Brad Henry
Governor

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2010-06

I, Brad Henry, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, by the authority vested in me pursuant to Sections 1 and 2 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, hereby direct and order as follows:

Text messaging causes drivers to take their eyes off the road and at least one hand off the steering wheel, endangering both the driver and others. A state-wide prohibition on the use of text-messaging while driving on official state business or while using government-supplied equipment will help save lives, reduce injuries, and set an example for State and local governments, private employers and individual drivers.

State employees shall not engage in text messaging or texting (1) when driving government vehicles or when driving private vehicles on government business or (2) when using electronic equipment supplied by the State while driving.

“Texting” or “Text Messaging” means reading from or entering data into any handheld or other electronic device, including for the purpose of SMS texting, e-mailing, instant messaging, obtaining navigational information, or engaging in any other form of electronic data retrieval or electronic data communication.

“Driving” means operating a motor vehicle on an active roadway with the motor running, including while temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic light or stop sign, or otherwise. It does not include operating a motor vehicle with or without the motor running when one has pulled over to the side of, or off, an active roadway and has halted in a location where one can safely remain stationary.

The Administrator of the Office of Personnel Management in coordination with the Director of the Department of Central Services shall provide guidance to executive branch agency heads in developing and implementing procedures necessary to carry out the provisions of this Executive Order. These procedures should encourage voluntary compliance with the State’s text messaging policy while off duty.

Agency heads may exempt from the requirements of this Executive Order, in whole or in part, certain employees, devices, or vehicles in their respective agencies that are engaged in
or used for protective, law enforcement responsibilities or on the basis of other emergency conditions.

This Executive Order shall be distributed to all members of the Governor's Executive Cabinet and the chief executives of all appropriate and affected state agencies, who shall cause the provisions of this order to be implemented by all appropriate officials and agencies of state government. This executive order shall become effective February 1, 2010.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, this 21st day of January, 2010.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

[Signature]

BRAD HENRY

[Seal]

SECRETARY OF STATE