

DRIVERS UNDER 18

Drivers under 18 years of age may NOT use a wireless telephone, pager, laptop, electronic communication, or mobile service device to speak or text message while driving in any manner, even hands-free!

Exception: According to Vehicle Code § 23124, drivers are permitted to call police, fire, or medical authorities in emergency situations.

The prohibition against using a handheld wireless telephone while driving is a PRIMARY violation for which a driver can be pulled over.

The law is strict for provisional drivers because statistics show that teen drivers are more likely to be involved in car accidents because they lack driving experience and tend to take greater risks. Teens are more vulnerable to driving distractions such as talking with passengers, eating or drinking, and talking/texting on wireless phones, which all increase the chance of getting involved in serious accidents.

A parent/guardian may NOT give permission to use a wireless telephone while driving. Again, the only exception is in an emergency situation that requires one to call a law enforcement agency, a health care provider, the fire department, or other emergency entity.

Even if a parent or someone the age 25 years or older is in the car, you may not use your wireless telephone while driving except in the emergency situations stated above.

The law applies to all licensed drivers under 18 years of age, even if one is an emancipated minor.

This restriction will not appear on provisional licenses.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911

For non-emergencies, you may contact the Los Angeles Police Department at 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273) or TTY 1-877-275-5273 for the hearing impaired.

You may also obtain additional crime prevention information by visiting the Los Angeles Police Department's Web site at www.lapdonline.org and click on "CRIME PREVENTION."

Should you have information regarding a criminal investigation or criminal activity, please contact your local police station or Crime Tips at 1-877-LAPD-247 (1-877-527-3247).

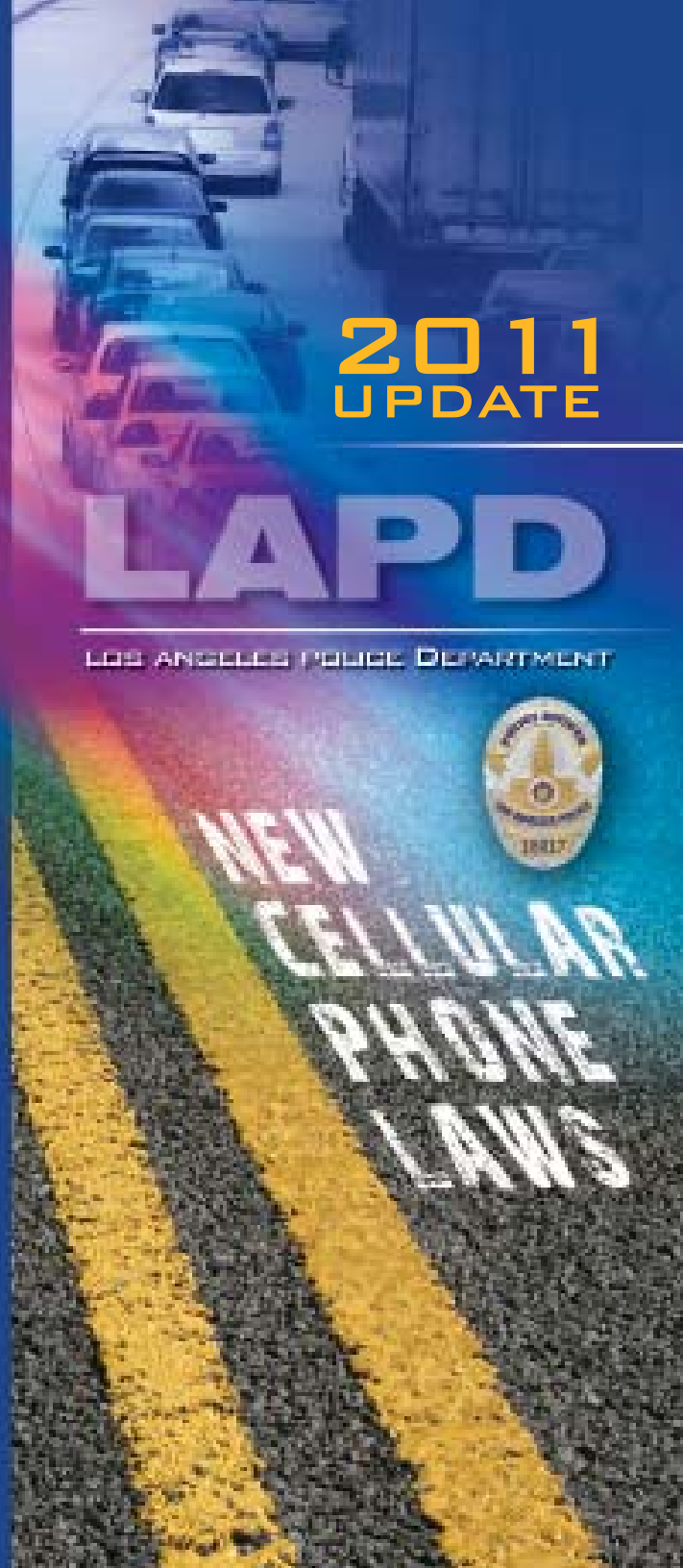


WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG

WWW.JOINLAPD.COM

Los Angeles Police Department
Community Relations Section - Crime Prevention Unit
100 West First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 486-6000

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WIRELESS TELEPHONE LAWS

What is the difference between the laws?

Vehicle Code § 23123 (a): A person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless that telephone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking, and is used in that manner while driving.

Vehicle Code § 23123.5 (a): A person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using a electronic wireless communications device to write, send or read a text based communication.

Vehicle Code § 23124 (b): No person under the age of 18 years shall drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone, even if equipped with a hands-free device, or while using a mobile service device.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THESE NEW LAWS:

- Q:** Can I be pulled over by a law enforcement officer for using my handheld wireless telephone?
- A:** YES. A law enforcement officer can pull you over for just this infraction.



- Q:** Are passengers affected by this law?
- A:** NO. The law only applies to the person driving a motor vehicle.
- Q:** Do these laws apply to out-of-state drivers whose home states do not have such laws?
- A:** YES.
- Q:** Will I receive a point on my driver's license if I'm convicted for a violation of the wireless telephone law?
- A:** NO. The violation is a reportable offense, but the Department of Motor Vehicles will not assign a violation point.
- Q:** Will the conviction appear on my driving record?
- A:** YES. However, the violation point will not be added.
- Q:** What if I need to use my telephone during an emergency and I do not have a hands-free device?
- A:** The law allows a driver to use a wireless telephone to make emergency calls to a law enforcement agency, a medical provider, the fire department, or other emergency service agencies.
- Q:** Can I use my wireless phone's "push-to-talk" feature?
- A:** NO. The law does provide an exception for those operating a commercial motor truck or truck tractor (excluding pickup trucks), implements of husbandry, farm vehicle or tow truck, to use a two-way radio operated by a push-to-talk feature.
- Q:** Can I read a text message while driving my car?
- A:** NO. The law prohibits writing, sending or reading text messages, instant messages or electronic mail.
- Q:** What are the other exceptions?
- A:** Operators of an authorized emergency vehicle during the course of employment are exempt as are those motorists operating a vehicle on private property.

Text based communication is prohibited while operating a motor vehicle.



DRIVERS 18 AND OVER

Drivers who are 18 and over will be allowed to use a hands-free device to talk on their wireless phone while driving. The following facts apply to those motorists 18 and over:

It is legal to use Bluetooth or other earpiece devices; however you cannot have BOTH ears covered.

The new law does not prohibit "dialing" from a wireless telephone, but drivers are strongly urged not to dial while driving.

The new hands-free law allows the use of the "speaker" phone function while driving.

Text based communication is prohibited while operating a motor vehicle.

