



*Kern County Sheriff's Office*  
**Policies and Procedures**

<b>TITLE: CELLULAR PHONE, HANDS FREE USE</b>		<b>NO: J-1930</b>	
<b>APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner</b>			
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b> <b>July 1, 2008</b>	<b>REVIEWED:</b> 06/15/2018	<b>REVISED:</b> 06/20/2008	<b>UPDATED:</b> 06/26/2008

**REFERENCES:** California Wireless Telephone Automobile Safety Act of 2006,  
California Vehicle Code Sections CVC 23123

**POLICY**

The Kern County Sheriff's Office maintains cellular telephones for the purpose of enhancing the law enforcement mission, conducting official business, the management of field operations, and operations requiring special tactics. The Sheriff's Office acknowledges the growing public concern regarding the safety implications of the widespread practice of using hand-held wireless telephones while driving and the need to establish uniform guidelines for the use of these devices while driving.

**DIRECTIVE**

Employees and volunteers of the Sheriff's Office are prohibited from driving any vehicle owned, leased, or under the control of the County of Kern while using a wireless telephone, unless the device is operated hands-free.

**EXCEPTIONS**

This section does not apply to an emergency services professional using a wireless telephone while operating an *authorized emergency vehicle*, as defined in California Vehicle Code, Section 165, when using the device for communication purposes only in response to what the deputy reasonably believes to be an emergency.

This section does not apply to any person using a wireless telephone for emergency purposes, including, but not limited to, an emergency call to a law enforcement agency, health care provider, fire department, or other emergency services agency or entity.