



Ontario Laws Soon to Ban Cell Phones and other Hand Held Devices While Driving

Ontario's Bill 118, The Countering Distracted Driving and Promoting Green Transportation Act, 2009 will come into force on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, which is expected to be in October of 2009.

Once the new law is in place, drivers who text, type, email, dial or chat using any hand-held device will face fines of up to \$500 upon conviction. Hands-free use will still be permitted.

Using cell phones and other handheld devices while driving create a safety hazard for both the user and other vehicles on the roads. Many accidents are the result of one of the drivers using a cell phone or other handheld device while driving. People who are not paying full attention to their driving could be charged with careless driving – a serious Charge, especially if you are involved in an accident. A conviction for careless driving could carry a fine up to \$1,000 and/or a six month's jail sentence. 6 Demerit Points are given for a conviction of careless driving Your driver's licence could be suspended for up to two years.

Cell phones and other handheld devices are good for emergency situations, but you must use them safely. For example, if you need to use your cell phone, pull over to the side of the road where it is safe to do so. Keep your calls brief.

To avoid cell phone interruptions while driving, consider the following tips:

1. Turn you cell phone off while driving.
2. Allow you cell phone calls to go to the answering machine.
3. Give your cell phone to a passenger so you won't be interrupted.

Safety on the road is the responsibility of all drivers. Be responsible – don't use your cell phone or other handheld devices while driving!

For more information about the new Cell Phone and Electronic Devices laws that are coming into effect in the Fall of 2009, contact David Chatten of D.C. Paralegal Services by calling 1-888-668-9267 or email your questions to info@dclegal.net.