

Teen Drivers and Cell Phone Use



It is against the law in North Carolina for drivers under the age of 18 to use a mobile phone or any technology associated with a mobile telephone while a vehicle is in motion.

Exceptions include:

Talking to an emergency response operator; a hospital, physician's office, or health clinic; a public or privately owned ambulance company or service; a fire department; a law enforcement agency or the operator's parent, legal guardian or spouse.

Penalty:

If a minor is caught using a mobile communication device while driving, they will receive a \$25 fine. In addition to mobile phones, the law also stipulates the use of "other technology" that provides access to digital media such as a digital camera, email, music, the Internet or games.

No driver license points, insurance surcharge or court costs are assessed as a result of a violation of this law.

This law became effective December 1, 2007.

Did you know?

- In 2008, there were 46,492 traffic crashes involving 15-to-19 year olds.
- Those crashes resulted in 81 fatalities and more than 8,000 injuries.
- Of the fatalities, 54 percent of the drivers were not wearing a seat belt.
- More than 1,200 crashes were alcohol-related.



Texting While Driving



North Carolina prohibits ALL drivers from texting or reading a text message while a vehicle is in motion.

Exceptions include:

Those performing in official duties such as: a law enforcement officer; a member of a fire department; or the operator of a public or private ambulance.

Penalty:

A driver that is caught texting or reading a text message while driving will face a fine of \$100 plus court fees of at least \$130. The violation will not add points to your driving record and an insurance surcharge will not be assessed.

This law became effective December 1, 2009.

Did you know?

- In North Carolina, the law now requires ALL passengers in a vehicle wear their seat belts. There are no longer age exceptions for passengers in the back seat.
- The majority of teen crashes occur between the hours of 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- The three most common contributing factors of teen crashes include, failure to yield, failure to reduce speed and driving too fast for conditions.
- In 68 percent of teen crashes, the teen driver was named at fault for the crash.

