

# School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Frequently Asked Questions



Their Lives Depend on Your Choice

**PASSING A  
STOPPED SCHOOL BUS  
IS AGAINST THE LAW!**

## **Illinois Law Regarding passing a Stopped School Bus**

You must stop before Approaching or Overtaking a school bus on a two-lane roadway. A warning will be given at least 100 feet (200 feet in rural areas) in advance of a stop. The bus driver will flash amber and red lights on the front and rear of the bus. The stop signal arm will be extended after the school bus has come to a complete stop. **You must then come to a complete a stop. You must remain stopped until the signal arm is no longer extended and the flashing lights are turned off or the driver signals you to pass.**

On a four-lane roadway where a bus is stopped in the opposite directions from which you are traveling, you are not required to stop your vehicle but you should drive with caution. [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)

## **What do I do if I receive a School Bus Stop Arm Violation Notice?**

If you receive a Violation Notice you may: **PAY THE FINE OR CONTEST THE VIOLATION**

### **How much is the fine?**

The fine is \$150.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> violation. All subsequent violations are \$500.

If payment is not received by the date indicated on the notice, a \$100 late payment penalty is assessed.

Failure to submit payment will result in the violation being submitted to collections, and individuals having 5 or more unpaid violations will be reported to the Illinois Secretary of State for possible suspension of driving privileges.

### **Do the Stop Arm Cameras capture every vehicle which passes the stopped bus?**

Yes, the cameras do capture every vehicle which passes a stopped school bus when the Stop Arm is deployed and the red lights are flashing.

### **Do the Stop Arm Cameras also capture the driver's face?**

The cameras do not capture the driver's face. Since these are civil offenses assessed against the registered owner of the vehicle, there is no need to identify the driver of the vehicle at the time the violation was captured. Images of the vehicle passing the extended stop arm and the vehicle's license plate are all that is required for the evidence package.

### **Will this affect my driving record? What if I wasn't driving?**

This is a civil penalty so no points are assessed and insurance rates are not affected. Like a Parking ticket, violations are issued to the vehicle's registered owner regardless of who was driving the vehicle at the time the violation was captured.

## Fine Payment Options

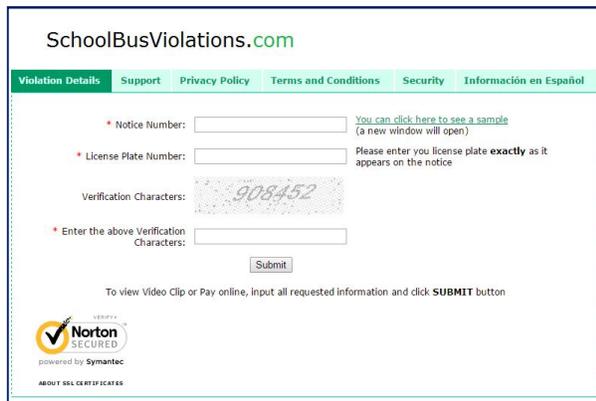
### Pay By Credit Card:

- A Toll Free Customer Service number-866-285-8999 is available to assist violation notice recipients with questions and payments, Monday-Friday 9am-4pm CST.
- Representatives are only authorized to the registered owner of the cited vehicle.
- Payment methods include VISA and MasterCard – (a \$3.50 convenience fee will be applied). A transaction confirmation number will be provided, as well as an email confirmation for your permanent records if you wish.

- **In-Person Payments are not available.**

### Pay Online:

- Logon to [www.SchoolBusViolations.com](http://www.SchoolBusViolations.com) by entering the Violation Notice Number and License Plate Number noted on the top of your Notice of Violation.
- If you do not have your violation number available, you may call Customer Service at 866-285-8999 Monday-Friday 9am-4pm CST.
- You may also request the information via the **SUPPORT** tab on the website [www.SchoolBusViolations.com](http://www.SchoolBusViolations.com).



The screenshot shows the SchoolBusViolations.com website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with tabs for 'Violation Details', 'Support', 'Privacy Policy', 'Terms and Conditions', 'Security', and 'Información en Español'. The main content area contains a payment form with the following fields: 'Notice Number' (with a link to see a sample), 'License Plate Number' (with a note to enter exactly as it appears), 'Verification Characters' (displaying '908452'), and a field to 'Enter the above Verification Characters'. A 'Submit' button is located below the form. At the bottom of the form, there is a Norton Secured logo and a note: 'To view Video Clip or Pay online, input all requested information and click: SUBMIT button'.

There is a \$3.50 convenience fee for paying on-line, assessed at the time of payment.

### **PAYMENT RECEIPT**

A Payment Confirmation Page will display once the payment is verified, and an email verifying

### **WEBSITE SECURITY**

The website uses 128-bit encryption – the same security used on all web-payment applications. For your security and assurance, the site does not store any information about your credit card. All information is purged from the system once the payment is approved or rejected.

### Pay By Mail:

- Mail your check or money order (payable as indicated on the violation notice) in the return envelope provided. Be sure to include the payment stub from the bottom of the notice you received along with your payment to ensure proper posting. Please do not send cash.

## Contesting the Violation Notice:

Individuals receiving a violation notice have the right to contest the violation by requesting an administrative adjudication hearing either in-person or by mail.

Specific instructions for Contesting are detailed on the reverse of the first violation notice under CONTEST OPTIONS. Please note the (5) acceptable defenses:

- The vehicle or registration plates of the vehicle were stolen prior to the violation occurring and were not under the control of or in the possession of the registered owner;
- The driver of the vehicle was issued a UTC from a police officer for a violation of Section 11-1414 within 1/8 of a mile and 15 minutes of the violation recorded by the Stop Arm Camera;
- The required visual signals were damaged, inoperable, not activated or not present in the violation image.
- Any other evidence, issues or defenses provided for under Municipal or County Ordinance.

## Can I Contest my Violation over the Internet?

Violation Contests must be submitted in writing and mailed to the address provided on the violation notice. The website [www.SchoolBusViolations.com](http://www.SchoolBusViolations.com) does not support contesting a violation.

## **I am no longer the Owner of the Cited Vehicle – what do I do?**

If the vehicle was sold prior to the date the violation was issued, you must submit a copy of the bill of sale along with the name and full contact information of the new legal owner and an affidavit swearing you were not the registered owner of the vehicle at the time. These documents are mailed in according to the instructions provided under CONTEST OPTIONS on your 1<sup>st</sup> violation notice.

## **Why aren't Police Officers monitoring the School Buses?**

Every Police Department is committed to the safety of their students and residents, but no community can afford to police every school bus. Traditional enforcement also creates a safety hazard for the violator, other drivers, pedestrians and the officer when police chase a violator who has passed a stopped school bus with children loading and unloading. This technology frees up officers to assist and protect residents in other ways.

## **How does the Stop Arm Camera System Work?**

**Step 1:** Video cameras are installed on the front and rear driver's side of a school bus.

**Step 2:** When the school bus stop arm is extended, the camera system is activated and automatically captures video footage of all vehicles passing the stopped bus.

**Step 3:** The high definition video is uploaded via a secure virtual private network to the RedSpeed® processing system. Still images are extracted from the video showing the vehicle passing the school bus along with a zoom shot of the vehicle's license plate.

**Step 4:** After a comprehensive review process, the violation images and video are securely transmitted to the Police Department where a trained officer reviews the evidence package and either approves or rejects the violation.

**Step 5:** Once approved by law enforcement, a citation is issued and mailed to the vehicle's registered owner.



## **Where can I learn more about School Bus Safety?**



[www.nasdpts.org/StopArm/index.html](http://www.nasdpts.org/StopArm/index.html)



[www.americanschoolbuscouncil.org](http://www.americanschoolbuscouncil.org)



[www.nhtsa.gov/School-Buses](http://www.nhtsa.gov/School-Buses)



[www.illinois.gov](http://www.illinois.gov) School Bus Safety