Aggressive drivers are high-risk drivers who climb into the anonymity of an automobile and take out frustrations on anybody at any time. Aggressive drivers have no concern for fellow motorists. Aggressive driving habits include:

- Running stop signs and red lights
- Speeding
- Tailgating
- Weaving in-and-out of traffic
- Passing on the right
- Making improper and unsafe lane changes
- Making hand and facial gestures
- Screaming, honking, and flashing their lights
- Following too close
- Changing lanes frequently and abruptly without notice (signals)
- Passing on the shoulder or unpaved portions of the roadway
- Using verbal threats or gestures at motorists in front of them

Approximately half of the deaths in red-light-running crashes are pedestrians and occupants in other vehicles who are hit by the red-light runners.

How to react to aggressive drivers:

- Make every attempt to get out of their way.
- Put your pride aside. Do not challenge them by speeding up or attempting to hold your own in your travel lane.
- Avoid eye contact.
- Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- Wear your seat belt. Not only is it the law, but it will hold you in your seat in case you must make an abrupt driving maneuver and will protect you in a crash.
- If you want to take action, report aggressive drivers to the police. Provide a vehicle description, license number, location and direction of travel.
- If an aggressive driver is involved in a crash, stop a safe distance from the crash scene, wait for the police to arrive and report the driving behavior that you witnessed.
- If there is not crash, report aggressive drivers once you are safe to appropriate authorities. Provide a vehicle description, license number, location, and if possible, direction of travel.

If you are being followed by an aggressive driver, drive to a safe place such as the nearest police or fire station, gas station or other places where there are people. Call for help if you have a mobile phone. DO NOT DRIVE HOME!
What is road rage?
Road rage is defined as “assault with a motor vehicle or other dangerous weapon by the operator or passenger(s) of another motor vehicle or an assault precipitated by an incident that occurred on a roadway.”

Don’t be an aggressive driver!
- Don’t drive while angry, upset, or overly tired.
- Relax! Take a deep breath and turn on soft music which may calm your nerves.
- Plan ahead and allow plenty of time. Avoid traffic congestion by identifying alternate routes.
- Drive the posted speed limit.
- Use turn signals well in advance and follow at safe distances.
- Change lanes or pull out only when it won’t force others to slow down or swerve.
- Utilize public transportation.
- Just be late!

Be a defensive driver!
Defensive driving means driving so as to prevent crashes, in spite of the actions of others or the presence of adverse driving conditions. Follow three basic steps:
- **See the hazard:** When you are about to encounter a hazardous situation, think about what might happen as far ahead as possible. Never assume a condition will have passed before you get there.
- **Understand the defense:** There are specific ways to handle most situations. You may need to slow down, change lanes, or pull over.
- **Act in time:** Once you see the hazard and decide upon a defense, act immediately. The sooner you act, the more time you have to avoid a crash.

It is a good idea to always stay in the right lane, except to pass. The right lane is intended for slower traffic. This helps with traffic congestion and therefore reduces the number of aggressive drivers.

Drive carefully. It’s the law! **KRS 189.290 states:**
(1) The operator of any vehicle upon a highway shall operate the vehicle in a careful manner, with regard for the safety and convenience of pedestrians and other vehicles upon the highway.
(2) No person shall willfully operate any vehicle on any highway in such a manner as to injure the highway.

For additional information
- **AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety:** [www.aaafoundation.org](http://www.aaafoundation.org)
- **American Institute for Public Safety:** [www.aipsnews.com](http://www.aipsnews.com)
- **National Safety Council:** [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)
- **The USAA Educational Foundation:** [www.usaaedfoundation.org](http://www.usaaedfoundation.org)

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
Office of Highway Safety  
http://highwaysafety.ky.gov  
502-564-1438 or 1-888-374-8768