

QUICK TIPS – CELL PHONE and BLACKBERRY

The diffusion of new technologies has been so rapid that acceptable social behaviours are lagging behind. This is especially noticeable with cell phones and the ubiquitous, Blackberry.

Here are some basic guidelines for demonstrating respectful behaviour.

Don't Talk In Public Places

We will remember a time when seeing someone walking down the street talking to "the air" drew our attention. Cell phones, particularly the hands-free variety, are the modern day equivalent, only more so.

It is irritating to be walking in the mall or shopping at the supermarket and being accosted by someone's conversation. This is selfish behaviour that is disrespectful of others. The truth is: You're not that important! The messages will be recorded and you can follow-up later. **Stop using cell phones in public places.**

Don't Talk While Driving

It is easy to identify the driver who is talking on a cell phone. Their driving is erratic and unsafe. They are a danger to them self and others. Nothing is that urgent.

Park to talk or wait until later. Driving requires our full and undivided attention. **Stop using cell phones while driving.**

Blackberry Etiquette

The Blackberry, with its amazing utility, is both hypnotic and compulsive. I have sat with someone and attempted to converse, while they were working on their Blackberry. Simply stated, it is outright rude to be in the presence of another human being and ignore them to the deference of technology.

There are situations for social interaction and other times to conduct your work: de-couple the two. Be focused and deliberate. You can't do two things well at the same time. **Stop using the Blackberry when with people.**

Adherence to these guidelines will demonstrate your respectful behaviour and professionalism.

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