

Make Kentucky Hands-Free to Reduce Distracted Driving & Save Lives

Did you know?

Nearly **1 in 3** crashes involve distracted driving.

In Kentucky, that's over **40,000** crashes each year resulting in **thousands** of injuries and **hundreds** of fatalities.

Kentucky constituents want a stronger law

Nearly 1,000 drivers
revealed distracted driving as the
top roadway safety concern

90%

agree that hand-held cell phone use while driving increases the risk of crashing

81%

support a hands-free cell phone law restricting distracted driving

- Distracted driving is not a “personal choice” – it’s a public safety threat
- Hands-free laws are more enforceable than texting-only laws
- States enacting handheld bans see immediate reductions in phone interactions
- Hands-free laws target safety, not people
- There is strong bipartisan support for a hands-free law in Kentucky

#HandsFreeKentucky

Learn more at
stopdistractions.org





Key Components of a Strong Electronic Device Use Law

Effective legislation should:

- Take into account current technologies and uses, as well as make provisions for future technology.
- Use language that ensures it is enforceable.
- Attempt to stop the most dangerous behaviors associated with electronic device use; specifically, behaviors that result in the diversion of attention from the driving task which takes eyes off the road.
- Use terminology that allows for greater inclusion of devices (e.g., electronic device).
- Prohibit the use of electronic devices at all times when the vehicle is in drive on public roads, including when the vehicle is stopped at traffic signals and when temporarily stopped or slowed in traffic.
- Clearly state the driver behaviors that are in violation of the law and what the penalties and fines are.
- Limit exemptions, which may include the reporting of an emergency and usage by law enforcement and first responders in the line of duty.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do hands-free cell phone laws infringe upon individual rights and personal freedoms by restricting how people can use their phones while driving?

A: No. Driving is a privilege and it comes with responsibility. Personal freedom does not include the right to endanger others. Using a handheld cell phone while driving increases crash risk and endangers everyone on the road.

Q: Are hands-free cell phone laws effective in preventing phone use while driving?

A: Yes. Hands-free laws promote the use of voice commands and integrated vehicle systems, thereby reducing visual and manual distractions for the driver. Visual distractions are by far the riskiest of all distraction types.

Q: Are hands-free cell phone laws enforceable?

A: Yes. Holding a phone while driving is a visible, objective action that officers can identify while monitoring traffic and during traffic stops. Many states and cities with hands-free laws report effective enforcement through the issuing of citations, which demonstrates that enforcement is feasible.

Q: Do hands-free cell phone laws lead to driver profiling by law enforcement?

A: No. These laws regulate a specific, observable behavior – using a handheld phone while driving, which is straightforward to identify regardless of a driver's race or ethnicity. This reduces the opportunity for subjective enforcement decisions that could lead to perceived profiling.