



Cell Phones

Driving and the law — know the facts

- Using a cell phone while driving is against the law in Wisconsin for any driver with a probationary license or instruction permit, except to report an emergency.
- The law applies to all drivers with a probationary license or instruction permit, not just those under the age of 18.
- The law applies to handheld and hands-free operation of a cell phone.
- Cell phone use, whether or not it is hands-free, increases crash risk.
- Cell phone law can be primary enforcement (the only reason for the stop) but often will be secondary, when the driver is stopped for another violation.

Breaking the law will cost you — time, money and safety

- Breaking the law results in a four-point Inattentive Driving ticket and a fine. Worse, you may crash into something or someone.
- If a ticketed driver has a probationary license, is under GDL restrictions and it is the only ticket they have received, their **GDL restrictions will be extended six months.**
- If a ticketed driver has an instruction permit, they must wait **six months from the date of violation** to be eligible for a probationary license.
- If it is a second or subsequent ticket and the driver has a probationary license or instruction permit, demerit points double.

Avoid a costly ticket and Stay Safe

- Turn off your phone or switch to silent mode
- Use voice mail to tell callers that you are driving and will return the call as soon as possible.
- If you must use your cell phone, pull over and stop in a safe area.
- Or ask a passenger to call or text for you.

Texting while driving is against the law
for **ALL** drivers in Wisconsin.

