





# RED LIGHT CAMERAS

You should only ever see the flash of a camera when you're swarmed by the paparazzi, at a family event, or during an awkward group photo, but definitely NOT while you're driving. The only benefit that comes from red light cameras is the benefit to the State from the money we donate to their coffers. I don't know about you, but being fined \$158 doesn't make me feel very safe. It makes me feel cheated. And guess what? That fine is going up. Read on.

You initially receive a violation from the city stating that you owe them \$158 because you failed to "comply with a steady red signal". What the letter should say is, "Hello. We are the city of "X" and we need money. Pay the above amount or you will be unable to renew your registration next year. Actually don't pay it. Wait 30 days so we can raise the fine a hundred dollars, and then you can pay \$258. You can make the payment online. See how easy we've made it for you to hand over your money to us? No need to thanks us. Have a good day."



Our firm has defended so many of these red light camera violations that I can tell a "victim" before they even walk through my door. Don't believe me? Here's how I can tell ...

- You're angrier than the Hulk, just not green.
- You have a torn envelope in your hand.
- You're convinced you have been involved in a case of mistaken identity and look like you were just notified that you missed the Florida Lotto numbers by one digit.

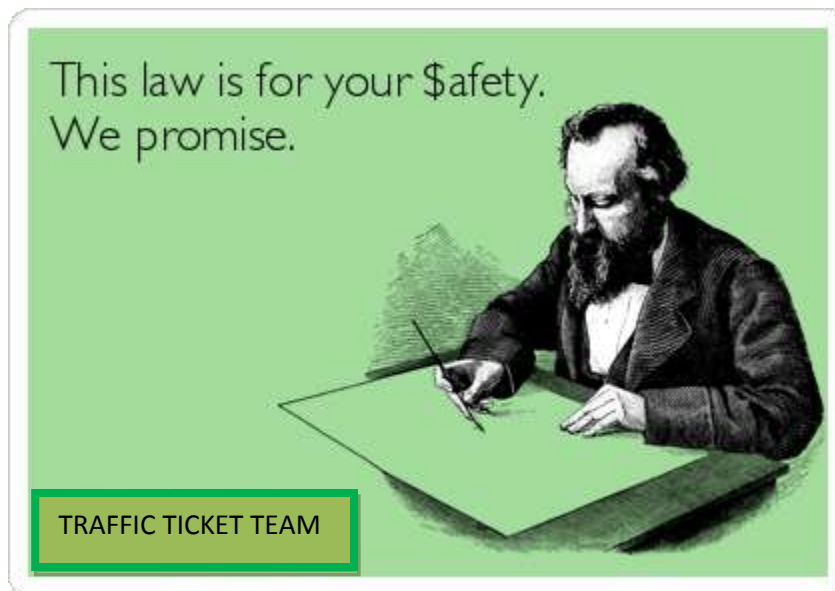
Unfortunately, these red light camera violations are the real deal. You may be wondering where this "scourge" that we call Red Light Camera tickets came from. Once upon a time, not too very long ago, our struggling municipalities were approached by a third party who made a





deal that was too good to pass up:

*"Hey there Florida, looks like someone's economy is down in the dumps. How about this? We'll install these nifty red light cameras at no charge to you. All you have to do is give us a cut when your citizens pony up their money. Did I mention we're not charging you? Oh, it gets better. You will make a ton of money to help balance your budget. One last thing, if those pesky attorneys start complaining about the Constitutionality of these things, our lobbyist will throw so much money at you that we can just keep passing new laws to keep the green river flowing."* Florida's Deal With the Devil, May 2011



The counties and municipalities didn't jump at the opportunity; they leaped. Of course, they had to engage in a little P.R. work first. They started with safety. They claimed that installing red light cameras save lives because people won't run red lights. Then a little thing happened that nobody expected. Someone looked at the data. Turns out, there is no reduction in car collisions in intersections with red light cameras. In fact, in many instances, there is an increase in accidents because people slam on their breaks to avoid a ticket and get rear ended. Of course, this minor truth was not going to stop the money train once it got rolling. It's no wonder the number one thing our clients say when they approach us with these violations is, "Is this a joke?" If you go to your local clerk's office you will most likely receive this response, "Yeah, but it doesn't carry points. It's like a parking ticket!" The argument is that because red light camera violations do not carry points or leave a guilty



conviction on your record, you shouldn't be whining about them. I don't ever recall being slammed with a \$158 parking ticket, do you?

But it's NOT TRUE. The Poet, Charles Baudelaire, once said that the finest trick of the devil was to persuade people that he did not exist. That's the same thing that's been going on with red light camera tickets. **True**: you do not get points if you pay the \$158 red light camera ticket. **False**: it won't appear on your record. It does and it says "GUILTY". **False**: your insurance won't go up. It can and does because you have been convicted of running a red light. **False**: it won't affect your record. I see judges every day slam clients with otherwise good driving records because they have a ton of red light camera tickets violations that they paid.

The thing that really gets me hot about red light camera tickets is that it hurts the poor and does nothing for public safety. If you are rich, run every red light you see and just pay the tickets. You won't lose your license. Who cares if your insurance goes up. But if you are a working person, you can't afford to pay these tickets. You have to spend half a week or a full week's pay check for this nonsense. It's basically a tax on the poor and probably causes more accidents than it stops. I have also written a lot about this in my blog, so to see more go to [www.TrafficTicketTeam.com](http://www.TrafficTicketTeam.com) and click on the Blog.

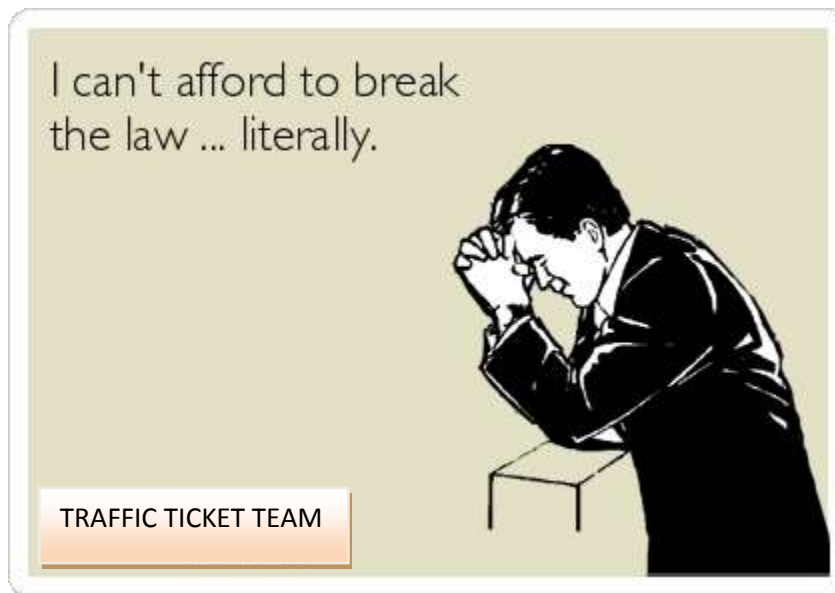




If you search around, there is a lot of misleading, convoluted information in regards to red light camera violations. Luckily for you, you have this E-book. Red light cameras are a plague that targets a very specific demographic: the working class. Think about it; if you run a million red lights and pay the \$158 fine every time, you won't get points on your driving record. For those who can afford to do that, they are simply an annoyance. For the majority of us, a one hundred and fifty eight dollar fine is like being slapped in the face with piranhas. If you are able to pay off a red light camera violation every time without getting points on your driving record, how exactly are these camera violations making the road a safer place to drive? Look over at the car next to you the next time you stop at the light. You could be next to the guy who can't help but run through the light but has enough money to keep it under wraps.



# ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS



**Q. I received a camera ticket but I wasn't driving the car, I swear!**

**A.** I believe you. And I know you are not lying because I hear this every day. But does the State of Florida believe you? It doesn't matter because they honestly don't care. There are a couple of ways to go about this - do you know who was driving the vehicle at the time? If you do, you can file an affidavit (also called the 'It wasn't me!' or 'I can explain' paper. (Okay, not really) stating basic information about the driver such as name, driver's license number and address, and the ticket will be reassigned to the correct culprit. Of course this is patently unfair. The U.S. and Florida Constitutions both require the State to prove you committed a crime. It allows you, under the 5<sup>th</sup>





Amendment to stay silent. You have no obligation to prove you did not do something. The State must prove it, it is their burden. These camera tickets turn the constitution on its head.

**Q. I wasn't driving the car but my daughter/wife/husband/mistress was and I don't want to throw them under the bus. What do I do?**

**A.** You have what's been called a Dobson's Choice. In other words, pick your poison. You have two choices. You can be a Rat or you can fight the ticket. On the bright side, if you don't want to be a Rat, you can still fight the red light camera violation. Don't want to waste your time in court? Not sure who to call? Our attorneys have been sitting in court rooms fighting red light tickets since rock wheels started rolling too fast.

**Q. But they have a video. I mean, unless you're going to pull off some Mission Impossible stunt and swap video tapes before the court date, I don't see what you guys can do for me.**

**A.** While "this video was PhotoShopped, your Honor" is not going to work in court, unless it's true, there are plenty of legitimate ways to get a red light camera violation dismissed. Is there a video? Yes. Will a judge view the video in court? Absolutely! Does that mean that you might as well start stitching your white flag now? No! The video is only *one* piece of evidence. It does not decide the verdict of the case. Do not be discouraged by the video, as it is just an intimidation tactic to make you feel as if you are indisputably guilty and the only way to absolve yourself of that guilt is to pay a fine. Don't fall



into this trap! We have been getting over half of these tickets thrown out of court on various legal grounds. And the ones that are not dismissed, we get reduced so that you are not found guilty on your record.



**Q. First they were asking me for \$158 and now its \$263? This is BULL S#IT.**

A. Oh, the joys of driving! If you've ever had a ticket before and you've complied after thirty days because it slipped your mind, you know that you're usually hit with a late fee. Late fees vary by county and can range anywhere from \$16 to \$30 and up. So why are you being charged one hundred dollars more for complying past due? There are a few things at play here. The first is that the one hundred dollar upcharge is not a late fee; it's the fine for your brand new uniform traffic citation. The second is that this is not the same thing as a violation from the city. This is a full-fledged traffic ticket issued



by the State of Florida in the County you got busted in. Believe it or not, there is a difference. The \$263 (this fee is going up to \$463) price tag is the actual price of the ticket. To make matters worse, you probably didn't even get the ticket in time to avoid the higher fee. Want to argue this to someone? Good luck, because nobody is listening. In fact, even if the FOR PROFIT PRIVATE COMPANY running this program, mails the ticket to the wrong address, you are "deemed to have received" it anyway and the fine goes up. All the more reason to fight it.

**Q. I mailed in my check/money order for the \$158 and now they're saying I still have to pay \$263. What should I do?**

A. Unfortunately, the Postal System is not 100% reliable. Or 99% or 90% ... you get the picture. In these particular circumstances, not only do you have to rely on the accuracy and speed of the Postal Service, but also the speed and accuracy of the courthouse clerk that receives your mail. Even if you mail in your form of payment before the due date, it might be received and/or processed after the due date. In which case, your form of payment will be returned to you or you will be prompted to pay the difference. Either way, you are now stuck with a \$263 ticket that you thought you took care of. This sounds fair right?



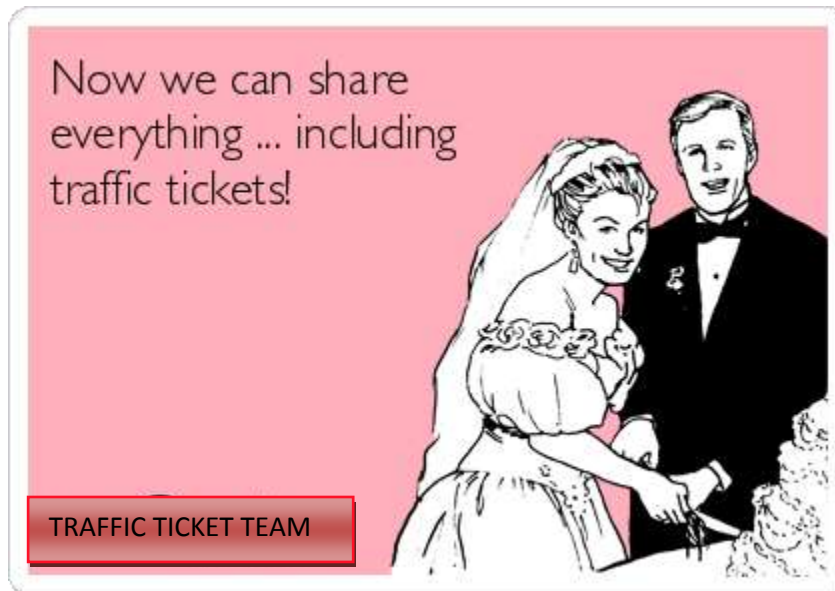


**Q. Is it true that this is violating my constitutional rights? If so, how is this even legal?**

**A.** "You're violating my constitutional rights!" sounds like an awesome defense because the constitution is the legal backbone of our country. And if something is in violation of that, how can it possibly be upheld, right? Let's discuss how this violation potentially violates your constitutional rights. Both the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution deal with due process. Due process is very complex, but essentially guarantees that you will be given an unbiased legal process, notice of that process ahead of time, and an opportunity to defend yourself. Since a large percentage of people never receive the red light camera violation in the first place, this is in violation of being fairly notified. Unfortunately, the attitude is "we mailed it, so you must have received it. You didn't? Too bad, so sad." Unless you can prove you did not receive the first notice, you're out of luck. And before you ask, "how do I prove I didn't receive it", the answer is you can't. It's like trying to prove a negative thing. It's impossible. There's a reason they send the uniform traffic citation (the one for \$258) by certified mail. (It's not to see your pretty signature).

**Q. Why is the ticket in my name if I wasn't driving?**

**A.** Because the car is registered to you. If both your name and the person who was driving the vehicle's name are on the registration, whoever is listed first is the lucky winner!



**Q. Since it doesn't carry points, can I just ignore it?**

**A. NO!** Whatever you do, don't do this. A red light camera violation when ignored becomes a uniform traffic citation, which is just two words too many for ticket. We all know what happens when you ignore a ticket. First, they lay on a late fee. With the late fee comes a pending suspension. That's right. Your license can be suspended because of a "parking ticket". Once your license is suspended, you're caught in a tangled mess of reinstatement fees, and potentially being pulled over and hauled to jail because of driving with a suspended license. Not to mention, you can't renew your registration if you ignore it and then your insurance will be cancelled. Yes, they have you by the proverbial ball barings. Good news is, we fight red light tickets and win. So do not ignore it.



**Q. I never received the first notice and lost the second. Can I still fight it?**

**A.** Absolutely! If you never received the red light camera violation and have misplaced the uniform traffic citation, we can use our magic powers to pull up the ticket information. Not sure if you have a camera ticket pending? You can call us and we'd be happy to check.

**Q. I made a right turn on red, why am I receiving a ticket for "running a red light"?!**

**A.** One of three reasons. First, there was a "no turn on red" sign posted and you made a right turn. Secondly, you slowed down but did not come to a complete stop before making the right turn. Third, the camera loves you! Most people are unaware that you must come to a complete stop before making a right turn. In other words, your tires must stop turning completely. If not, according to the State, you are "running a red light".



Something's not right here...

TRAFFIC TICKET TEAM

There's a big difference between a red light camera violation and a uniform traffic citation for running that same light. One of the differences is the sound of your wallet sobbing. This is a red light camera violation:

www.TrafficTicketTeam.com  
 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
 RED LIGHT CAMERA MONITORING PROGRAM  
 POST OFFICE BOX 3674 CHURCH STREET STATION NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10008-0674

**RED LIGHT CAMERA VIOLATION**

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
 LICENSE NO. [REDACTED]  
 MAKE/TYPE/CHASSIS [REDACTED]

AMOUNT DUE: \$ 50.00  
 VIOLATION DATE/TIME: 08/28/08 04:28 PM  
 LOCATION: NY0 Manhattan West St. EB/E 43 W. Houston St. 84-13

Please take notice on the Registrar of the vehicle and that there will be photographs or videos of sections 1114 (a) of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York and that the amount due shall not be less than the amount due set forth herein. Subject to the provisions of Section 1114 (a) of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York, 1999, as amended, you may appeal this citation to the State Office of Vehicle and Traffic Administration, 110 West 4th Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10012, within 30 days of the date of this citation. For more information, please contact the New York State Office of Vehicle and Traffic Administration, 110 West 4th Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10012.

16 28 40 00/24/08 M 2 R 0 CC 154A L3

16 28 41 00/24/08 M 2 R T 45 154B L3

**PAYMENT COUPON**

1. Make your check or money order payable to: THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
 2. Do not cash or deposit  
 3. Do not cash, endorse or cash by deposit  
 4. Do not cash (back) or deposit  
 5. Do not cash (back) or deposit  
 6. Do not cash (back) or deposit

NYC DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
 RED LIGHT CAMERA MONITORING PROGRAM  
 P. O. BOX 3674  
 CHURCH STREET STATION  
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10008-0674

PLATE: [REDACTED] STATE: [REDACTED] TYPE: [REDACTED]  
 COL NUMBER: [REDACTED] CITY: [REDACTED]  
 VLT NUMBER: [REDACTED] VERSION: [REDACTED] AMOUNT DUE: [REDACTED]

HOURS:



It usually has two to three images that show you, allegedly, running the light. There's also a website address where you can punch in your Notice Number and Pin Number and watch a video of you running the light. It will state "City of X" at the top and list the fine amount. It will also include instructions on how to make a payment. Options for fighting the violation are listed on the back. If that's not sneaky, I don't know what is.

This is a Uniform Traffic Citation for running a red light:

If it looks more like your average speeding ticket, it should. On the right side you have all the "information" that the violation provided, including the three photographs, the notice number and the pin number. On the left, it looks



almost exactly like any other ticket. The difference? On the right hand corner you might notice a bit of a price jump. This time your options are listed on front. Although at \$260 plus a guilty verdict on your record, anything but fighting this would be an unwise choice.

**Q. Someone told me I have to wait to get the uniform traffic citation before I can fight it. Is that true?**

**A.** No. While it is true that we cannot take the violation to court until it has become a ticket, you do not have to wait to get that second notice in the mail. I don't recall anyone's favorite past time as watching their mailbox like a hawk. You can bring in your red light camera violation and we will monitor it for you. We file paperwork right away so when it does become a uniform traffic citation, we're ready for it. You're notified when there's a court date, which you do not have to attend and we send you a result via letter, email or both. Sounds much easier than stalking your mailman, doesn't it?





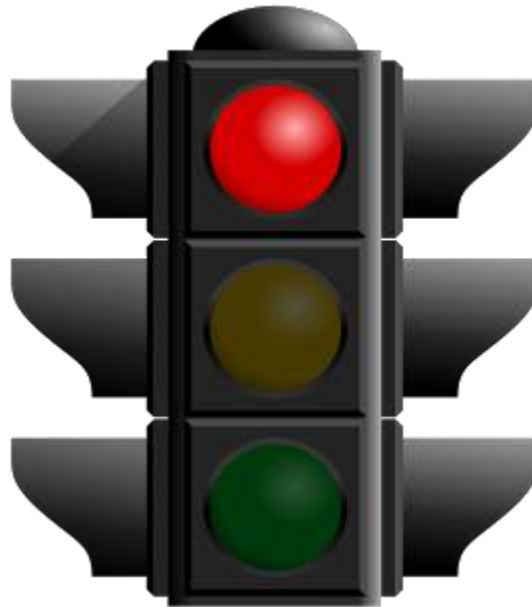


# Here's Some Good News

It's actually costing the State of Florida more money to keep rolling out these citations because of the amount of people that are fighting them. Every court proceeding requires a fee, so the more we fight these tickets, the more it's likely that the State of Florida will realize that these red light camera violations are not worth it. Of course the companies that profit from red light tickets, and the Legislators who feed at their trough, keep changing the rules. In fact, here are a couple of not so fun changes coming down the pike. First, they have changed the law so now the fee can go up to \$458 if you fight the ticket and lose. Second, if you only realize you had a red light ticket when you go to renew your tag, you are prohibited from fighting the ticket at that point. Also, if they mail the ticket, you are deemed to have received it. Yes, it is true. If they mail it, the perfect postal system guarantees that you got it. Even if they had the wrong address from the get go. Lastly, if you fight it at the notice of violation level, the city can hear your case. That's right. The person who gets paid from the profits of the red light tickets decides whether the ticket was valid or not. Sounds a bit like Communist Russia, or should I say North Korea?



## THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN A RED LIGHT TICKET WAS JUST A RED LIGHT TICKET



Now let's talk about regular, old fashioned red light tickets. The ones that, as an added bonus to a \$165 plus citation, you get a death stare from a police officer. Then you wait for 30-45 minutes while he decides how to make the writing on your ticket so illegible that not even he can read it. These tickets are handed to you in person. If paid, they carry three points and a guilty conviction that can stay on your driving record for as long as three years. As with all moving, non criminal violations, you have 4 options:

1. Pay it which comes with a side order of points and a conviction.
2. Pay it and elect traffic school to avoid points (but you still receive the guilty conviction your driving record. They forget to mention that.)



3. Take the ticket to court in order to fight for a dismissal or a reduced penalty. You will spend the day in the courtroom, so this means potentially losing out on a day of work, plus traveling to whichever court house you're assigned to. It can be any courthouse within the county that the ticket was issued in. That's right! That means even if your ticket was issued in Hollywood, your court hearing could be in Fort Lauderdale or Plantation. Oh, and if you actually want to fight your ticket (a trial), you will need to come back to court a month later. Yes, that's 2 days of work or school you will miss. The bad news, to quote Lincoln, "a person who represents himself has a fool for a client."
  
4. Hire an attorney to go to court on your behalf so you can skip all the boring parts. Oh, and we've been doing this for forever, too. So we're kind of good at it, just saying. 1,000,000 tickets and counting and over 50 years of combined experience with a money back guarantee. Nuff Said!



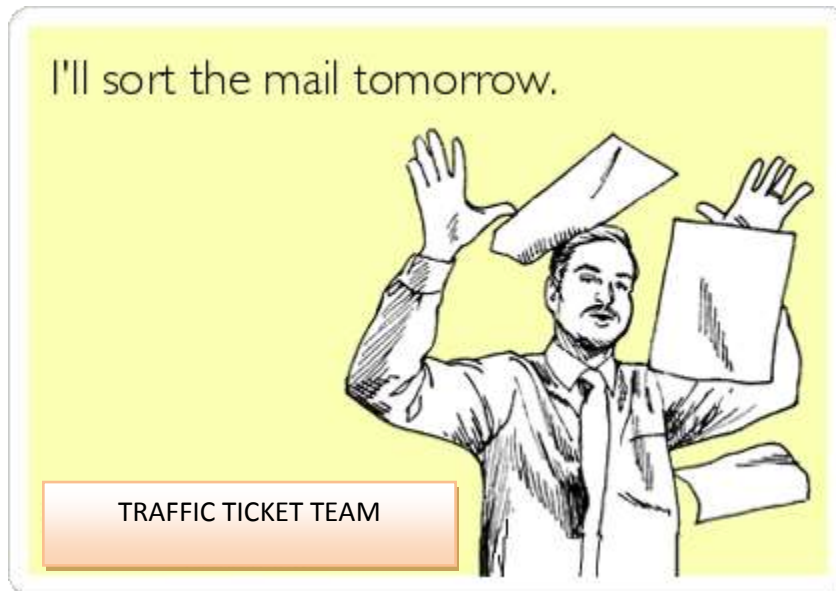


Pay and live with the consequences for three years or fight for the right to defend myself? Can't decide...



TRAFFIC TICKET TEAM

Truth be told, some people jump at the chance to elect traffic school. Why? I'll never know. First you can only elect traffic school five times in your entire life. Second, it's not free. Fees and B.S. stuff they scam you for can cost over \$100 on top of the full fine. Cross your fingers they send the paperwork to the Clerk so your license does not get suspended. Then you have to complete the most boring four, eight or twelve hours of punishment of your life. (Bonus: if you complete the wrong course, as there are several types, you can't substitute one certificate for the other.) Then you have to go to a courthouse to present your certificate of completion and make sure that the clerk files it. Oh, you thought you were avoiding court by electing traffic school? You can also mail in your certificate, but we all know how that might end up.



FYI, when you pay a ticket, you're officially pleading guilty in a court of law. So if you ever have to rent a car in the future or a potential employer pulls your driving record, it'll show that you plead guilty to that offense. This might affect the decision making of that particular rental company or the person reviewing your resume.



## **You Have Rights Fight for Them**

Getting a ticket is a frustrating and frightening thing. Nobody is a perfect driver all of the time and tickets happen. Of course avoiding a ticket by obeying the laws is the best course of action, but if you do get a ticket, just remember that you can fight it.

Whether you take a stand by yourself or with the help of a lawyer, it is your right to defend yourself.