

New Distracted Driving Law

Effective July 23, 2017

No hand-held cell phone use

Drivers may not use hand-held cell phones while they are driving, stopped in traffic, or at a stop light. This includes tablets, laptops, games, or other hand-held electronic devices.

Drivers may not watch video while they drive.

This does not apply if a driver is contacting emergency services.

Drivers can use hand-held devices when they are pulled over out of the flow of traffic.

Hands-free use is allowed

Hands-free use, such as through Bluetooth, is allowed as is a single touch to start a function. Start GPS or music before you drive.

Research shows that phone conversations reduce visual attention. Pass your phone to the passenger, put it in the glove box, or turn it off before you drive.

Dangerously distracted

You can also get a \$99 ticket for other types of distractions such as grooming, smoking, eating, or reading if the activity interferes with safe driving and you are pulled over for another traffic offense.

Not included

Some things are not included in the law. Transit and emergency vehicle drivers are exempt. Drivers of commercial vehicles must follow federal laws.

Two-way radio, citizens band radio, or amateur radio equipment are not included in the law.

Costs

The first ticket will cost at least \$136. Get a ticket again within five years, and those tickets cost at least \$234. Unlike current law, which exempts cell phone violations from being reported to insurance companies, all violations will be available to insurance companies.



For more information visit: wadrivetozero.com/distracted-driving