



## Entrapment – North Carolina

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<b>NCDOT</b>	North Carolina Department of Transportation

The State of North Carolina entraps drivers. Entrapment is illegal in the United States.<sup>1,2</sup> The North Carolina Driver's Manual directly contradicts the ITE provisions and guidelines on how to respond to yellow lights. The North Carolina Driver's License Handbook says you must never speed up to get through the intersection. But ITE, the institution that sets the engineering parameters of a yellow light, says that sometimes it may be necessary to beat the light. Therefore obeying the North Carolina Driver's Manual forces you to run red lights, to break the law, to receive unjust penalties, or worse, to crash.

The NCDMV Handbook commands, "Do not beat the light."<sup>2</sup>

A circular yellow signal means "caution" and indicates that the signal is about to turn red. Stop for a yellow signal unless you are too close to the intersection to stop safely — in that case, drive cautiously through the intersection. Never speed up for a yellow signal to "beat" the red signal.

NCDOT uses the ITE yellow change formula to set yellow light durations.<sup>3</sup> ITE says that some drivers must accelerate to beat the light.<sup>4</sup>

At the termination of a green phase, motorists approaching a signalized intersection are advised by a yellow signal indication that the red interval is about to commence.<sup>35</sup> The speed and location of some approaching vehicles will be such that they can stop safely at the stop line; others will have to continue at their speed or even accelerate into or through the intersection.

## References

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- <sup>1</sup> Danny Glover, Jr., et. al, [\*Entrapment in North Carolina\*](#), (2012).
- <sup>2</sup> North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles, [\*North Carolina Driver's Handbook\*](#), State of North Carolina Department of Transportation, **69** (2012).
- <sup>3</sup> North Carolina Department of Transportation, [\*Traffic Management & Signal Systems Unit Design Manual\*](#), **Standard 5.2.2, Sheet 4 of 4** (2009).
- <sup>4</sup> Institute of Transportation Engineers, [\*Transportation and Traffic Engineering Handbook, Second Edition\*](#), Institute of Transportation Engineers, **759** (1982)