

**CITY OF NORMAN  
ORDINANCE O-2526-41**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN AMENDING  
SECTION 32-509 TO INCLUDE PROHIBITING THE USE OF HANDHELD  
ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE IN  
DESIGNATED SCHOOL ZONES AND ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION WORK  
ZONES.**

**WHEREAS**, distracted driving is a serious issue that leads to crashes, and injury to construction workers, school children and school crossing guards; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent state law, Oklahoma House Bill 2263, that took effect on November 1, 2025, addresses the safety concerns of construction workers, school children and school crossing guards; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 2263 prohibits the use of handheld electronic devices, tablets, or similar devices within a marked school zone and during posted hours or an active construction zone where workers are present; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption of this ordinance ensures the City's municipal code remains consistent with state law.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Norman, in the State of Oklahoma, as follows:

**SECTION 1:**        **AMENDMENT** “32-509 Unlawful Operation Of A Motor Vehicle While Texting” of the City of Norman Municipal Code is hereby *amended* as follows:

**BEFORE AMENDMENT**

32-509 Unlawful Operation Of A Motor Vehicle While Texting

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle on any street or highway within the State while using a hand-held electronic communication device to manually compose, send or read an electronic text message while the motor vehicle is in motion.
- (b) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.00.
- (c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply if the person is using the cellular telephone or electronic communication device for the sole purpose of communicating with any of the following regarding an imminent emergency situation:
  - (1) An emergency response operator;
  - (2) A hospital, physician's office or health clinic;
  - (3) A provider of ambulance services;

- (4) A provider of firefighting services; or
  - (5) A law enforcement agency.
- (d) For the purpose of this section:
- (1) Cellular telephone means an analog or digital wireless telephone authorized by the Federal Communications Commission to operate in the frequency bandwidth reserved for cellular telephones;
  - (2) Compose, send or read with respect to a text message means the manual entry, sending or retrieval of a text message to communicate with any person or device;
  - (3) The term "electronic communication device" means an electronic device that permits the user to manually transmit a communication of written text by means other than through an oral transfer or wire communication. This term "electronic communication device" does not include a device that is physically or electronically integrated into a motor vehicle or a voice-operated global positioning or navigation system that is affixed to a motor vehicle, or a hands-free device that allows the user to write, send or read a text message without the use of either hand except to activate, deactivate or initiate a feature or function; and
  - (4) Text message includes a text-based message, instant message, electronic message, photo, video or electronic mail.

(Code 1976, § 20-609; Ord. No. O-1516-13, § 4)

#### AFTER AMENDMENT

#### 32-509 ~~Unlawful Operation Of A Motor Vehicle~~ Prohibited Use of an Electronic Device While Texting Driving

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle on any street or highway within the ~~State~~ City while using a hand-held electronic communication device to manually compose, send or read an electronic text message while the motor vehicle is in motion.
- (b) Where any portion of a road, street, or highway is a properly marked school zone, as indicated with appropriate warning signs placed in accordance with the latest edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and a reduced speed limit is properly posted that is in effect during certain times due to the presence or potential presence of school children, or in a road construction zone, and while a motor vehicle is in motion, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle on any street or highway within the City while:
  - (1) Using a hand-held electronic communication device or cellular telephone to manually compose, send, or read an electronic text message; or
  - (2) Holding or using a hand-held cellular telephone.
- (c) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall, upon conviction, be punished by a total fine and court costs of not more than \$100.00.
- (d) The provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall not apply if the person is

using the cellular telephone or electronic communication device for the sole purpose of communicating with any of the following regarding an imminent emergency situation:

- (1) An emergency response operator;
- (2) A hospital, physician's office or health clinic;
- (3) A provider of ambulance services;
- (4) A provider of firefighting services; or
- (5) A law enforcement agency.

(e) For the purpose of this section:

- (1) Cellular telephone means an analog or digital wireless telephone authorized by the Federal Communications Commission to operate in the frequency bandwidth reserved for cellular telephones;
- (2) Compose, send or read with respect to a text message means the manual entry, sending or retrieval of a text message to communicate with any person or device;
- (3) The term "electronic communication device" means an electronic device that permits the user to manually transmit a communication of written text by means other than through an oral transfer or wire communication. This term "electronic communication device" does not include a device that is physically or electronically integrated into a motor vehicle or a voice-operated global positioning or navigation system that is affixed to a motor vehicle, or a hands-free or voice-operated device that allows the user to write, send or read a text message without the use of either hand except to activate, deactivate or initiate a feature or function; an ignition interlock device that has been installed on a motor vehicle; or amateur radio use or operation; and
- (4) Text message includes a text-based message, instant message, electronic message, photo, video or electronic mail.

(f) A law enforcement officer shall not, without the consent of the person:

- (1) Confiscate a cellular telephone or electronic communication device for the purpose of determining compliance with this section;
- (2) Confiscate a cellular telephone or electronic communication device and retain it as evidence pending trial for a violation of this section; or
- (3) Extract or otherwise download information from a cellular telephone or electronic communication device for a violation of this section unless:
  - a. the law enforcement officer has probably cause to believe that the cellular telephone or electronic communication device has been used in the commission of a crime;
  - b. the information is extracted or otherwise downloaded under a valid search warrant; or
  - c. otherwise authorized by law.

(Code 1976, § 20-609; Ord. No. O-1516-13, § 4)

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF NORMAN CITY COUNCIL

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**AYE**

**NAY**

**ABSENT**

**ABSTAIN**

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Presiding Officer

Attest

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Stephen T. Holman, Mayor, City of  
Norman

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Jamie Meyer, City Clerk, City of  
Norman