

Town of Manchester, Connecticut Distracted Driving/Cell Phone Policy

Conn. State Statute 14-296 aa states:

"No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway while using a hand-held mobile telephone to engage in a call or while using a mobile electronic device while such vehicle is in motion. An operator of a motor vehicle who types, sends or reads a text message with a hand-held mobile telephone or mobile electronic device while such vehicle is in motion shall be in violation of this section. An operator of a motor vehicle who holds a hand-held mobile telephone to, or in the immediate proximity of, his or her ear while such vehicle is in motion is presumed to be engaging in a call within the meaning of this section." As specified in section (B)(b) of this statute, this does not apply to police or firefighters while performing their official duties and within the scope of their employment.

Texting, talking on a cell phone (unless hands-free), using a computer or other entertainment devices is prohibited while driving or using motorized equipment. Both Town-issued and personal devices are covered by this policy while an employee is on Town time.

Should the use of a cell phone be required, employees should pull off the road into a safe location and park the vehicle to make or receive a call. Employees are encouraged to allow cell phone calls to go to voice mail and return calls when they reach their destination. GPS devices should be programmed prior to travel and only when the car is stopped.

In addition, while conducting business on behalf of the Town, the following applies:

- The driver must abide by all Federal, State and local motor vehicle regulations, laws and ordinances. The driver must be a licensed motorist.

- The driver must not operate a vehicle at any time when his/her ability to do so is impaired and/or influenced by alcohol, illegal drugs, prescribed or over-the-counter medication.

Violators of the policy may be subject to disciplinary action.