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## Mezrano Law Firm eNewsletter February 2021

Alabama has the largest state constitution with more laws on the books than any other state. It also contains some of the strangest laws, such as bear wrestling is illegal, putting an ice cream cone in your back pocket is also illegal and driving while blindfolded is strictly prohibited. Though these are outdated and even downright silly, laws are generally more commonsense and are meant to keep us safe on and off the road. Take a look below at seven traffic laws that are good to know and follow.

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### Latest News

#### Things That Could Get You A Citation

Following the law when on the road is vital to your own safety and the safety of other drivers. Observing the law protects you and keeps you from potentially getting cited for a violation. Aside from speeding and distracted driving, knowing these important Alabama traffic laws could keep you from getting you a citation or, even worse, ending up in an accident. For more information about traffic safety, visit [drivesafealabama.org](http://drivesafealabama.org).

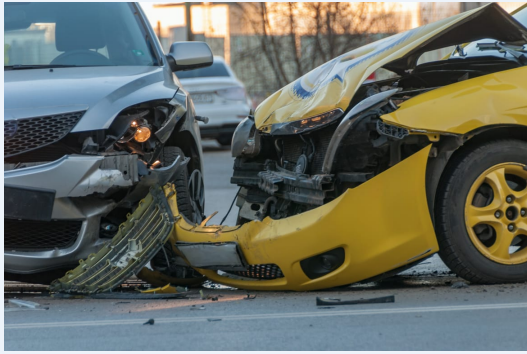
#### YELLOW LIGHTS

In Alabama, a steady yellow light is a warning that the light is about to turn red. In other words, you're allowed to enter an intersection while the light is still yellow. But if you enter the intersection after the light



has turned red, you can be cited for running the light.

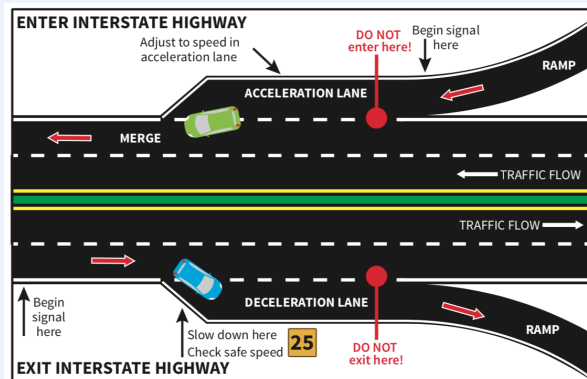
A T-Bone accident, also known as a broadside collision, typically involves someone failing to yield to the driver that has the right of way. Carelessly picking up speed to get through an intersection before the yellow light turns red is the main cause of T-Bone accidents.



When approaching a yellow light, STOP if it is safe to do so. If you have passed the "point of no return" or about 100 feet from the intersection, proceed through cautiously. Always be aware of your surroundings--drivers in front, behind and on all sides, especially while passing through an intersection.

## WAVING ANOTHER DRIVER THROUGH AN INTERSECTION

If a driver waves another driver through an intersection, they cannot be held accountable. The law states, "a signaling motorist cannot be held liable for negligence when the signaled driver proceeds across an intersection without independently ensuring that it is safe to do so." The signaling motorist's conduct constitutes a courtesy to the signaled motorist, but it does not relieve the signaled motorist of his or her own duty to ensure that it is safe to proceed. Each driver is responsible for making sure their own right of way is clear, so do not depend on another driver for your safety.



## MERGING

When a vehicle is merging into traffic the driver, if possible, should increase his or her speed to match the speeds of the vehicles in the through lanes. The merging driver should watch for an opening, turn on the turn signal and merge smoothly with the other traffic.

Drivers in the through lanes should allow a merging vehicle room to enter. If they don't, the merging driver must yield to the through vehicles.

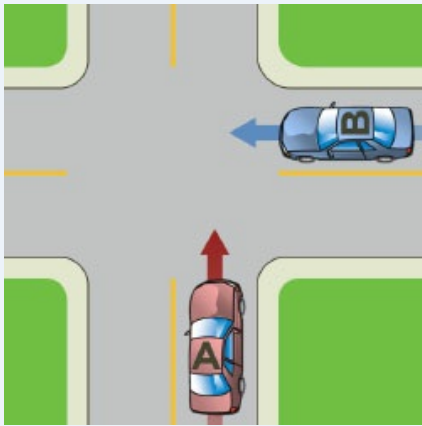
**If multiple vehicles are changing lanes at the same time, then partial fault may be assigned to various parties.** For instance, a car in the center lane may



attempt to move to an outside lane, while a car in the outside lane attempts to move to the center lane. Both drivers, in these types of accidents, may bear responsibility. In this case, neither of the drivers had a free right of way to make the maneuver and both had a responsibility to ensure the way was clear before merging. The question of fault in cases like this can be complex, so you never want to admit fault in a crash because it could affect your claim for damages.

## DRIVING IN THE LEFT LANE ONLY TO PASS

The law states: you're only allowed to drive in the left lane to pass another car. Do not drive in the left lane for more than a 1.5 miles. Exceptions: (1) Traffic congestion: (2) If traffic is preventing you from driving in the right lane, you can remain in the left lane.

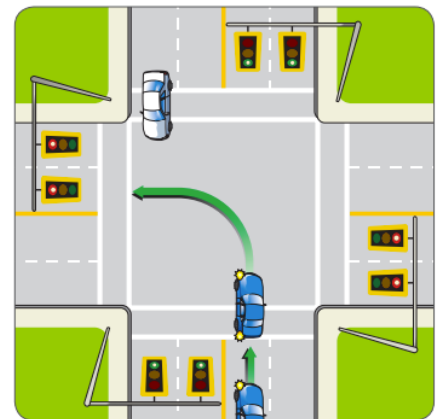


## PROCEEDING THROUGH AN INTERSECTION

When two cars approach an intersection at the same time and there are no signals, the vehicle to the right has the right of way. Vehicles turning from private roads or driveways must yield to cars on public roads. When facing a yield sign, you must allow cars and pedestrians to have the right of way.

## LEFT TURNS

The driver of a vehicle intending to turn to the left within an intersection or into an alley, private road or driveway shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction which is within the intersection or close enough to constitute an immediate hazard.



## ALABAMA'S MOVE OVER LAW

[Alabama's Move Over Law](#) states:

When an emergency vehicle using any visual signal is stopped or parked on or next to a roadway, drivers approaching the emergency vehicle should (1) make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle; or (2) if unable to



safely make a lane change, slow down to a reasonable speed for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.

## ALABAMA TORNADO RELIEF

Want to help those who have been impacted by the recent tornado? Mezrano Law Firm is now a donation drop off site for the tornado victims in Fultondale and Center Point. We will be transporting these supplies to both Fultondale & Center Point City Halls to be distributed to those affected. We are accepting the following supplies:

- bottled water
- non perishable food
- baby supplies
- work gloves
- flashlights
- tarps
- cleaning supplies
- paper supplies
- personal hygiene items
- large garbage bags

**Please drop off supplies at our office located at: [1801 Oxmoor Road, Suite 100 in Homewood, AL.](#)**



## Mezrano Law Firm



**Steven Mezrano**

Phone: 205-206-6300  
1801 Oxmoor Rd, Ste 100  
Birmingham, Alabama 35209  
[website:mezrano.com](http://website.mezrano.com)

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