

## **Red Light Camera Collections – Frequently Asked Questions**

(Last updated: 03/02/2017)

**1. What is a red light photo enforcement violation?**

You failed to come to a complete stop at the red light as required by state law. Based upon a City of Houston Police Officer's review of images and video captured by the automated camera system and the State's official motor vehicle registration records, it was determined that your vehicle was used to commit the red light violation(s).

**2. When and where did I fail to stop at a red light?**

You've received multiple notices including one or more written notices from Professional Account Management LLC, the collection agency the City had authorized to collect the penalties. The details of your red light violation are on the reverse side of the written notices.

**3. What if I was not the driver/owner of the vehicle at the time of the violation?**

Texas law places legal responsibility for the violation on the vehicle's owner as shown in the State's official motor vehicle registration records at the time the violation occurred.

**4. Didn't the Red Light Camera Program come to an end?**

Yes, but you must pay the penalties for violations that occurred while the Program was active and where you have outstanding debt.

**5. Will my insurance rates be affected?**

This is a civil penalty that may not be recorded on the owner's driving record. However, the Texas Insurance Code Chapter 559 allows insurance companies to use your credit score and credit information to determine your insurance rates for automobile, residential property, boat and other personal lines of insurance for you. You may wish to contact your insurance company for more information.

**6. Is the violation reported to anyone?**

The City of Houston has notified the state Department of Motor Vehicles to block registration of the vehicle involved in the violation until the delinquent penalties have been paid. Driving a vehicle without a valid registration is a misdemeanor under the Texas Transportation Code Section 502.404, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$200.

**7. My violations occurred several years ago. Can you still legally make me pay it? What about the Statute of Limitations?**

There is no statute of limitations that would bar the City from collecting this debt from you. Regardless of how old the debt may be, the City can file suit seeking a judgment against you, and take other collection action against you. Texas law does generally require that debts be collected within 4 years. However, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code Section 16.061 remove that requirement for cities, counties and other political subdivisions of the state.

**8. Where do I pay?**

We only accept Check/Money Order by U.S. Mail. DO NOT MAIL CASH. Please make checks payable to *City of Houston* and mail it to:

City of Houston Finance - RLC  
Accounts Receivable  
611 Walker Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

**9. Can I get a payment plan?**

Yes, a payment plan may be available. Please contact City of Houston at:

Phone: (832) 393-9141 or (832)393-9045  
Email: RedLightCollections@houstontx.gov

**10. What happens if my check is not paid by my bank?**

If your check bounces or for any reason is not honored by your bank, you will be charged by the payment processor. The fee is in addition to the penalties you owe for Red Light violations. Collection action will proceed on the increased balance due. Depending on the circumstances, criminal prosecution may also result.

**11. I dispute the violation. Can I appeal this with the City?**

No. The deadline for appealing the violation with the city has passed.