



NEW!

FLORIDA DISTRACTED DRIVING LAW



Effective July 1, 2019, all drivers in Florida are prohibited from texting while driving and it is now a primary offense, meaning an officer can stop a driver on suspicion of texting while driving. Handheld cell phone use while operating a motor vehicle in a designated school crossing, school zone or road work zone is also prohibited.

WHAT THE LAW MEANS FOR DRIVERS

- Texting, including messaging, emailing and other forms of typing on a mobile device while driving is now a primary violation.
- Messages related to navigation or safety such as emergency traffic and weather alerts are permitted.
- The ban on handheld use in school and work zones goes into effect on October 1, with an education period of warnings until January 1, 2020 when fines can be imposed.

WHAT DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW

- **Limit all distractions. Hands-free calls are not risk-free.**
- In 2018, there were over **51,000 crashes** involving a distracted driver in Florida. On average, that is 140 crashes every single day.
- AAA research shows people who text and drive are eight times more likely to be involved in a crash.

TO LEARN MORE...

- The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety and the AAA Center for Driving Safety and Technology continue to provide research on new and evolving technologies.
- Visit AAA.com/distracted

What are the penalties?

First conviction: \$30;
second and subsequent convictions: \$60; 3 points on license for each violation.

What if there is an emergency?

Drivers can use their phone to report a traffic incident, medical emergency, fire/crime or hazardous roads.