

Stop Using Your Smartphone, Cellphone, etc., While Driving!

1 The Danger of Using Your Smartphone, Cellphone, etc., While Driving

Smartphones and cellphones allow us to surf the Internet, send and receive email, play games and do other things in addition to their telephone function, and they have become crucial to our daily lives thanks to their highly convenient functions.

On the other hand, the number of traffic accidents caused by drivers looking at their smartphones and other devices while driving has been rising and so-called "texting while driving" has become a social issue.

Looking at or talking on your smartphone or other device while driving, along with looking at devices such as car navigation equipment, will cause you to focus your attention on the screens of these devices. This is extremely dangerous as it prevents you from detecting danger around you and may lead you to cause a serious traffic accident, including crashing into pedestrians and other cars. Therefore, do not commit such an act under any circumstances.

If it is absolutely necessary to use your cellphone, including your smartphone, while driving, please use it after stopping your car at a safe place.

2 Punishments, etc.

(1) Using cellphones, etc. (causing a traffic hazard)

Punishment: Imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than 300,000 yen

Penalties: N/A

Penalty points: 6 pts.

(2) Using cellphones, etc. (holding them in the hand)

Punishment: Imprisonment for not more than 6 months or a fine of not more than 100,000 yen

Penalties: 25,000 yen for oversized motor vehicles, 18,000 yen for standard motor vehicles, 15,000 yen for motorcycles, and 12,000 yen for motorized bicycles

Penalty points: 3 pts.