



# Kendall County

*Office of the Sheriff*

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## **For Immediate Release**

Date: April 21, 2019  
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### **The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Partnering with AAA, is Coordinating its Annual Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week with State and Local Agencies**

The Kendall County Sheriff's Office – In support of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) asked the Governor of the State of Illinois to declare April 21<sup>st</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup> as Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week in an effort to bring attention to the dangers and consequences associated with driving distracted.

Governor Rauner issued the proclamation and both houses passed resolutions identifying April 21<sup>st</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> as Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week.

The ILACP, in partnership with AAA, and supported by the Illinois State Police, the National Safety Council, the Illinois Insurance Association, almost 300 law enforcement/fire agencies and supporters from the private sector throughout Illinois, will work together during this week to educate motorists on all aspects of distracted driving. This campaign will also include the enforcement of applicable state distracted driving laws.

Over the past decade, distracted driving has become one of the leading causes of vehicle crashes on our roads. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, 3,166 people died in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2017. While this represents a nine-percent decrease in distracted driving fatalities from 2016, there is clearly more work to be done. Texting while driving distracts a driver visually, manually and cognitively. Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent of driving blind at 55 per hour for the length of an entire football field.

Follow these steps for a safe driving experience:

- If you are expecting a text message or need to send one, pull over and park your car in a safe location. Once you are safely off the road and parked, it is safe to text.
- Designate your passenger as your “designated texter.” Allow them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving. Cellphone use can be habit-forming.
- Put your cellphone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat until you arrive at your destination.

### **According to the AAA 2018 Traffic Safety Culture Index:**

- Cellphone use while driving is common. In the past month, 60.5% of drivers talked on a hands-free cellphone, while 49.1% talked on a hand-held cellphone. Drivers are more accepting of hands-free cell phone use (69.0%), than handheld cellphone use (24.6%) while driving.
- More view driver’s texting or emailing while driving as a serious threat (96.8%) than drivers talking on cellphones (87.7%). However, in the past 30 days, 44.9% of drivers read a text message or email while driving and 34.6% of drivers typed or sent a text message or email while driving.
- A majority of respondents (87.6%) support legislation against reading, typing, or sending a text message or email and 73.4% of drivers support having a law against using a hand-held cellphone while driving. However, only 40.9% support an outright ban on using any type of cellphone (including hands-free)

To learn more about Distracted Driving ([SafetyServe.com](http://SafetyServe.com)) offers online course at no cost during Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week.

Partnerships have been formed to help further a traffic safety culture in Illinois and to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries resulting from distracted driving. Please help the ILACP, AAA and the Kendall County Sheriff’s Office, to keep Illinois’ roadways safe and Illinois strong.