

# Maine's Hands-Free Driving Law



## What is the hands-free driving law?

The law under Title 29-A section 2121 prohibits the use of mobile telephones, handheld electronic devices, and portable electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle unless specifically exempted by law.

## Can I place a phone call while driving?

You can place a call while driving, but the phone cannot be held in your hand or to your ear. The phone must be in hands-free mode and mounted or affixed to the vehicle. You may use voice commands to make a call, or use your hand to activate or deactivate a feature or function with only a single swipe, tap or push of your finger.

## Can I text and drive?

No. Texting while driving is illegal even if you are stopped temporarily at a traffic light, bus stop, construction site, stop sign, or any other time you are temporarily stopped in the roadway. You may use voice-to-text to send and listen to messages. If your phone doesn't have that feature, you must pull off the public way, find a safe place to park, compose the message and send it.

## What is the penalty?

A person who violates this section commits a traffic infraction for which a fine of \$85 (includes surcharges) for the first offense and \$325 (includes surcharges) for a second or subsequent offense may be adjudged.

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## What if I want to use my GPS?

GPS can be used provided the address is entered prior to driving. If the address needs to be changed while you are driving, you must pull off the public way and find a safe place to park.

## What about drivers under the age of 18?

If a driver is under the age of 18 or has an intermediate license or permit, they may not operate a motor vehicle at any time while using a mobile phone or handheld device, even if it is mounted.

## What else should I know?

- Your phone must be mounted in a location that doesn't obstruct your view of the roadway.
- A handheld controller that is used to operate a plow or other piece of equipment attached to the vehicle can be used, as it is part of the operating equipment of the vehicle and is exempt from this law.
- In case of an emergency, drivers (except those operating on a permit) are permitted to call law enforcement or other emergency services personnel.

**Distraction Free Driving Begins with ME**  
**One Text or Call Could WRECK it All #JUSTDRIVE**



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