



Pennsylvania's New "Paul Miller's Law"

Beginning June 5, 2026, Pennsylvania will move from warnings to full enforcement of the state's distracted driving law — known as "Paul Miller's Law." Although the law technically went into effect in 2025, the first year was an education and warning period. Starting June 5, officers will begin issuing citations with the fines outlined below.

Paul Miller's Law was enacted in memory of Paul Miller Jr., a 21-year-old Pennsylvania resident who was tragically killed in 2010 by a distracted driver reaching for a phone. After years of advocacy by Miller's family and traffic-safety organizations, the legislation was signed in 2024 to help reduce distracted-driving crashes and save lives in Pennsylvania.

What the law prohibits:

- Drivers may not hold or use a handheld mobile device while operating a vehicle.
- Texting, emailing, scrolling social media, browsing the internet, or similar phone use is prohibited.
- The law applies even when stopped temporarily in traffic, at a red light, or at a stop sign.
- Hands-free technology (Bluetooth, voice-activated systems) is still permitted.
- Drivers may contact emergency responders if needed.

Enforcement timeline:

- **2025–June 4, 2026:** Education period; officers issued warnings only.
- **Beginning June 5, 2026:** Full enforcement begins. Violations carry a \$50 fine, plus court costs and fees.
- This is a primary offense, meaning officers may stop a driver solely for violating this law.

Aware of a pedestrian safety concern in Newtown Borough? Email Walk Friendly Newtown at WFnewtown@gmail.com with "Suggestions for Newtown Safety" in the subject line!