



New Illinois Laws Affect Cell Phone Use While Driving

New distracted driver laws affecting the use of cellular phones or other electronic devices will be enacted January 1, 2010.

Electronic Messaging - Public Law 096-0130 - Motorists are banned from creating, sending or reading text messages, instant messages, email or surfing the web while driving. This includes cellular phones, personal digital assistants and portable or mobile computers. Exceptions to this law are made for those reporting emergency situations, on-duty public safety officials, a driver parked on the shoulder of the road, or if the device is in hands-free or voice-activated mode. To read the actual law, click on the following link:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=096-0130&GA=96>

School/Construction Zones - Public Law 096-0131- It is illegal to talk on a cell phone while driving through a school or highway construction zone. Exceptions to this law are if the person is involved in a highway maintenance or construction project, reporting an emergency situation, an on-duty public safety official, or using the cellular phone in voice-activated mode. To read the actual law, click on the following link:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=096-0131&GA=96>

Laws vary from state to state and even within states, so Cellular One advises customers to check specifically in the areas in which they travel. For example, the requirement for a hands-free device while driving has been in place in Chicago since July of 2005.

Fines for violating these laws are reported to start at \$75. Cellular One carries a full line of hands-free devices in our local stores, most under \$75.

Cellular One has always stressed safety first while using cellular phones. When driving, your first priority should always be keeping your eyes and attention on the road.