



DEERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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Cell Phone Ban Now a Statewide Law

Illinois elected officials want all drivers to keep their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road. A statewide law that went into effect on January 1, 2014 makes it illegal to use an electronic communication device while driving. An “electronic communication device” means an electronic device; including but not limited to a wireless telephone, personal digital assistant, portable or mobile computer – but does not include a global positioning system or navigation system. Cell phones and electronic devices are permitted only if using a hands-free device or Bluetooth technology.

The law is in addition to the existing statewide ban on electronic messaging. An “electronic message” is defined as a self-contained piece of digital communication transmitted between physical devices. This includes but is not limited to electronic mail, a text message, an instant message, a photograph, a video, or a command or request to access an Internet site.

Exemptions to the law include:

1. A law enforcement officer or operator of an emergency vehicle while performing his or her official duties;
2. A driver using an electronic communication device for the sole purpose of reporting an emergency situation and continued communication with emergency personnel during the emergency situation;
3. A driver using an electronic communication device in hands-free or voice-operated mode, which may include the use of an earpiece that covers one ear;
4. A driver of a commercial motor vehicle reading a message displayed on a permanently installed device designed for a commercial motor vehicle with a screen that does not exceed 10 inches tall by 10 inches wide in size;
5. A driver using an electronic communication device while parked on the shoulder of a roadway;
6. A driver using an electronic communication device when the vehicle is stopped due to normal traffic being obstructed and the driver has the motor vehicle transmission is in neutral or park;
7. A driver using two-way or citizens band radio services;
8. A driver using two-way mobile radio transmitters or receivers for licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the amateur radio service;
9. A driver using an electronic communication device by pressing a single button to initiate or terminate a voice communication;
10. A driver using an electronic communication device capable of performing multiple functions, other than a hand-held wireless telephone or hand-held personal digital assistant (for example, a fleet management system, dispatching device, citizens band radio, or music player) for a purpose that is not otherwise prohibited.

Be advised the talking on a cell phone in speaker phone mode while holding the phone in your hand is not considered “hands-free.”

Fines for violations begin at \$75 and increase to up to \$150 for subsequent offenses. Violations are considered moving violations and the accumulation of three moving violations within 365 days could result in a suspended driver’s license. Drivers who violate the electronic device law and cause great bodily harm, permanent disability, or disfigurement to other drivers or pedestrians face a Class A misdemeanor which could result in up to \$2,500 in fines and a year in jail. If the distracted driver is involved in a fatal crash the charge is a Class 4 felony which carries fines up to \$25,000 and up to three years in jail.

The use of an electronic device while driving is distracting and dangerous. A person is 23 times more likely to be involved in a traffic crash while talking for texting while driving. Approximately 20% of traffic crashes are the direct result of distracted driving. The Deerfield Police Department reminds drivers to give their full attention to the road and promote a safer environment for motorists and pedestrians.