

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracted driving involves any activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of a crash. There are three main types of driving distraction:

- ◆ Visual – taking your eyes off the road.
- ◆ Manual – taking your hands off the wheel.
- ◆ Cognitive – taking your mind off what you're doing.



HELPFUL TIPS:

If you need to use your cellphone

- ◆ Pull off the road and stop in a safe place to use your phone.
- ◆ It is illegal in Illinois to use a hand-held cellphone, text or e-mail while driving.

Limit Interaction with passengers

- ◆ Limit talking while driving.
- ◆ Keep your eyes on the road.
- ◆ Keep both hands on the wheel.

Avoid driver fatigue

- ◆ Stay focused on the road.
- ◆ Don't daydream.
- ◆ Don't drive if you are tired.
- ◆ Share driving responsibilities on long trips.

Don't drive when angry or upset

- ◆ Emotions can interfere with safe driving. Wait until you have cooled down or resolved problems before getting behind the wheel of a car.

Avoid gawking

- ◆ Don't take your eyes off the road to look at a crash or other activity.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

DANGEROUS

and

ILLEGAL

Illinois Laws on Cellphone Use While Driving

- ◆ It is illegal to use a cellphone while driving, including reading or sending text messages.
- ◆ Cellphone use is permitted only if using a hands-free device or Bluetooth® technology.
- ◆ Cellphone use is allowed to call 9-1-1, but the driver should first stop the vehicle and pull off the road.

Violations of these laws may result in a fine and a moving violation on your driving record.

As Secretary of State, one of Jesse White's top priorities is to promote safer driving environment for Illinois motorists. A person is 23 times more likely to be involved in a traffic crash while talking or texting and driving, and approximately 20 to 30 percent of traffic crashes are the direct result of some type of distracted driving.

Effective January 1, 2014, Illinois banned the use of cellphones while driving, unless using a hands-free device.

The first step toward reducing distracted driving is to increase public awareness about the importance of giving your full attention to the road. Please share this information with others and remember—always drive defensively.

Jesse White
Illinois Secretary of State



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