

Red Light Camera Law Clarified By California Supreme Court

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A local agency must provide a public announcement and a 30-day warning notice period before each installation and use of a red light camera at an intersection, the California Supreme Court held yesterday in *People v. Gray*.

Vehicle Code Section 21455.5(b) declares that, prior to issuing citations using an "automated traffic enforcement system," a local agency must make a public announcement of the system at least 30 days in advance.

Additionally, the statute declares that a local agency must issue only warning notices for 30 days. The issue in the *Gray* case was whether the word "system" in Section 21455.5(b) refers to each red light camera at an intersection or to an agency's jurisdiction-wide red light camera enforcement program.

The Supreme Court unanimously held that the Legislature meant the word "system" to mean each new camera installed at an intersection. Therefore, a local agency is required to comply with the public announcement and 30-day warning period requirements for each red light camera system it installs at an intersection.

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