

New Laws for 2010

January 1st, 2010 brought about a few new laws regarding cell phone use in **school zones** and **construction zones**. It is now unlawful for anyone to use their cell phone while driving through these zones, *unless* the driver of the vehicle is using a **hands free device** (i.e. the speaker feature on the phone, Bluetooth device, etc.) *or* the driver is reporting an emergency to 911. The parking lots of schools are considered part of the school zones. If you are waiting for someone and your vehicle is parked in the parking lot, you may use your cell phone in the traditional manner.

This law can be found in the Illinois Vehicle Code book: 625 ILCS 5/12-610.1

Also, effective January 1st, 2010 a person can no longer **send or read electronic messages** while driving a vehicle. This includes **text messages, personal digital assistant (PDA) or portable/mobile computers**. This ***does not apply*** to a person reporting an emergency to 911, using the device in a hands free mode, a driver parked on the shoulder/ side of the road, or use of a global positioning system (GPS). If a person is stopped due to normal traffic congestion (i.e. stopped by a train) a driver may check their electronic messages, but the vehicle ***must be stopped and shifted into park or neutral gears***. This law **applies to all roadways in Illinois**.

This law can be found in the Illinois Vehicle Code book: 625 ILCS 5/12-610.2 new

Fines for these laws can range up to \$750.00 plus court costs (\$144.00)

Please call the New Lenox Police Department at 815-462-6100.