

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

POLICY 7A-24

POLICY AGAINST TEXTING WHILE DRIVING WHEN PERFORMING WORK UNDER  
FEDERALLY FUNDED SPONSORED PROJECTS

Responsible Executive: Gary K. Ostrander, Vice President for Research

Approving Official: Gary K. Ostrander, Vice President for Research

Effective Date: August 1, 2014

Revision History:      New: October 1, 2011

Readopted: August 1, 2014

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Introduction

This policy applies to all Florida State University faculty, staff and students performing work under a federally funded sponsored project. This policy applies to federally funded grant and contracts awarded to Florida State University, whether awarded by the federal government directly to Florida State University or awarded to another entity and “passed-through” to Florida State University.

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

II. Policy

It is the policy of Florida State University to comply with Presidential Documents: Executive Order 13513 of October 1, 2009, “Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving” (<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-24203.pdf>). Consistent with this Executive Order, Florida State University faculty, staff, agents, and students shall not engage in text messaging when driving federally-owned vehicles or while driving any vehicle, including personally owned vehicles, when performing work under a sponsored project.

Federal Leadership On Reducing Text Messaging While Driving, was signed by President Barack Obama on October 1, 2009 (ref.:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-24203.pdf>). This Executive Order requires granting and contracting agencies to encourage award recipients and contractors of the

Federal Government to adopt and enforce policies that prohibit the use of text messaging while driving federally or institutionally owned vehicles, or while driving personally owned vehicles when performing any work for or on behalf of the government. Agencies have begun to require the adoption and enforcement of such policies as a condition of receiving federal contracts and grants. This policy is intended to comply with those portions of the Executive Order that reflect the appropriate scope of Executive branch authority, namely, the ban on texting while driving federally owned vehicles or any vehicle when performing work for or on behalf of the government.

The Office of Sponsored Research Administration will disseminate this policy by posting it on our website and sharing it through the SRA listserv. The principal investigator will be responsible for ensuring that staff working on federally funded sponsored projects are aware of the requirements of this policy.

#### **Sanctions**

University faculty, staff, agents, and students that are found to be in violation of this policy will be personally subject to sanctions relating to the individual's employment and/or their participation in federally funded sponsored projects.

#### **III. Legal Support, Justification, and Review of this Policy**

Executive Order 13513

Fla. Stat. 1004.22. These policies will be reviewed when changes are necessary.

Gary K. Ostrander, Vice President for Research

August 1, 2014