

LOCATION OF VIDEO MONITORS AND SCREENS IN MOTOR VEHICLES.  
N.C. GEN. STAT. § 20-136.1.

The motor vehicle law provides that no person shall drive any motor vehicle  
[upon a public street or highway or public vehicular area while viewing any television,  
computer or video player]<sup>1</sup>

[equipped with a television viewer, screen or other means of visually receiving a  
television broadcast]<sup>2</sup>

which is located at any point forward of the back of the driver's seat, [and]<sup>3</sup> [or]<sup>4</sup> which  
is visible to the driver while operating the motor vehicle.<sup>5</sup>

[However, this law does not apply to

[the operation of a motor vehicle which is lawfully parked or stopped.<sup>6</sup>]

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1. This version applies to acts committed on or after the October 1, 2009, effective date of 2009 N.C. Sess. Laws 376 which amended N.C. GEN. STAT. § 20-136.1.

2. This version applies to acts committed prior to the October 1, 2009, effective date of 2009 N.C. Sess. Laws 376 which amended N.C. GEN. STAT. § 20-136.1.

3. *See supra* note 1.

4. *See supra* note 2.

5. The 2009 amendment to N.C. GEN. STAT. § 20-136.1, applicable to acts committed on or after October 1, 2009, specifies that the statute

does not apply to the use of global positioning systems; turn-by-turn navigation displays or similar navigation devices; factory-installed or aftermarket global positioning systems or wireless communications devices used to transmit or receive data as part of a digital dispatch system; equipment that displays audio system information, functions, or controls, or weather, traffic, and safety information; vehicle safety or equipment information; or image displays that enhance the driver's view in any direction, inside or outside of the vehicle.

N.C. GEN. STAT. § 20-136.1 (2009).

Further, "the provisions of this section shall not apply to law enforcement or emergency personnel while in the performance of their official duties, or to the operator of a vehicle that is lawfully parked or stopped." *Id.*

6. *See supra* note 5. Use this instruction in the event of a contention that the vehicle is lawfully parked or stopped.

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[law enforcement or emergency personnel while in the performance of their official duties.<sup>7</sup>]

A violation of this law is negligence within itself.

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7. *See supra* note 5.