

Identifying Cabs Operating Illegally

Did you know only Yellow and Green Taxis can legally accept street hails? If you hail a taxi from the street and it is not a yellow or green taxi, it is considered an illegal street hail.

Examples of illegal street hails:

- You see a driver operating a vehicle with TLC plates. You hail their car (usually a black car) and ask them to drive you to your destination
- You are at the arrivals terminal at the airport and a driver approaches you asking if you need a car service
- You are leaving a stadium or other large venue and are asked if you need a car service

Many passengers are often unaware that they have participated in an illegal activity. The TLC strongly recommends that you should not engage with illegal street hails or enter a vehicle if you find yourself in a situation like the examples above.

The risks of accepting an illegal street hail include:

- There will be no record of your trip if an issue occurs during your ride
- Driver may be driving with a suspended TLC or DMV license
- Driver may overcharge you and demand a large sum of money when you arrive at your destination
- Driver may not be properly insured

The TLC works hard to ensure all passengers get to their destination safely in the vehicles we license. Please take this information into consideration the next time you decide to take a ride. You can report illegal street hails and other violations committed by TLC licensed vehicles to 311.