

## Pennsylvania's "Law of Love"

- All children from birth to age 4 must be secured in an approved car seat anywhere in the vehicle.
  - Children younger than age 2 must be secured in a rear-facing car seat until the child outgrows the maximum weight and height limits of the car seat.
  - Violators of this primary law are subject to a fine of \$75.00 plus court costs, EMS, Surcharge and administrative fees.
- All children 4 years of age and older, but less than 8 years of age, must be secured in a seat belt system and an appropriate belt-positioning booster seat anywhere in the vehicle.
  - Violators of this primary law are subject to a fine of \$75.00 plus court costs, EMS, Surcharge and administrative fees.
- All children 8 years of age and older, but less than 18 years of age, must be secured in a seat belt system anywhere in the vehicle.
  - Violators of this primary law are subject to a fine of \$10.00 plus EMS, Surcharge and administrative fees.

**All Drivers are responsible for securing children  
in the appropriate restraint system.**

For more information call:

**1-800 CAR BELT**

Traffic Injury  
Prevention Project



[www.PAKidsTravelSafe.org](http://www.PAKidsTravelSafe.org)

- Car Seat and Seat Belt Questions
- Car Seat Recall Information
- Car Seat Fitting Station Locations
- Car Seat Loan Program Locations
- Training and Educational Materials

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## Rear-Facing



### Rear-Facing

Secure all infants and toddlers in a **rear-facing car seat as long as possible, until they reach the maximum weight or height** allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat. In Pennsylvania, children younger than 2 years of age must be secured in a rear-facing car seat until they outgrow their rear-facing car seat. **Never** place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat with an active passenger-side front air bag.

#### Rear-Facing Checklist

- ✓ Child's head is at least one-inch from the top of the shell of the car seat.
- ✓ Harness straps are positioned **at or below the shoulder**.
- ✓ Harness straps lay flat and fit snugly on the child with the harness retainer clip at armpit level.
- ✓ Seat belt or lower anchors in the correct belt path are locked and tight with less than one inch of side-to-side movement when pulled at the belt path.
- ✓ Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for an acceptable rear-facing recline angle.

## Forward-Facing



### Forward-Facing

When children outgrow the rear-facing car seat, secure them in a **forward-facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible**, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.

#### Forward-Facing Checklist

- ✓ Child's ears should not be above the top of the shell of the car seat.
- ✓ Harness straps are positioned **at or above the shoulder**.
- ✓ Harness straps lay flat and fit snugly on the child with the harness retainer clip at armpit level.
- ✓ Seat belt or lower anchors in the correct belt path are locked and tight with less than one inch of side-to-side movement when pulled at the belt path.
- ✓ Tether should be used following the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions to determine the appropriate upright or semi-upright angle.

## Booster



### Belt-Positioning Booster Seat

Once children outgrow their forward-facing car seat, secure them in a **belt-positioning booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt** until the seat belt fits properly, typically when a child is approximately 4 feet 9 inches and between 8 and 12 years of age.

#### Belt-Positioning Booster Seat Checklist

- ✓ **ALWAYS** used with the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt.
- ✓ Shoulder belt is snug across the center of the child's shoulder and chest.
- ✓ Lap belt should be low and snug across the hips/upper thighs.

## Seat Belt



### Seat Belt

When children outgrow their belt-positioning booster seat, secure them in a **properly fitted lap and shoulder belt**. A lap and shoulder belt fits properly when the lap belt lays low and snug across the hips/upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the center of the chest and shoulder.

#### Seat Belt Checklist

- ✓ Able to sit with back and hips against the vehicle seat back without slouching.
- ✓ Knees easily bend over the front edge of the vehicle seat and feet flat on the floor.
- ✓ Snug shoulder belt across the center of the chest and shoulder.
- ✓ Snug lap belt low across the hips/upper thighs.
- ✓ Able to stay in position for the entire ride.

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**All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.**

