

## Nevada Texting While Driving Ban Starts October 1

In the past, this blog has detailed episodes of [motor vehicle accidents](#) caused by drivers who were talking or texting on their handheld cell phones. But in the future, these people will not only have to deal with the hassles surrounding a collision - they'll face a criminal citation as well.

[Starting tomorrow](#) across the state of Nevada, using handheld cell phones to talk, text, or perform any other function will be prohibited while driving a vehicle. However, law enforcement personnel will only issue warnings for these infractions throughout the remainder of 2011. Starting next year, drivers who violate the handheld cell phone ban face a \$50 fine, which will double if the individual is ticketed for a second violation. The third offense carries a \$250 fine. Drivers will be permitted to use hands-free devices to make cellular calls.

Over the past five years, more than five dozen people have been killed in wrecks on Nevada roads that involved a driver fiddling with a handheld electronic device. Experts say that texting while driving is equivalent to the effect that a blood alcohol content of .08 (the legal limit for intoxication in Nevada) has on a person's driving skills.

Distracted driving caused by handheld cell phone use has been a factor in many Las Vegas [auto accidents](#). But now that the practice is banned by law, it will be much easier for people who were victimized in a motor vehicle collision to obtain compensation for their injuries or property damage through a personal injury lawsuit. That's because a driver who violates the law and gets involved in a crash is usually the party who is found completely or partially responsible for the accident - and the consequences that it causes.