



Kendall County

Office of the Sheriff

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Kendall County Sheriff's Office Reminds of New Distracted Driving Law

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed the new law that took in effect on July 01, 2019. Illinois law prohibits the use of hand-held cellphones, texting or using other electronic communications while operating a motor vehicle. Hands-free devices or Blue Tooth technology is allowed for persons age 19 and older.

Even using hands-free technology is considered a distraction while driving and can be dangerous. If you must make a phone call, even with hands-free technology, it is recommended that you pull off to the side of the road before making the call.

According to the new law, you are only allowed to push one button to activate GPS or answer or make a call. So, unless you are using technology such as Bluetooth to access your phone hands-free, the following offenses will get you a ticket:

- Any talking, texting, or tweeting on your hand-held phone;
- Looking at social media, photos, videos or emails on your phone;
- Getting directions from the GPS while holding your phone;
- Choosing songs from a playlist on your phone;
- Using Apps on your phone;
- Using the phone at a stop light or stop sign;
- Using the phone while sitting in traffic.

The only times Illinois drivers can use a cell phone that is not hands free are:

- To report an emergency situation.

- While parked on the shoulder of a roadway.
- While stopped due to normal traffic being obstructed and the vehicle is in neutral or park.

Drivers who are in a crash resulting from distracted driving may face criminal penalties and incarceration.

For more information please see the amended statute by clicking the link below:

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=062500050K12-610.2>

For a distracted driving brochure please click the following link below:

<https://www.isp.state.il.us/docs/1-230.pdf>