



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • Thomas P. Charles, Director
www.publicsafety.ohio.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 30, 2012

Contact: Kristen Castle, Public Information Officer, 614-728-4623
Lt. Anne Ralston, Public Affairs Unit, 614-752-2792

Texting Ban Effective Friday, Aug. 31

Use of mobile device illegal if under the age of 18

(COLUMBUS) – As of tomorrow, Aug. 31, it will be illegal to use any mobile communications device while driving in Ohio if you are under the age of 18. This means no texting, e-mailing, cell phone calls, video games, iPad/tablet or handheld GPS use while driving, even when sitting at a light or in a traffic jam.

There is a six-month warning period during which no enforcement will be taken. After that date, enforcement action begins. This is a primary offense, which means it is the only reason police need to pull you over. First violation is a \$150 fine and driver license suspension for 60 days. Second violation is a \$300 fine and license suspension for one year. Exceptions include pre-programmed GPS or emergency calls to police, ambulance, or fire department.

The law prohibits adults from writing, sending or reading a text-based message from behind the wheel of a car. For any person 18 and over, this is a secondary offense and a minor misdemeanor.

For more information, please visit: http://bmv.ohio.gov/texting_ban.stm .

###

ODPS works to reduce deaths and injuries on Ohio's roads through the coordinated efforts of all of its Divisions. The Ohio Investigative Unit enforces liquor, tobacco and food stamp laws in liquor permit premises and the Ohio State Highway Patrol enforces traffic laws. OCJS serves as the lead justice planning and assistance agency for the state. Through research, technology and grants, OCJS serves a wide variety of agencies committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio. OCJS coordinates and funds the efforts of DUI Task Forces and grants for local law enforcement and safety partners to combat impaired and unsafe driving and promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and campaigns focused on highway safety.