

Receiving a red light ticket certainly is not a pleasant experience. However, there are options to reduce the pain.

The most obvious is to plan and be prepared to stop for red lights. Driving is mostly a mental process, so planning by reducing speed being prepared to stop is the best practice.

Red light cameras are very exact in their measurements. Cameras and computers work to measure our vehicles placement, and speed to calculate our vehicle's exact placement when the light turns red. A cop's visual assessment historically added a few car lengths to vehicle placement if the driver took them to court.

Vehicles shall not enter the intersection after the light turns red. The white stop line and painted crosswalk do not define the intersection. The intersection is defined as an extension of the curb lines of the street you are crossing. This can at many location be up to 30 feet beyond the crosswalk.

It is tempting to speed up when you believe a light is about to turn red. Slowing down will reduce crashes and the chance of receiving a citation.

The court gives you three options for a civil traffic ticket:

- Pay the fine;
- Ask for a hearing;
- Attend a 4-hour Defensive Driving Program – Traffic School

Pay fine: You get four-points on your record with DMV ordering you to attend Traffic Survival School. This is an 8-hour program controlled by DMV  
The cost \$75.00 to \$100.00 is in addition to the fine the fine.

Court hearing: Determine if you case is stronger than the evidence provided by the combination of cameras, radar, and computers. Driver found responsible will pay a large fine, and attend Traffic Survival School.

Traffic School: Arizona's traffic schools are regulated by the Arizona Supreme Court. Attending a 4-hour Defensive Driving Class will result in citation dismissal.

Traffic School is not cheap. City of Tucson is one of the highest in the state because the city tax is \$140.00 and State fee totals \$65.00. Tuition varies from about \$30.00 to \$50.00.

The advantage to spending four-hours in a class is the citation is dismissed by the court. There is no fine, points, or a requirement to attend an 8-hour Traffic Survival School.

Drivers can attend traffic school once every two years, commercial vehicle license holders are not eligible, and the citation may not involve a crash with serious injuries or death.