

ASK A DUMMY: VINCE AND LARRY'S ADVICE COLUMN

Dear Vince and Larry,

I've heard you can get a ticket for texting even when you're stopped at a red light. Is that true?

@liv2txt



Vince: In Kansas, yes, it is illegal for a driver to text, even at a red light or stop sign.

Larry: Really?

Vince: Really.

Larry: How much is the ticket?

Vince: \$60, plus court costs.

Larry: Ouch! But wait, why is it illegal?

Vince: Because the driver is distracted by their phone.

Larry: Yeah, but I'm...I mean THEY...are stopped! It's not like they're going to hit anyone.

Vince: I wouldn't be too sure about that. How do they know when to move forward?

Larry: When the light turns green, duh.

Vince: Yes, but they're not looking at the light. A driver looking down at their phone can still use their peripheral vision to notice when -

Larry: - when the car next to them moves!

Vince: Right. When we see the car next to us moving, our instinct is to go forward, too.

Larry: Yeah, so?

Vince: So what if they are in a turn lane? You'd be running a red light. Or what if you didn't notice there was an emergency vehicle coming through the intersection or a pedestrian in the crosswalk before you hit the gas?

Larry: Uh, bad news.

Vince: Exactly. Also, it's never fun to be honked at because you are stopped, holding up traffic behind you after the light turns green.

Larry: Okay, okay! No texting at all behind the wheel!

Vince: Good call! Buckle up and drive SAFE!