

DISTRACTED DRIVING FAQs



The goal of the ICJI distracted-driving campaign is to provide resources that educate and warn Hoosiers about the dangers of driving while distracted. To learn more about what you can and can't do when driving and how to keep others safe, read through our frequently asked questions.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT OTHERS AGAINST DISTRACTED DRIVING?

Speak up against distracted driving and encourage others to be safe.

IS IT ILLEGAL TO TEXT WHILE DRIVING IN INDIANA?

Yes, it's illegal to use a phone, unless it is hands-free. Holding a phone while driving is also prohibited, even at red lights.

IS IT OKAY TO USE OTHER DEVICES WHILE DRIVING?

No, Indiana law prohibits using any telecommunications device while operating a vehicle.

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING THE HANDS-FREE LAW?

Penalties can include fines up to \$500, additional points on your driver's license and a citation for a Class C misdemeanor.

AM I ALLOWED TO USE GPS OR A MAPS APP WHILE DRIVING?

Yes, but it must be used hands-free to ensure it doesn't interfere with your driving.

HOW MUCH DOES TEXTING AND DRIVING REALLY DISTRACT ME FROM THE ROAD?

It takes an average of 5 seconds to send a text. At 55 miles per hour, this would mean you have taken your eyes off the road for the length of a full football field.

ARE THERE APPS I CAN USE TO HELP PREVENT ME FROM DRIVING DISTRACTED?

Yes, there are many apps available that can block notifications on your phone, so you are not tempted to look. Some include Lifesaver, DriveMode, Safedrive and OnMyWay.

HOW CAN I AVOID DISTRACTIONS WHILE I AM DRIVING?

The best way to avoid distractions is to make sure you are fully focused on the road and keeping your phone out of reach.

WHAT CAN I DO TO EDUCATE MY CHILDREN ABOUT DISTRACTED DRIVING?

ICJI has resources available that can explain the dangers of distracted driving. We also encourage you to educate children about the dangers of distracted driving and to always set a good example.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM A PASSENGER OF SOMEONE WHO IS DRIVING DISTRACTED?

You should ask them to keep their eyes on the road and warn them about the dangers and punishments related to distracted driving.

