

Right Turn on Red

Right turn on red, can I or can I not? The Tennessee Code (TCA 55-8-110 a,[3],A) permits a driver to make a right turn at any intersection within the state when the traffic signal is displaying a solid red light; provided there is no sign that prohibits such turn by clearly stating "No Turns on Red". At intersections where a right turn on red is permitted, and the facing signal is red, the driver desiring to make a right turn must first come to a full and complete stop. Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. The driver must also yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and any cross traffic traveling in accordance to their traffic signal. The full and complete stop is required in the same manner a vehicle must stop at a stop sign controlled intersection. A stop means the total ceasing of motion, it does not include reduced speed, rolling stops, or slightly tap on pedal (STOP). Vehicles in line to make a right turn on red, or at a stop intersection, cannot piggy back off the first car stopping. Whether making a right turn on red or navigating through a stop intersection, each vehicle must pull up to the stop line or prior to the crosswalk and come to a complete stop. There are other rules that apply to yield signs at intersections and turning at or from a one-way street and will be discussed in later articles.

If you have any questions about this or other Police operations, I can be reached at pblackwell@tullahomatn.gov or (931) 455-0530.