

## Telecommunications Device Prohibition

Indiana Law prohibits individuals from using a telecommunications device to type, transmit, or read a text or an email message while operating a moving motor vehicle unless the device is used in conjunction with hands-free or voice-operated technology, or unless the device is used to make a 911 emergency call.

Indiana law defines a telecommunications device as an electronic or digital device, such as a

wireless telephone, personal digital assistant, pager, or text messaging device. This definition does

not include citizen band (CB) radio equipment that is being operated by a person licensed as a CB

radio operator by the Federal Communications Commission or a communications system installed

in a commercial motor vehicle weighing more than 10,000 pounds. You may be assessed points

on your driver record when using a telecommunication device while operating a motor vehicle.

## DO YOU NEED AN FCC LICENSE TO OPERATE A WALKIE-TALKIE?

Yes, you might need an FCC license to operate a walkie-talkie. [The Family Radio Service \(FRS\) models of walkie-talkies do not require an FCC license to operate, but the General Mobile Radio Service \(GMRS\) models do](#) <sup>12</sup>.

According to the **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)**, personal radio services are short-range, low-power radio communications using devices that operate much like walkie-talkies. Personal radio services include one- and two-way voice services, data services, and remote-control transmissions that operate equipment. Personal radio services devices generally do not rely on transmission towers or other equipment. [Some types, especially those using VHF and UHF radio spectrum, encounter significantly less static, noise, and fading than CBs or walkie-talkies](#) <sup>3</sup>.

If you're looking to operate a GMRS system, you will need to obtain an FCC license. The individual licensee is responsible for the proper operation of the GMRS system. [A licensee may permit his or her immediate family members to operate the GMRS system](#) <sup>3</sup>.

My conclusion: a passenger in your vehicle can use a Walkie-Talkie to communicate information. A solo driver can listen to the transmissions but can not legally transmit if the device is not hands free.