

Voice of Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church Cell Phone Use / Texting While Driving Policy March 1, 2020

Background

Cell phone users are four (4) times more likely to be involved in a crash. It is well-documented that a driver's visual, manual, and cognitive abilities are dangerously impaired while driving. On November 1, 2015, the "Distracted Driver Law" went into effect in the state of Oklahoma banning texting and driving. Under this law, drivers can be pulled over and given a \$100 ticket when observed texting and driving, even if no other traffic laws were violated.

Policy

At Voice of Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church, we deeply value the safety and well-being of all members. Therefore, Voice of Hope SDA Church bans ministry drivers from talking or texting on their cell phones while driving, whether handheld or hands-free devices. Ministry drivers are required to pull into a safe area (i.e. rest area or parking lot) and stop the vehicle before placing or accepting cell phone calls or texting.

Ministry drivers include drivers of any church-owned, leased or rented vehicles and personal vehicles used for Voice of Hope SDA Church business, communion, or other evangelistic activities.

The only exceptions to this rule are to obtain emergency assistance, report emergencies, hazards or crimes and report that a person's life or safety is in danger.

Noncompliance of this policy by ministry drivers will result in church-appointed leader corrective action including potential dismissal as a ministry driver.

This policy will be reviewed by the Church board every (2) years and when deemed necessary

