

# Hands - Free Georgia Act Quick Guide

Effective July 1 , 2018





## What Exactly is the Hands-Free Georgia Act?

The Hands - Free Georgia Act is designed to save lives due to the rising number of vehicle accidents caused by distracted drivers throughout the state.









### **YOU MUST HAVE A HANDS - FREE ACCESSORY**

This law prohibits drivers from using, holding, or supporting the phone in their hand or another part of their body.

## What Is a Driver Prohibited from Doing?

-  Hold or support a wireless telecommunication device **(including a cell phone or GPS)** with any part of your body.
-  Write, send, or read any text - based communication unless it's a voice - based communication that automatically converts to text.
-  Watch videos except for the purpose of navigation.
-  Record a video **(including Skype and FaceTime)**.

## What Is a Driver Allowed to Do?

-  Use a GPS system or mapping app **(ie. Google)**, but cannot access the app, such as to change the address while driving.
-  Use music streaming apps like Spotify, but cannot touch their phone to skip, start or stop the app while driving.
-  Speak or text while using hands - free technology.
-  Wearing and using a smart watch.
-  Use a radio, emergency devices or "in-vehicle security, navigation or remote diagnostics" systems.
-  Begin and end a phone call using **one** button.
-  Use a voice-to-text device to send text messages or other text-based communication.
-  Use an electronic device while legally parked **(not at a stoplight - "lawfully" means off or beside the road in an area open to parking)**.



## Types of Hands - Free Devices

Speakerphone  
Earpiece  
Bluetooth Device  
Smart Watch

## Penalties

**1st Offense:** \$50 fine + 1 point on drivers license

**2nd Offense** (within a 24 - month period):  
\$100 fine + 2 points on drivers license

**3rd Offense** (within a 24 - month period):  
\$150 fine + 3 points on driver license

\*Any further infractions may lead to a driver's license suspension.

## Emergency Use Only

**Drivers can use their devices during emergencies to:**

- Report a traffic incident
- Report a medical emergency
- Report a fire
- Report a crime
- Report hazardous road conditions

## How We Can Help?

State and local law enforcement advise the purchase and use of a hands-free device if using a mobile phone while driving. Most of our new vehicles come with a device installed and can also be installed cheaply on those that do not.

Schedule a hands-free technology installation appointment by calling **(770)-587-2000**.