

**Kill the
conversation....
Not yourself!**



Dying to take that call?



Safety & Courtesy Code for Mobile Phone Users

Having a mobile phone available in a car can be a great help in an emergency and provides security and reassurance for the driver. The very latest phones include cameras, satellite navigation and many other facilities that may benefit drivers.

However, **it is illegal and dangerous to use a hand-held mobile phone when you are driving.**

- Drivers found guilty of the offence, may receive a **£60 fixed penalty fine plus three penalty points** on their licence. Penalty points can also mean higher insurance costs.
- In some circumstances a police officer could consider that the offence was so blatant or

protracted that the case may be requested to go to court where the **maximum fine could be as high as £1,000.** (£2,500 if the vehicle is a lorry, bus or coach.)

- In addition if the use of a phone was considered an aggravating factor in a road crash a **more serious charge of careless or even dangerous driving** could be brought. This could also apply to the use of a hands-free phone.

Research shows using a mobile phone while driving can make you **four times more likely to have a crash.** Reaction times for drivers using a hand-held phone are 50% worse than when driving normally.

Switch off before you drive off

When driving use voicemail or message service so you can pick up messages later.

- Only use your phone after you have stopped in a safe place.
- Never stop on the hard shoulder of a motorway except in an emergency.
- Avoid making or receiving calls even on a hands-free phone while driving. These can be just as distracting.

Outside the car, there are still some important 'rules' to consider. Here are some basic do's and don'ts supported by GEM Motoring Assist and The Campaign for Courtesy.

Courtesy Code for Mobile Phone Use

When you are around people or in sensitive places if you cannot turn your phone off always put it on to silent mode. Such places include:

- meetings, conferences, theatres, restaurants, cinemas, libraries, museums, art galleries, dentist's/doctor's waiting areas, hospitals, cemeteries or places of worship.

Mobile phones are now very sophisticated pieces of equipment with sensitive microphones so keep your voice down!

- Shouting your communication is not necessary and when possible shield your phone with your free hand to reduce noise pollution to others.
- Be especially careful to speak quietly in public spaces such as on buses or trains.



- If possible text or e-mail your communication to avoid speech which may disturb others.
- Never leave your mobile phone on a table or desk at a meeting or in a restaurant when it is switched to 'vibrate' mode as this can also cause a noisy interruption to others.
- If your phone includes electronic games switch off the sound as it can disturb others.
- Never hold a telephone conversation while trying to carry out another task with someone else. It is especially rude to expect a shop or bank assistant or ticket collector to deal with you while you converse on the phone.



The National Campaign for Courtesy is a registered charity that aims to restore decency and good manners to all aspects of society including behaviour on the roads. To find out how to support the campaign visit www.campaignforcourtesy.org.uk or call 0208 330 3707.

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