

What If Both Drivers Say the Light Was Green After a Car Accident?

Houston car accident lawyers explain the options available for injury victims

If you have a green light and another vehicle coming from another direction causes your [car accident](#), you might think you have a pretty straightforward claim. But what if the other driver claims they also had a green light? What happens next? How do you prove that you had the green light at the time of your Houston car crash?

It's a simple question, but the answer is more complicated than you might think. That's why our Houston car accident attorneys at [Smith & Hassler](#) want to help you understand how the system works and what options are available to you. That way, you can make informed decisions about protecting your rights after a crash.

Why does it matter who had a green light at the time of a crash?

Figuring out who had the green light is a key part of deciding who is legally responsible for paying for a Houston car accident. When a driver goes through a red light or turns against a protected green arrow, that driver is usually the one who failed to follow the rules of the road. As a result, the at-fault driver is considered liable or legally responsible for paying for the accident.

Establishing liability is important since Texas has an at-fault, or tort, car insurance system. That means the driver who caused the crash is generally responsible for paying for the harm they caused through their insurance. If the other driver ran a red light, you may be able to pursue compensation for medical bills, lost income, vehicle damage, and pain and suffering. If the situation is flipped and you are blamed for running the light, your rights and your recovery could both be at risk.

When both drivers insist they had a green light, insurance companies may treat it as a 50-50 situation or try to shift more blame onto you. That's why it's so important to gather evidence that proves you had a green light and the right of way at the time of the collision.

What should I do if the at-fault driver falsely claims they had a green light?

It's frustrating and insulting when you know you had the green light but the other driver tells the police or the insurance company the exact opposite. You might feel tempted to argue at the scene or try to handle everything yourself to prove the truth. But you will be in a stronger position if you stay calm and focus on taking steps that protect your health and your legal rights. Here are steps you can take:

- Call 911 so that police and paramedics can come to the crash site, investigate the accident, and provide medical care to all injury victims. This call also helps create the official record of your accident and what really happened.
- Stay calm and composed. Don't argue with the other driver at the scene of the crash.
- Get the other driver's full name, address and insurance information. After that, don't discuss your crash with the other driver, especially if they insist they also had a green light. Anything you say could later be used as evidence against you.
- Tell the investigating police officer who responded to your crash clearly and calmly that you had the green light or protected arrow at the time of the collision.
- Ask the police officer to note in the report that the drivers disagree about the traffic signal.
- Get contact details (full name and phone number) from any witnesses who saw your accident. Independent eyewitness testimony can be a valuable piece of evidence in such cases.
- Take photos and video of the intersection, including the traffic signals and any skid marks on the road. Such evidence can be extremely valuable later when dealing with insurance companies.
- Look for nearby businesses, homes, or cameras that might have captured the collision on video. Security camera footage can be critical in your case.
- Get prompt medical treatment and describe all symptoms to your doctor. This way, you can get the care you need and there will be clear documentation linking your injury to your accident.
- Contact a Houston car accident lawyer as soon as possible. Your attorney can start investigating your crash right away and gathering facts in support of your case.

What should I not do if there's a dispute over who had a green light?

When another driver falsely claims to have the green light, it's natural to want to confront them or defend yourself on the spot. Unfortunately, emotional reactions can make a bad situation worse and give an insurance company reasons to question your claim. Avoiding certain actions can be just as important as taking the right steps.

Things you should **not** do:

- Yell at, threaten or insult the other driver at the scene

- Admit fault, apologize, or say things like “maybe I misread the light”
- Agree to “handle it between ourselves” without calling the police
- Sign any statements or forms from the other driver’s insurance company
- Post about the crash or the green light dispute on social media
- Ignore medical symptoms or skip recommended treatment
- Give a recorded statement to any insurance company before talking to a lawyer

Avoiding these missteps helps keep the focus where it belongs – on the other driver’s unsafe actions. The less material you give insurance companies to twist or take out of context, the easier it will be for your lawyer to show that you had the green light and did what you were supposed to do during and after the crash. That gives you a better chance of being treated fairly when it is time to resolve your car accident claim.

What evidence can prove you had a green light when your collision occurred?

When both drivers say the light was green, you need more than words to support your claim. The goal is to gather as much independent evidence as possible that shows how the signal was operating and how each vehicle approached the intersection. Different types of evidence can work together to create a clear picture of what really happened.

Helpful evidence can include:

- Traffic camera video showing the light sequence and impact.
- Dashcam footage from your car, the other driver’s car or nearby vehicles.
- Security camera video from nearby businesses, homes or parking lots.
- Eyewitness statements from drivers, pedestrians or cyclists who saw the signal or your crash.
- Photos of the intersection, skid marks and final resting positions of the vehicles after the collision.
- Data from the vehicles’ event recorders that show speed and braking.
- Your official police accident report, including any diagram or notation about the traffic signal.
- Signal timing records or programming information from the city, if available

No single piece of evidence has to carry the entire load. A short video clip, a witness who saw the other driver run a red light and physical evidence from the scene can all support each other. When your car accident lawyer pulls these pieces together, it becomes much harder for the other driver or their insurance company to hide behind a false claim about having a green light.

How do police investigate green light disputes after an accident?

When police officers respond to a crash and hear two drivers give opposite stories about a traffic signal, they know they have to sort things out carefully. Police typically start by speaking with each driver separately and asking detailed questions about where they were, what direction they were traveling, and what they saw as they approached the intersection. They also talk to any independent witnesses at the scene who may have seen the signal or the vehicles just before impact.

Next, officers examine the physical evidence. They look at the location of the vehicles, the angle of impact, and the presence of skid marks or debris. This information helps them estimate the path and speed of each vehicle. In some cases, police may request information from traffic management authorities about the signal timing or check for traffic cameras that could show the light sequence at the time of the collision.

Finally, the officer combines these observations into the official [Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report](#). The report may include a diagram of the intersection, a narrative describing what likely happened, and notations about any suspected violations, such as running a red light or failing to yield. While the report is not the final word on fault, it often plays a major role in how insurance companies and lawyers view the case, especially when there is a dispute about who had the green. That's why it's important that you and your lawyer carefully review your official car accident report to make sure it's correct.

How do insurance companies investigate green light disputes?

Insurance companies often approach green light disputes with one main goal – to limit how much they have to pay. This is especially true for the insurance company representing the at-fault driver. If their client is accused of running a red light, insurance adjusters will look for anything they can use to shift some or all of the blame onto you. They start by reviewing the police report and taking statements from their own policyholder, often framing questions in a way that favors their driver's version of events.

Adjusters may contact you directly and ask for a recorded statement, hoping you will say something that can be twisted to their advantage later. They might also reach out to witnesses named in the report, review any available photos or videos and study the damage to the vehicles. In some cases, especially in serious collisions, the insurance company will hire its own

accident reconstruction expert to interpret the physical evidence in a way that supports their position.

Throughout this process, insurance companies often highlight anything that suggests you could have avoided the crash, such as saying you “did not see” the other car or that you were “not sure” exactly when the light changed. By arguing that the truth is somewhere in the middle or that both drivers were equally at fault, they try to reduce or deny your claim. Having your own lawyer involved from the start helps level the playing field and ensures someone is gathering evidence with your interests in mind, not the insurance company’s bottom line.

How do lawyers investigate green light accident disputes?

When you hire an attorney to help with a Houston green light dispute, a legal team’s main job is to get a clear understanding of what happened from your point of view. From there, the focus shifts to gathering strong evidence that clearly shows what really happened. A thorough investigation can make the difference between an unsuccessful claim and a case that leads to meaningful compensation. A lawyer can:

- Obtain and review the full police crash report and any supplements
- Visit the intersection to photograph sight lines, signal placement and traffic patterns
- Locate and secure traffic camera, dashcam or security video before it is erased
- Interview witnesses in detail while memories are still fresh
- Request signal timing information or maintenance records from the city
- Work with accident reconstruction experts to analyze vehicle damage, skid marks and other physical evidence
- Collect your medical records and document how the crash has affected your life
- Communicate with insurance companies so you are not pressured into making harmful statements

With this groundwork in place, your lawyer can present a strong, fact-based argument that you had the green light and the other driver clearly caused the collision. That puts you in a better position to negotiate a fair settlement or, if necessary, take your case to court and ask a jury to hold the at-fault driver accountable.

Why should I hire a Houston car accident lawyer?

When there’s a dispute about who had the green light, you are not just dealing with another driver who refuses to tell the truth. You’re dealing with an insurance company that may use that

dispute as an excuse to delay, underpay, or deny your claim. Having an experienced Houston car accident lawyer on your side can often make a dramatic difference in the outcome of your case.

Our lawyers at Smith & Hassler know how to handle crashes that involve conflicting stories about a traffic light. We know what evidence to look for at intersections, how to talk with witnesses, how to work with accident reconstruction experts and then use that information to negotiate effectively with the at-fault driver's insurance company.

To learn more about how we can help, [contact](#) our law firm and schedule a [free case evaluation](#) with a Houston car accident attorney you can count on in a crisis. We work on a [contingency fee](#) basis. That means you only have to pay us if you get paid.