationinfo.com](http://www.violationinfo.com).

### **What happens if I ignore or do not pay the Notice of Violation?**

If you fail to respond, a Uniform Traffic Citation ("UTC") will be issued to you, UNDER THIS STATUTE FOR THE STATED INFRACTION YOU MAY BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR COURT FEES AND COSTS. Upon issuance of a UTC, you shall have the remedies specified in Florida Statutes § 318.14, which include the right to have a hearing before a designated official, who shall determine whether an infraction has been committed. If the official concludes that no infraction has been committed, no costs or penalties shall be imposed. If the official concludes that an infraction has been committed, the official may impose an additional civil penalty not to exceed \$500 and court fees and costs.

### **I have received a UTC, may I submit an affidavit?**

Yes, you may submit an affidavit. You must download the **Post UTC Affidavit** from the links at the bottom of the page on [www.violationinfo.com](http://www.violationinfo.com). The Post UTC Affidavit must be mailed to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Submission of a Post UTC Affidavit does not guarantee a dismissal of the UTC.

### **Will I receive any points on my driving record for this violation?**

No, this is a non-criminal infraction that is not reported to the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles.

### **Will my insurance rates be affected?**

No, this is a non-criminal infraction and is not reported to any insurance agencies.

### **Will the red light cameras take a picture of the driver of the vehicle?**

No. A violation of Florida Statutes §§ 316.0083, 316.074(1) and 316.075(1)(c)1 is a civil violation assessed against the owner of the vehicle; it is not a criminal violation. Similar to a parking ticket, there is no need to identify the driver and therefore, no need to capture the image of the driver.

### **Is this only a revenue generating program?**

This is a safety program. Automated safety systems have been shown to reduce red light violations and intersection crashes. Numerous studies throughout the U.S. and worldwide, as well as the experience of many other cities, indicate significant decreases in red light running violations and collisions after cameras were installed. Often times, a spill-over effect results from automated enforcement: other intersections not monitored by automated enforcement also see a decrease in violations and accidents because of the presence of enforcement in other areas of the community.

### **What if I was issued a citation from an officer for the same offense?**

The citation issued by a police officer takes precedence over the Notice of Violation. You must submit an affidavit with the serial number of the UTC that you received for violation of Florida Statute § 316.074(1) and 316.075(1)(c)1. For faster processing of the affidavit, you can include a copy of the UTC.

### **How much time do I have to pay my Notice of Violation?**

It is recommended the completed signed and notarized affidavit or payment be received 8 days prior to the due date specified on the front page of this notice to be appropriately processed or a UTC will be issued at a higher cost. If you have questions regarding payments please contact Customer Service at **1-866-225-8875**.

### **How can I pay my fine?**

**ONLINE PAYMENT:** The fastest and easiest way to pay your Notice is to pay online. Go to **www.ViolationInfo.com** and logon with your Notice # and PIN shown in the red box on the front of this notice. Click the Pay button.

**PAYMENT BY PHONE:** 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern time Toll free at: **1-866-225-8875**.

**PAYMENT BY MAIL:** Mail your check or money order (payable to the **City of South Pasadena**) in the enclosed envelope with the coupon printed at the bottom of the reverse side of your notice. **DO NOT MAIL CASH.** Be sure to put the Notice # on the face of your payment. If you have any questions, please call Customer Service Toll free at: **1-866-225-8875**.

### **What is the Refund Policy?**

A refund check may be issued under the following circumstances:

- Duplicate and/or overpayment of a Notice of Violation

If you feel as though you are entitled to a refund, please submit your request on the Red Light Refund Form found at [www.violationinfo.com](http://www.violationinfo.com) to the City of South Pasadena.

### **I have received multiple Notices of Violation; do I have to send in a payment for each?**

No, you may send one check in one envelope – but you must include coupons for each violation you received. If you received three violation notices, you may send in one check and three coupons but write each notice number on your check.

### **What if my check is returned?**

You will be responsible for a returned check fee of \$25.00 for handling the returned check – in addition to any late fees and the original fine amount.

### **Can I make payments in installments or set up a payment plan?**

Payment plans are not available unless a UTC has been issued. If you have received a UTC, you may request a payment plan through the Pinellas County Clerk of the Court's office.

### **I paid the violation; why did I receive another notice?**

If you submitted a payment for a Notice of Violation and then received a UTC for the same infraction, it is possible that your payment and the UTC crossed in the mail. If you feel that you paid your Notice of Violation but still received a UTC, please call 1-866-225-8875 to confirm that your payment was received. If you submitted a payment for a UTC and then received a driver's license suspension warning letter because of non-payment of that UTC, please contact the Pinellas County Clerk of the Court to confirm that your payment was received.

### **Do I have to pay my fine the day of the hearing?**

You must pay the full fine amount within 10 days of a liable judgment.

### **I do not believe I ran a red light. Where can I go to view my images and video?**

You can view your images on any computer with an Internet connection. Please visit [www.violationinfo.com](http://www.violationinfo.com). To log on to the site you must enter the Notice Number and the PIN Number located at the top right of your Notice of Violation. If you do not have internet access you may view your images and video at your local public library or at the City of South Pasadena City Hall.

### **I don't believe I ran a red light and want to discuss my case with someone.**

If you choose to appear before an official of the county court or plead not guilty, do not respond to your Notice of Violation. You will receive a Uniform Traffic Citation within 60 days of the Violation Date via certified mail. Instructions will be provided to you by the county clerk's office as to how you can request a hearing.

### **How much do I have to pay for a Hearing?**

A person who is found liable after a Hearing can be liable for an additional penalty, courts costs and fees not to exceed \$500, in addition to the amount of the civil penalty assessed for the violation.

### **Can I schedule a hearing?**

You cannot schedule a hearing until you have received a UTC. If you wish to have a hearing, do not respond to your Notice of Violation. A UTC will be issued with instructions on how to proceed for a hearing.

### **Can I make a hearing request over the phone?**

No.

### **Can someone other than me attend the hearing?**

Only you or your legal counsel may appear at a hearing.

### **Is there more than one place that I can attend my hearing?**

No.

### **Can I bring a lawyer to the hearing with me?**

Yes.

### **How do I know that these violations are valid?**

Images of your vehicle were captured and recorded by a Traffic Safety Camera. You can review your images and video of the actual occurrence online. The images and video were reviewed by several qualified technicians and finally by the Pinellas County Sherriff's Department before the alleged civil infraction was affirmed and mailed to you as the registered owner or identified driver.

### **What company provides the red light camera program in the City of South Pasadena?**

The City of South Pasadena has contracted with American Traffic Solutions Inc. to provide the Intersection Safety Program. ATS will install and maintain all equipment related to this program and process all violations captured by the equipment.

If you have any questions, please call Customer Service at 1-866-225-8875  
Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00am – 5:00pm EST.

Please direct email inquiries to [info@ViolationInfo.com](mailto:info@ViolationInfo.com); include your notice # in your e-mail.