



Distracted Driver Act Takes Effect Enforcement on July 1, 2004

Effective July 1, 2004, the "Distracted Driving Safety Act of 2004" became effective in the District of Columbia (D.C.). The Act prohibits operators of motor vehicles from using a mobile telephone or other electronic device while driving in D.C., except when equipped with a built-in speaker or a hands-free accessory. Those with a learner's permit are prohibited from using a mobile telephone or other electronic device even if the telephone is equipped with a built-in speaker or a hands-free accessory.

The penalty for violating this act carries a fine of \$100. It includes answering a call as well as placing one.

The provisions of this act will not apply to any motorists using a mobile telephone in an emergency, such as calls to 911 or 311, a hospital, an ambulance service provider, a fire department, a law enforcement agency, or a first aid squad. The act also allows the use of mobile telephones by law enforcement personnel or by a driver of an authorized emergency vehicle.



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