

Arlington Heights Police Department

Traffic Law Update



625 ILCS 5/12-610.2 Electronic Communication Devices

The Illinois Vehicle Code (IVC) prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device. Prohibited use also includes composing, sending, or reading an electronic message.

Electronic Communication Device: Includes but is not limited to a hand-held wireless telephone, hand-held personal digital assistant, or a portable or mobile computer, but does not include a GPS or navigation system or a device that is physically or electronically integrated into the motor vehicle.

This section **does not apply** to a driver using an electronic communication device:

- For the sole purpose of reporting an emergency situation and continued communication with emergency personnel during the emergency situation.
- While parked on the shoulder of a roadway.
- When the vehicle is stopped due to normal traffic being obstructed and the driver has the motor vehicle transmission in neutral or park.
- In hands-free or voice-operated mode, which may include the use of a headset.
- By pressing a single button to initiate or terminate a voice communication.

Complimentary sections of the IVC continue to prohibit the use of an electronic communication device in school and highway construction or maintenance speed zones as well as by those drivers possessing an Illinois Graduated Driver's License. Please refer to 625 ILCS 5/12-610.1 for specific exceptions to this section.

A violation of this Section may be considered an offense against traffic regulations governing the movement of vehicles subjecting the driver to fines, court supervision, traffic safety school or a combination of sanctions. Increased penalties ranging from misdemeanors to felonies apply if such use contributes to a traffic crash resulting in great bodily harm, permanent disability, disfigurement, or death.

For more information regarding traffic laws and traffic enforcement programming please contact the Arlington Heights Police Department's Traffic Bureau at 847-368-5300