

MARYLAND CELL PHONE LAW

TR 21-1124.2 Cell Phone Use Ban

Effective October 1, 2013, Maryland's cell phone law now prohibits a driver from using a cell phone while a motor vehicle is in motion.

WHO IS COVERED BY THE LAW?

Law enforcement officers can stop a driver solely for using a cell phone – no other offense is needed.

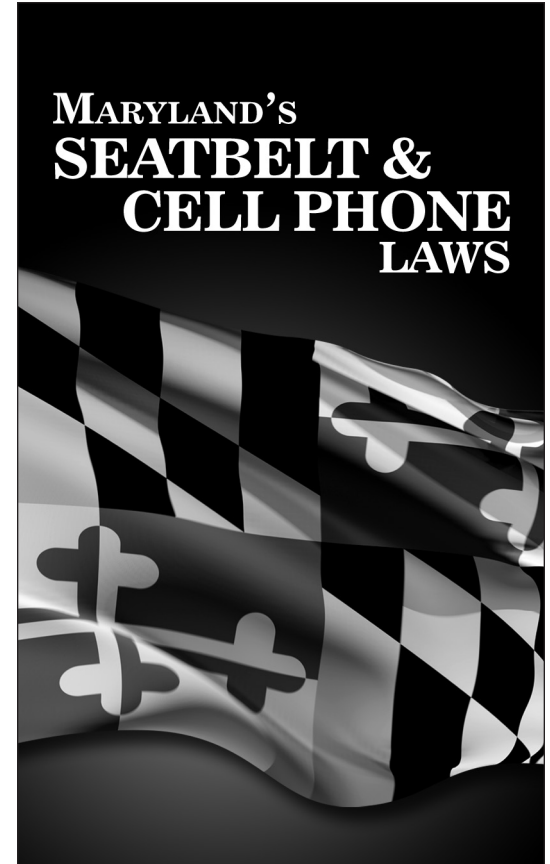
Drivers will receive a fine of up to:

- \$ 75 – first offense
- \$ 125 – second offense
- \$ 175 – third & subsequent offense

WHY ENFORCE THE CELL PHONE LAW?

- Distracted driving is a deadly epidemic on Maryland roadways.
- Talking on a cell phone or texting is the number one source of driver distraction.
- Nationally, 80 percent of vehicle crashes involve some sort of driver inattention.
- On average, more than 30,000 people in Maryland are injured annually as a result of distracted driving crashes.
- Encourage motorists to:
 - Park the Phone
 - Ride Responsibly
 - Drive Defensively

Maryland Highway Safety Office
410-787-4050



MARYLAND SEAT BELT LAW

TR 22-412.3 Mandatory Seat Belt Use

Effective October 1, 2013 Maryland has a **primary seat belt law for front seat occupants AND a secondary seat belt law for back seat occupants**. Tickets can be issued to drivers and front seat passengers even if no other violation is observed.

MARYLAND'S CHILD RESTRAINT LAW

TR 22-412.2 Child Safety Seats

A person transporting a child under the age of 8 years in a motor vehicle shall secure the child in a child safety seat* in accordance with the child safety seat and vehicle manufacturers' instructions unless the child is 4 feet, 9 inches tall or taller.

TR 21-1121 Children in Rear of Pickup Trucks

A child younger than 16 years may not ride in the unenclosed cargo bed of a pickup truck.

**Includes infant, convertible, combination, forward-facing and booster seats, or other safety devices federally approved to restrain, seat or position a child who is transported in a motor vehicle.*

WHO IS COVERED BY THE LAW?

The primary law covers an unrestrained driver and/or passenger in the front outboard seating position.

The secondary law covers an unrestrained passenger in any rear seating position.

Each person that is not buckled up (driver and passenger) may receive a ticket of up to \$50 for not wearing a seatbelt.

In the case where neither the driver nor any passenger 15 years of age or younger are buckled up, the driver will receive a ticket for both. A \$50 adult seat belt ticket for the driver and a \$50 ticket for the passenger (15 years of age or younger).

Maryland's seat belt law is applicable to vehicles registered both in-state and out-of-state.

WHY ENFORCE MARYLAND'S SEAT BELT LAW:

- Seat belts save lives – that's an indisputable fact.
- It's a lot less painful to issue a ticket than to make a death notification.
- On average, more than 2,000 unbelted occupants are injured each year.
- Unbelted motor vehicle occupants represent close to five percent of those injured in crashes statewide.
- When a driver is unbelted, 70 percent of the time, children in that vehicle will not be belted either. Adults who don't buckle up are sending a deadly message to children that it's okay not to use seat belts.
- For some people, it is the threat of the ticket that spurs them to put on a safety belt.
- This enforcement effort is not about writing tickets, it's about **SAVING LIVES**