



FOUR KEY SAFETY POINTS

1. Restrain your child on EVERY trip, EVERY time
2. Keep your child in the BACK SEAT
3. Use the BEST SAFETY RESTRAINT for your child's size
4. Use the safety seats and seat belts CORRECTLY



THE LAW

The Child Passenger Protection Act was established to protect the health and safety of children through the proper use of “approved child restraint systems.” Significant provisions of the Act include:

Children under age eight must be secured in an approved child safety seat or booster seat.

Parents or legal guardians of a child under eight are responsible for providing an approved child safety seat to anyone who transports his or her child.

“Approved child restraint systems” refers to any device which meets the standards of the United States Department of Transportation.

Newborn - 2 years old

Illinois Law requires under age 2 to be properly secured in a rear facing child restraint system unless they weigh more than 40 pounds or are more than 40 inches tall. Children must remain rear-facing until age 2. Never install a rear-facing safety seat in front of an active airbag.

Ages 2-4

Children should remain in a rear-facing safety seat as long as possible, or until they are at the upper height or weight limit of the seat. When a child outgrows a rear facing safety seat, he or she may transition to a forward facing seat with a harness system.

Ages 4-8

Children should be secured in a forward facing safety seat with an internal harness system until they reach the upper height or weight limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer. When a child outgrows the forward facing seat, he or she may transition to a belt positioning booster seat.

Ages 8-12

Children should stay in a belt positioning booster seat until they are tall enough to properly fit in an adult lap/shoulder belt.

SEAT BELTS

Wearing Your Seat Belt Correctly

- Lap belts, as well as the lap portion of a lap/shoulder belt combination, should be adjusted so that they lie low across the hips and over the upper thighs. Lap belts should not lie across the abdomen. To be most effective, they must lie over the pelvis, one of the stronger bones of the body. Adjust the lap belt so it is snug. Any slack allows the body to move around during a crash and increases the risk of injury.
- The shoulder belt should lie across the chest and over the collarbone with little, if any, slack. It should not lie across the front of the neck or face.
- Lap/shoulder seat belts, when used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent.
- For light truck occupants, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60 percent.



THE LAW

Illinois Law States that:

Every occupant of a motor vehicle must wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat safety belt. Children under the age of 8 must be secured in child restraint system.

Each driver of a motor vehicle transporting a passenger who is unable, due to infirmity, illness, or age, to properly adjust and fasten a seat safety belt shall secure the passenger in a properly adjusted and fastened seat safety belt.



Under these Child Passenger Protection Act guidelines a child under the age of eight must be secured in an approved child safety seat or booster seat.



CHILD SAFETY SEATS

Are You Using Your Child Safety Seat Correctly?

- Is the safety belt routed through the child safety seat correctly, according to the manufacturer's instruction to secure the car seat to the vehicle?
- Is the seat belt secured tightly in the vehicle?
- Is the infant safety seat facing backwards, not forward?
- If the seat comes with a harness, is the child snugly secured in the harness?
- Is the crotch strap adjusted as short as possible?
- Are the shoulder straps snug against the child's chest?
- Are the shoulder straps in the proper slots – at or BELOW the shoulder for a rear facing seat or at or ABOVE the shoulder for a forward facing seat?
- Is the harness clip secured at armpit level according to manufacturer's instructions?
- Does the booster seat have the needed upper body support?
- Is the seat belt routed correctly on your booster seat?

For more information, or to request a safety presentation, please send an email to the ISP Safety Education Unit at:

ISP.Safety.Education@illinois.gov

or contact your local ISP Troop:

<https://isp.illinois.gov/Patrol/TroopMap>

WARNING:

A baby in a rear-facing child safety seat **should never** be placed in the front seat of a vehicle that has a passenger-side air bag. All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.



Child Safety Seats and Seat Belts

