

CONNECTICUT CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW

Effective 10/1/2017

Rear Facing LAW:

Children **MUST** remain rear facing until they are age 2 AND until they weigh 30 pounds



Safest practice: Keep children rear facing until they reach the upper height or weight limit of their rear facing convertible car seat

Forward Facing LAW:

Children **MUST** be in a 5-point harness until they are age 5 AND until they weigh 40 pounds



Safest practice: Keep children in a 5 point harness seat until they reach the upper height or weight limit of their forward facing seat

Booster Seat LAW:

Children **MUST** use a booster seat until they are age 8 AND until they weigh 60 pounds



Safest practice: Keep children in a booster seat until they are at least 4'9" tall and can pass the 5 step test for proper fit in the adult seat belt

Seat Belt LAW:

Children ages 8 to 16 AND over 60 pounds **MUST** be restrained using a vehicle seat belt or child restraint.



Safest practice: Keep all children under the age of 13 in the rear seat of the vehicle.

ALL vehicle passengers regardless of age or seating position MUST wear a seat belt at all times effective 10/1/21.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW LAW?

Q: My son is 13 months old and 35lbs. Can he be forward facing since he is over 30 lbs?

A: No, even though he weighs more than 30 pounds, he is not yet 2 years old. He needs to remain rear facing until he is at least 2 years old.

Q: My daughter is 4 years old and weighs 45 pounds. Can she use a booster seat with the seat belt?

A: No, even though she weighs enough to use a booster, she is not old enough; she needs to ride in a 5-point harness seat until she is at least 5 years old.

Q: My daughter is 9 years old and weighs 55 pounds. Does she still need to use a booster seat?

A: Yes. Even though she is over 8 years old, she is still less than 60 pounds. She should continue to use her booster seat until she is at least 60 pounds.

Q: My son is 2.5 years old and weighs 24 pounds. Can I turn him forward facing?

A: Even though he is over 2 years old, he does not weigh 30 pounds yet. He must remain rear facing until he weighs 30 pounds.

Pursuant to CT Public Act 17-230, for a first violation, vehicle operators have committed an infraction; for a second violation, be fined not more than **\$199**. The commissioner shall **REQUIRE** any person who has committed a first or second violation of the provisions of this law, to attend a child car seat safety course offered or approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Failure to attend the car seat safety course can result in suspension of the operator's driver's license.



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Car crashes are the leading cause of injury for children (birth to 16 years). Most parents feel they are using their car seat correctly, but 3 out of 4 children are not properly restrained. These children are at risk of injury and for being ticketed under the law. Proper restraint includes installing your seat correctly AND using your seat according to manufacturer's instructions. Read your car seat restraint manual and have your car seat checked by a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST).