



**HANDS FREE**  
★ T E N N E S S E E ★

# WHAT IS the Tennessee Hands Free Law?

**Public Chapter No. 412** makes it illegal for a driver to:

- (a) hold a cellphone or mobile device with any part of their body,
- (b) write, send, or read any text-based communication,
- (c) reach for a cellphone or mobile device in a manner that requires the driver to no longer be in a seated driving position or properly restrained by a seat belt,
- (d) watch a video or movie on a cellphone or mobile device, and
- (e) record or broadcast video on a cellphone or mobile device.

## NEW STATE LAW EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019

### ? Can I still talk on my cellphone while driving?

A driver is permitted to use an earpiece, headphone device, or device worn on a wrist to conduct voice-based communication. The driver may use one (1) button on a cell phone or mobile device to initiate or terminate voice communication. Voice-based communication may also be used to send a text message.

### ? Can I use my cellphone while driving in the case of an emergency?

A driver is permitted to use a cellphone or other wireless telecommunications device to communicate with law enforcement agencies, medical providers, fire departments, or other emergency service agencies while driving a motor vehicle, if the use is necessitated by a bona fide emergency, including a natural or human occurrence that threatens human health, life, or property.

### ? Can I drive and stream music from my cellphone while using a hands-free device?

A driver is permitted to listen to streaming music that does not include videos on the screen of the cellphone or mobile device. However, the driver cannot touch the cellphone to activate or program music while driving.