New York State Texting & Driving Law

Under New York State law you cannot use a hand-held mobile telephone or send a text or an email while you drive. If you use a hand-held mobile telephone while you drive (except to call 911 or to contact medical, fire or police personnel about an emergency) or use a device to text or send email, you can receive a traffic ticket and be subject to a fine, points on your record and a surcharge.

Conviction of a cell phone use or texting violation will result in points being added to your DMV driving record. If you receive 11 points in an 18 month period, your driver license may be suspended. For more information on texting and driving laws visit dmv.ny.gov.

Minimum and maximum fines/surcharges

The minimum and maximum fine for violations committed on or after July 26, 2013 are:

- first offense: the minimum fine is $50 and maximum fine is $150
- second offense committed within 18 months: the minimum fine is $50 and the maximum fine is $200
- third or subsequent offense committed within 18 months: the minimum fine is $50 and the maximum fine is $400

The surcharge for these violations can be up to $93.

Driver violation points

- for offenses committed between October 5, 2011 and May 31, 2013, this violation carries three driver violation points
- for offenses committed on or after June 1, 2013, this violation carries five driver violation points

Penalties for probationary and junior drivers with a Class DJ or MJ driver license or learner permit

The first conviction of a cell phone use or texting violation will result in a suspension of the driver license or permit for 60 days.

A second conviction within six months will result in:

- a revocation of at least 6 months of a probationary license, or
- a revocation of at least 60 days for a Class DJ or MJ driver license or learner permit

Penalties for Motor Carriers and Commercial Vehicle Drivers

Effective October 28, 2013

- a motor carrier must not allow or require their drivers to use cell phones or texting devices while driving
- a mobile telephone used by a person who operates a commercial motor vehicle shall not be deemed a “hands-free mobile telephone” when the driver presses more than a single button to dial or answer the phone
- a commercial vehicle driver is not allowed to make a phone call or use a texting device while the vehicle is temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic control device, or other momentary delays
- a commercial vehicle driver who holds a mobile telephone to, or in the immediate proximity of, his or her ear while the vehicle is temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic control device, or other momentary delays is also presumed to be engaged in a call
- a commercial vehicle driver who holds a portable electronic device in a conspicuous manner while the vehicle is temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic control device, or other momentary delays is presumed to be using the device

Texting and Driving bans across the United States

Currently, there is no nationwide ban against cell phone use while driving, however, 90% of the United States have issued laws against it. For more information on state laws visit www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone_laws.html.

Visit www.ny1aap.org to join the pledge and correct the statistic.
There is even an app for that!

**Safelygo**
Safely Go answers your calls and texts so that you can keep your eyes on the road. (Android Only)

- Allows only calls and texts only from your 3 “VIP Contacts” (like your family or boss)
- Tells everyone else you’re on the road and driving safely, through automatic text replies
- Enables calls through your Bluetooth or other hands-free device
- Gives you access only to your top 3 “Driving Apps” (like maps, navigation, or music)

safely.com/products/go/

**Text ’n drive safely**
Listen to your messages and reply with your voice. Available for iPhone, Blackberry, and Android phones.

- Reads emails and SMS out loud (up to 45 words)
- Text-to-speech technology
- No typing required
- Tested on Gmail, Me, Yahoo, Hotmail, AOL & compatible with most mail providers
- Works with any hands-free devices such as speakerphones, Bluetooth headsets or built-in car systems. (Android 2.2+)

textndrive.com/

**Drive safe mode**
This patent-pending app was designed with only one thing in mind—protect our teenage drivers.

- Prevents Texting, Emailing and other distractions while driving
- Blocks within a few seconds of vehicle moving
- Configurable to allow calling parents while driving
- Ability to deliver speed alerts for your vehicle
- Proactive alerting and reporting if user tries to disable

drivesafemode.com

**DriveScribe**
DriveScribe transforms your mobile phone into a personal safe driving coach.

- Makes you aware of traffic regulations to obey, such as when you are approaching a stop sign
- Alerts you when you have made a violation, such as exceeded a speed limit, so that you can slow down
- Incoming message blocker, sending a customizable message to the sender that you are driving
- Auto-starts via motion or Bluetooth pairing so its always active when you’re driving

drivescribe.com

Visit www.ny1aap.org to join the pledge and correct the statistic.