

Distracted Driving Stats

1 in 4

accidents each day in the United States are caused by distracted driving.



Sending or reading a text causes drivers, on average, to take their eyes off the road for 5 seconds. When driving at 55 miles per hour, that means that drivers travel approximately the length of a football field with their eyes closed.



Drive Smart South Coast Collaborating Partners

New Bedford Police Department
Fairhaven Police Department
Dartmouth Police Department
Acushnet Police Department
Fall River Police Department
Arbella Insurance Foundation
Tomlinson O'Neil Insurance Agency
Adao Auto Group
South Coast Towing
Southcoast Health
Townsquare Media
Martin Auto School
Big Wheel Towing



Officer Information

Officer Name:

Police Department:

Phone Number & Email

Connect with us

For more information feel free to reach out to the contacts listed below.

Our Main Office is Located at P.A.A.C.A,
360 Coggeshall Street, New Bedford, MA 02746
Call: 508.979.1580
Email: Elisascyc@gmail.com

Our Fall River Office is Located at FRPD,
685 Pleasant Street - Fall River, MA 02721
Call: 508.676.8511 Ext. 4554
Email: Tswanbell77@gmail.com

Southcoastyouthcourts.org

Drive Smart South Coast

*A diversion program for
junior operators.*

Drive Safe! Drive Smart!

"Every time I make it home safe, I'm thankful for all the responsible drivers on the road."

~ Henry, 26

Do you know the law about your phone?

MA Law Chapter 90 Section 8M

Use of mobile telephone, hands-free mobile telephone or mobile electronic device by person under 18 years of age while operating motor vehicle is prohibited; penalties; affirmative defenses

Do you know the penalties for using your phone while driving as a juvenile?

A junior operator who violates the preceding paragraph shall be punished by a fine of \$100 and shall have their license or permit suspended for 60 days for a first offense and shall not be eligible for license reinstatement until they also complete a program selected by the registrar that encourages attitudinal changes in young drivers.

For a second offense, by a fine of \$250 and shall have their license or permit suspended for 180 days; and for a third or subsequent offense by a fine of \$500 and shall have their license or permit suspended for 1 year.

Our Approach

ENFORCEMENT

Local law enforcement are holding people accountable for putting the community at risk because of distracted and reckless driving.

EDUCATION AND DIVERSION

Youth Courts partnership with law enforcement and the community is providing information and education about how to reduce negligent driving by providing education and immediate reflection.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Far too many young people are getting in accidents from distracted driving. The South Coast came together to change that in our community by providing services.

What we offer

The South Coast Area Police Officers and Magistrates are giving you the opportunity to either take the citation and the stipulations listed under "Do you know the penalties" or to complete the Youth Court Drive Smart Diversion program. Once your parent or guardian has signed the consent form, Youth Court staff will call you to schedule your intake. You will testify before a panel of high school students (not from your school) and they will give appropriate sanctions for your case. Those sanctions will need to be completed within your sanction period. You will receive a case manager that will follow up with you and make sure you complete all of the sanctions.

Sanctions that could be issued: Drive Smart Class, Community Service, Jury Duty at Youth Court, written or verbal apologies, research projects and reflections papers.

If you do NOT contact the Police Officer within 48 hours of your stop to make the referral, the citation will be issued. If your case is coming from Court, we will contact you to complete intake and paperwork within a week of receiving it.

Tips to Drive Smart

- Put phone on do not disturb.
- Leave phone in glove box or back seat.
- Get phone holder (GPS).
- Limit your passengers and distractions.
- Lower your music.
- Buckle up.
- Don't speed.
- Keep your eyes on the road.
- Look around, be alert.
- Use your signals.
- Don't eat/drink while driving.
- Drive Smart, Drive Safe!

