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Entrapment – Pennsylvania

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The State of Pennsylvania entraps drivers. Entrapment is illegal in the United States.^{1,2} The Pennsylvania Driver's Manual contradicts the engineering directives on how drivers are supposed to respond to yellow lights. The Pennsylvania Driver's Manual says you must slow down and prepare to stop. But ITE, the institution that sets the operational definition of a yellow light, says that slowing down is never an option and that stopping is not the sole purpose of a yellow light. ITE says you must either stop or you must proceed, and if you proceed you must proceed at the speed limit or more. Obeying the Pennsylvania Driver's Manual forces you to break Pennsylvania law, to receive unjust penalties and possibly crash.

From the material and the questions at the end of chapter 2 in the Pennsylvania Driver's Manual:³

If you are driving toward an intersection and a yellow light appears, slow down and prepare to stop.

Pennsylvania uses ITE's yellow change formula to set yellow light durations.⁴ ITE says some drivers upon seeing a yellow light *must* continue at the speed limit and some *must* even accelerate to beat the light. Slowing down is never an option.⁵

At the termination of a green phase, motorists approaching a signalize intersection are advised by a yellow signal indication that the red interval is about to commence.³⁵ 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

- ¹ Pennsylvania Statutes, [18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Section 3-313](#), (2012).
- ² Danny Glover, Jr., et. al, [Entrapment in North Carolina](#), (2012).
- ³ Pennsylvania Bureau of Driver Licensing, [Pennsylvania Driver's Manual](#), Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, **7, 26, 30** (2012).
- ⁴ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, [Publication 149 – Traffic Signals Design Handbook](#), **11-4** (2010)
- ⁵ Institute of Transportation Engineers, [Transportation and Traffic Engineering Handbook, Second Edition](#), Institute of Transportation Engineers, **759** (1982)