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## Cellphone Use While Driving Laws by State

State	Hand-held ban	Young drivers all cellphone ban	Bus drivers all cellphone ban	Texting ban	Enforcement
<b>Alabama</b>	no	16-year-old drivers; 17-year-old drivers who have held an intermediate license for fewer than 6 months	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Alaska</b>	no	no	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Arizona</b>	no	learner's permit holders and intermediate license holders during the first 6 months after licensing (effective 06/30/18)	school bus drivers	no	secondary (effective 06/30/18)
<b>Arkansas</b>	drivers 18 or older but younger than 21; school and highway work zones	drivers younger than 18	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary: texting by all drivers and cellphone use by school bus drivers; secondary: cellphone use by young drivers, drivers in school and work zones <sup>1</sup>
<b>California</b>	all drivers	drivers younger than 18	school and transit bus drivers	all drivers <sup>2</sup>	primary: hand-held and texting by drivers 18 and older; secondary: drivers younger than 18 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Colorado</b>	no	drivers younger than 18	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Connecticut</b>	all drivers	drivers younger than 18	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>Delaware</b>	all drivers	learner's permit and intermediate license holders	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>District of Columbia</b>	all drivers	learner's permit holders	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>Florida</b>	no	no	no	all drivers	secondary

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<b>Georgia</b>	no	drivers younger than 18	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>Hawaii</b>	all drivers	drivers younger than 18	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Idaho</b>	no	no	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Illinois</b>	all drivers	drivers younger than 19 and learner's permit holders younger than 19	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>Indiana</b>	no	drivers younger than 21	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Iowa</b>	no	learner's permit and intermediate license holders	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Kansas</b>	no	learner's permit and intermediate license holders	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Kentucky</b>	no	drivers younger than 18	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>Louisiana</b>	drivers in signed school zones; with respect to novice drivers, see footnote 3	all novice drivers, see footnote 3 for detail	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary <sup>3</sup>
<b>Maine</b>	no	learner's permit and intermediate license holders	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Maryland</b>	all drivers	drivers younger than 18	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>Massachusetts</b>	no	drivers younger than 18	school bus drivers and passenger bus drivers	all drivers	primary

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<b>Michigan</b>	No	learner's permit and intermediate license holders (level 1 and 2); integrated voice-operated systems excepted	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>Minnesota</b>	no	learner's permit holders and provisional license holders during the first 12 months after licensing	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>Mississippi</b>	no	no	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>Missouri</b>	no	no	no	drivers 21 and younger	primary
<b>Montana</b>	no	no	no	no	not applicable
<b>Nebraska</b>	no	learner's permit and intermediate license holders younger than 18	no	all drivers	secondary
<b>Nevada</b>	all drivers	no	no	all drivers	primary
<b>New Hampshire</b>	All drivers	drivers younger than 18	no	all drivers	primary
<b>New Jersey</b>	all drivers	learner's permit and intermediate license holders	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>New Mexico</b>	no	learner's permit and intermediate license holders	no	all drivers	primary
<b>New York</b>	all drivers	no	no	all drivers	primary
<b>North Carolina</b>	no	drivers younger than 18	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary

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<b>North Dakota</b>	no	drivers younger than 18	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Ohio</b>	no	drivers younger than 18	no	all drivers	primary for drivers younger than 18; secondary for texting
<b>Oklahoma</b>	learner's permit and intermediate license holders	no <sup>4</sup>	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Oregon</b>	all drivers <sup>5</sup>	drivers younger than 18	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	no	no	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Rhode Island</b>	all drivers (effective 06/01/18)	drivers younger than 18	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>South Carolina</b>	no	no	no	all drivers	primary
<b>South Dakota</b>	no	learner's permit and intermediate license holders	no	all drivers	secondary
<b>Tennessee</b>	drivers in marked school zones (effective 01/01/18)	learner's permit and intermediate license holders	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary
<b>Texas</b>	drivers in school crossing zones and on public school property during the time the reduced speed limit applies	drivers younger than 18	bus drivers when a passenger 17 and younger is present	all drivers (effective 09/01/17)	primary
<b>Utah</b>	no <sup>5</sup>	drivers younger than 18	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary <sup>5</sup>

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<b>Vermont</b>	all drivers	drivers younger than 18	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Virginia</b>	no	drivers younger than 18	school bus drivers	all drivers	primary; secondary for drivers younger than 18
<b>Washington</b>	all drivers <sup>7</sup>	learner's permit and intermediate license holders	no	all drivers <sup>7</sup>	primary
<b>West Virginia</b>	all drivers	drivers younger than 18 who hold either a learner's permit or an intermediate license	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Wisconsin</b>	drivers in highway construction areas	learner's permit and intermediate license holders	no	all drivers	primary
<b>Wyoming</b>	no	no	no	all drivers	primary

<sup>1</sup>The laws in Arkansas and California prohibit police from stopping a vehicle to determine if a driver is in compliance with the law. The language prohibits the use of checkpoints to enforce the law, but it has been interpreted as the functional equivalent of secondary provisions that typically state the officer may not stop someone suspected of a violation unless there is other, independent, cause for a stop.

<sup>2</sup>California drivers older than 18 may dictate, send or listen to text-based messages if they're using voice-activated, hands-free devices.

<sup>3</sup>In Louisiana, all learner's permit holders, irrespective of age, and all intermediate license holders are prohibited from driving while using a hand-held cellphone. All drivers younger than 18 are prohibited from using any cellphone. All drivers, irrespective of age, issued a first driver's license are prohibited from using a cellphone for one year. The cellphone ban is secondary for novice drivers ages 18 and older.

<sup>4</sup>In Oklahoma, learner's permit and intermediate license holders are banned from using a hand-held electronic device while operating a motor vehicle except in life-threatening emergencies.

<sup>5</sup>In Oregon, drivers may not hold a personal electronic device in either hand or both hands while operating a motor vehicle on a public highway, including while temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic control device, or other momentary delays, effective October 1, 2017.

<sup>6</sup>In 2007, Utah defined careless driving as committing a moving violation (other than speeding) while distracted by use of a handheld cellphone or other activities not related to driving. IIHS reported this as the functional equivalent of a secondary law. In 2012, Utah's law was modified to specify that a person is not prohibited from using a handheld wireless device while operating a moving motor vehicle when making or receiving a telephone call. In 2014, Utah again amended its law by removing the act of talking on a hand-held phone from the section describing careless driving. In addition, the most recent iteration bans drivers from dialing a hand-held phone and caps the maximum fine at \$100 for a first offense provided the offender inflicted no bodily harm.

<sup>7</sup>In Washington, drivers may not hold a personal electronic device in either hand or both hands while operating a motor vehicle on a public highway, including while temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic control device, or other momentary delays, effective July 23, 2017.

*Sources: IIHS.org; Governors Highway Safety Association. Legislation is continually changing. Therefore, this information is not intended to be exhaustive nor should any discussion or opinions be construed as legal advice. Readers should contact appropriate legal counsel for advice. Updated September, 2016.*

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