

Our Law Just Grew



ILLINOIS CHILD PASSENGER PROTECTION ACT

CAR SEATS, BOOSTER SEATS, SEAT BELTS AND THE LAW

Children under the age of eight (8), must be secured in an appropriate child restraint system. Height and weight limits are determined by the car seat/booster seat manufacturer. An appropriate system:

1. fits the child;
2. fits the vehicle;
3. and is used according to the manufacturer's guidelines

New Law - effective January 1, 2019

Requirements

- children under the age of two (2) must ride rear-facing
- restraint must be provided by parent or legal guardian
- every person transporting a child under age eight (8) is responsible for properly securing the child

Exemptions

- child weighing more than 40 pounds
- child taller than 40 inches
- child transported in vehicle weighing more than 9000 pounds

Penalties

- \$75 fine for first violation*
- \$200 fine for second violation

**may be waived with Child Restraint Citation Compliance Inspection*

Recommendations for Safe Travel

Rear-facing Car Seats (birth to 2 years+)

- Safest way to travel
- Always in the back seat (if possible) and never in front of an active air bag
- Recommended until child has outgrown height or weight limit on seat and required until child reaches two (2) years of age
- Harness straps should be positioned at or below the shoulder and be snug enough that excess material cannot be pinched
- Seats that rear-face: Rear-Facing Only (carrier and base); Convertible (rear-facing to forward-facing); and 3-in-1 (rear-facing to forward-facing to booster)

Forward-Facing Car Seats (2 - 7 years)

- Always in the back seat (if possible)
- Should be used with tether (or top strap) to prevent additional forward movement
- Harness straps should be positioned at or above the shoulder and be snug enough that excess material cannot be pinched
- Recommended until child has outgrown height or weight limit on seat
- Seats that forward face: Convertible (rear-facing to forward-facing); 3-in-1 (rear-facing to forward-facing to booster); and Combination (forward-facing with harness to booster)

Belt Positioning Booster Seats (4 - 8 years+)

- Always in the back seat (if possible)
- Should only be used with a lap and shoulder belt
- Shoulder portion should cross chest, not behind the back or under the arm
- Lap portion should sit low on hips, not the stomach
- Recommended until child has outgrown height or weight limit AND can sit comfortably with knees bent over the vehicle seat with shoulder belt crossing the chest and lap belt resting low on the hips
- Booster seats: 3-in-1 (rear-facing to forward-facing to booster); Combination (forward-facing with harness to booster); High-back Belt Positioning Booster; and Backless Booster)

Seat Belts (8 years+)

- In the back seat (if possible) until at least age 13
- Use seating position with lap and shoulder belt and head protection
- Seat belts are designed for adults 4'9" or taller
- Children are ready for the seat belt when:
 - they can sit against the vehicle seat back with knees bent over the seat's edge;
 - their feet touch the vehicle floor;
 - the lap belt rests low on the hips and shoulder belt crosses the chest; and
 - they can remain seated properly at all times