



## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **HANDS FREE LAW STARTS TODAY**

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – (July 01, 2019) Putnam County Sheriff Eddie Farris and District Attorney General Bryant Dunaway want to remind everyone that the new hands free law will be in effect starting today. The new law was enacted in an effort to minimize distracted driving collisions/crashes and help make Tennessee roads safer.

Drivers CANNOT:

- Hold their cell phones in their hands or with any part of their body (ex: holding a phone between the shoulder and head)
- Write, send or read any text-based communication
- Reach for a cellphone or mobile device in a manner that requires the driver to no longer be in a seated driving position or properly restrained by a seat belt
- Watch videos of any kind (Youtube, Instagram, Snapchat, movies, television, etc.)
- Record or broadcast video

Violation of the new law is a Class C misdemeanor moving traffic violation. Fines can be as high as \$200. The only exception to the rule for citizens is if they are on the phone to first responders in an emergency.

Drivers are encouraged to utilize hands free devices and pull over if they need to take a call or read/respond to any text-based messages. For more information on the new law, its penalties and exceptions visit [HandsFreeTN.com](http://HandsFreeTN.com)

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**Media contact:**

Laura Hull, PIO  
[sheriffpio@putnamcountyttn.gov](mailto:sheriffpio@putnamcountyttn.gov)

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