



HANDS FREE
★ T E N N E S S E E ★

NEW LAW EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019

The Hands Free Tennessee campaign educates the public about the state's new "Hands Free Law," known as **Public Chapter No. 412**. This new law requires drivers to put down their phones and focus on the road.

WHAT IS the Tennessee Hands Free Law?

PC0412 makes it illegal for a driver to:

- (a)** hold a cellphone or mobile device with any part of their body,
- (b)** write, send, or read any text-based communication,
- (c)** reach for a cellphone or mobile device in a manner that requires the driver to no longer be in a seated driving position or properly restrained by a seat belt,
- (d)** watch a video or movie on a cellphone or mobile device, and
- (e)** record or broadcast video on a cellphone or mobile device.



Learn more at:

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I still talk on my cellphone while driving?

A driver is permitted to use an earpiece, headphone device, or device worn on a wrist to conduct voice-based communication. The driver may use one (1) button on a cell phone or mobile device to initiate or terminate voice communication. Voice-based communication may also be used to send a text message.

Can I use my cellphone while driving in the case of an emergency?

A driver is permitted to use a cellphone or other wireless telecommunications device to communicate with law enforcement agencies, medical providers, fire departments, or other emergency service agencies while driving a motor vehicle, if the use is necessitated by a bona fide emergency, including a natural or human occurrence that threatens human health, life, or property.

What are the penalties?

Violation of this law is a Class C misdemeanor. A traffic citation based on this violation is considered a moving traffic violation. Fines for violations of the law include:

- \$50.00=** First-time offense
- \$100.00=** Third-time offense or higher; violation results in a car crash
- \$200.00=** Violation occurs in a work zone while workers are present; violation occurs in a marked school zone while flashers are in operation

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