

# Legal Ramifications of Driving While Using a Hands-Free Device in Louisiana

OPELOUSAS, LA, UNITED STATES, March 21, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The use of hands-free devices while driving is often promoted as a safer alternative to handheld phone use, but legal and safety concerns remain. Louisiana law prohibits the use of handheld devices for texting, calling, or other activities while driving, encouraging the use of hands-free technology instead. However, the legal implications of driving while using a hands-free device can still lead to liability in the event of an accident.

Louisiana Revised Statutes prohibit distracted driving, with laws specifically targeting texting and the use of handheld devices. Hands-free devices, including Bluetooth headsets, in-car voice-command systems, and speakerphone functions, are legal for use by most drivers. However, drivers under the age of 18 and school bus operators are prohibited from using any type of mobile device while driving, including hands-free options.



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*William P. Morrow*

Despite legal allowances for hands-free use, studies have shown that cognitive distraction remains a risk. Drivers engaged in voice-to-text messaging, phone calls, or other activities requiring mental attention may experience slower reaction times, reduced situational awareness, and an increased likelihood of missing traffic signals or hazards.

[William P. Morrow](#), an attorney at [Morrow Law Firm](#) in

Opelousas, Louisiana, commented on the legal complexities surrounding hands-free device

use:

“While Louisiana law permits hands-free device use for most drivers, liability can still arise in the event of an accident. If distracted driving is a factor, even with a hands-free system, responsibility may fall on the driver for failing to maintain full attention on the road. Legal claims may examine whether a driver’s cognitive distraction contributed to negligent or reckless behavior.”

Determining fault in accidents involving hands-free device use depends on several factors, including the circumstances leading up to the crash and whether the driver was engaged in a distracting activity at the time. Louisiana follows a comparative fault system, meaning that multiple parties may share responsibility for an accident. If evidence shows that a driver’s attention was diverted, liability may be assigned based on the degree of distraction.

In personal injury claims, plaintiffs may seek damages by demonstrating that the use of a hands-free device contributed to negligent driving. Evidence such as phone records, vehicle data logs, and witness statements may be used to establish whether a driver was engaged in a call or other distraction at the time of impact.

Insurance companies may also consider hands-free device use when determining fault and coverage. If an insurer determines that distraction played a role in an accident, claims may be disputed, and coverage may be affected. Employers who require workers to use hands-free communication while driving could also face liability if an accident occurs during work-related travel.

Louisiana law includes provisions for increased penalties in cases where distracted driving results in serious injury or death. Enhanced fines and potential criminal charges may apply in cases involving reckless or negligent behavior, even if the driver was using a legal hands-free device.

As technology continues to evolve, state legislators may reexamine distracted driving laws to address emerging concerns. Some states have moved toward stricter regulations on hands-free use, recognizing that cognitive distraction poses risks even without physical device interaction. Future legal developments may refine definitions of distracted driving and expand liability considerations for drivers involved in accidents while using hands-free technology.

Morrow Law Firm, led by William P. Morrow, John Michael Morrow, Jr., and Stephen M. Morrow, continues to monitor legal trends surrounding distracted driving and motor vehicle liability in Louisiana. As case law develops, drivers, insurers, and businesses may need to adjust their policies and practices to account for legal risks associated with hands-free device use.

For further information on legal considerations related to distracted driving and liability, legal professionals familiar with Louisiana traffic and negligence laws can provide guidance on current regulations and potential legal consequences.

## About Morrow Law Firm

Morrow Law Firm is based in Opelousas, Louisiana, and focuses on workplace injury and personal injury cases. The firm is led by William P. Morrow, John Michael Morrow, Jr., and Stephen M. Morrow, representing clients in legal matters across Louisiana.

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