

## Car seat Installation Check-list

- ✓ Get the right car seat for your child's age, weight, and height.
- ✓ Register your seat right away so you can be notified if there's a safety recall. [www.safercar.gov/parents/Car-Seat-Recalls-Registration.htm](http://www.safercar.gov/parents/Car-Seat-Recalls-Registration.htm)
- ✓ Read the instructions for both your vehicle and your car seat.
- ✓ Install your car seat correctly **in the back seat**.  
For Car seats: Facing the correct direction, reclined at the correct angle, and securely installed using the seat belt or lower anchors. The seat should not move more than an inch front-to-back or side-to-side. If you use a seat belt for installation, follow your vehicle owner's manual instructions for locking the seat belt. For forward-facing car seats, connect the seat's tether strap to the tether anchor and tighten.
- ✓ Double-check the fit. Fit should be snug and free of twists. You shouldn't be able to pinch excess webbing at your child's shoulders.
  - The harness buckle. Make sure both metal pieces are fully inserted and secure.
  - The chest clip. It's essential to buckle the chest clip at your child's armpit level.
  - For Boosters: Facing forward, with a lap and shoulder belt for your child - never with just a shoulder belt.
- ✓ High-back boosters, make sure:
  - Your child's back is flat against the back of the booster seat.
  - The lap belt portion of the seat belt is under the booster seat's arm.
  - You use the shoulder belt positioners that are provided with the booster seat—to keep the shoulder belt in place.
- ✓ Backless boosters, make sure:
  - You use it in a vehicle seat that has a head restraint (head rest).
  - Your child's back is flat against your vehicle's back seat.
  - The lap belt portion of the seat belt is under the booster seat's arm.
  - The shoulder belt portion of the seat belt is positioned according to your booster seat's instructions
- ✓ Double-check the fit.
  - The lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach.
  - You may need to pull up on the shoulder belt to tighten the lap belt.
  - The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face.

Para obtener información sobre la seguridad de los asientos para niños en español, visite:  
[www.safercar.gov/parents](http://www.safercar.gov/parents)



It's not just SAFE, it's the LAW

All 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have laws requiring children to be restrained while riding in cars. Some States now require kids to ride in appropriate car seats or booster seats until age 9.

### Virginia's Child Restraint Device Law (Code of Virginia Article 13 – Section 46.2)

The major requirements of Virginia's Child Safety Seat Law: Child restraint devices are required for children through the age of seven (until 8th birthday). Safety seats must be properly used and approved by Department of Transportation standards. There is no height or weight requirement associated with this law. The Virginia law is based solely on age.

Rear-facing child restraint devices must be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. In the event the vehicle does not have a back seat, the child restraint device may be placed in the front passenger seat only if the vehicle is either not equipped with a passenger side airbag or the passenger side airbag has been deactivated.

Children can no longer ride unrestrained in the rear cargo area of vehicles.

The law applies to anyone (i.e. parents, grandparents, babysitters, friends) who provides transportation for a child in any vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968. Public transportation (taxis, buses), regulation school buses, and farm vehicles are exempted.

The child restraint law is primary enforcement — no other violation need be committed prior to ticketing for failure to have a child in an approved seat.

A \$50 civil penalty fine is imposed for failure to have a child in a child restraint device. Any person found guilty a second or subsequent time, on different dates, will be fined up to \$500. An additional \$20 civil penalty fine is assessed when persons transporting a child exempted from this law due to medical reasons do not carry a written statement of the exemption. All fines collected go into a special fund to purchase safety seats for low-income families.

There are assistance programs for low-income residents who cannot afford a safety seat. Contact Virginia Department of Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention at 1-800-732-8333 for more information.

## Warren County Sheriff's Office

### Child Passenger Safety and Restraint

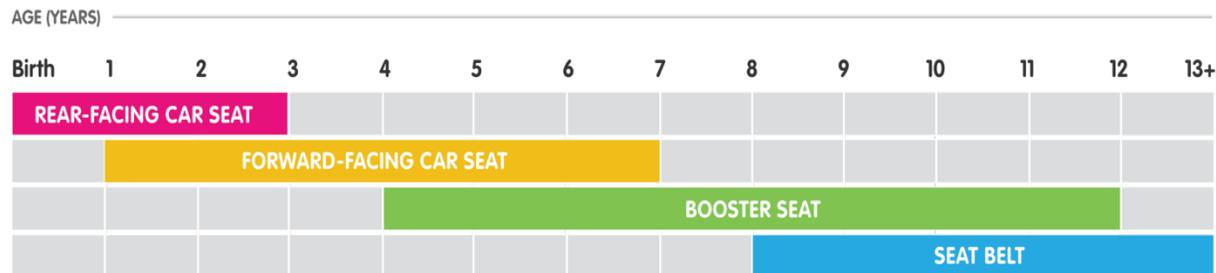
Daniel T. McEathron, Sheriff



### Information for parents and caregivers to choose and enforce the correct child passenger restraints

Warren County Public Safety Building  
200 Skyline Vista Drive  
Front Royal, VA 22630  
Phone: 540.635.4128  
[www.warrencountysheriff.org](http://www.warrencountysheriff.org)

# Child Passenger Safety – Choosing the right seat for your child



Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing

Convertible and all-in-one car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

**1 - 3 YEARS**  
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.

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**4 - 7 YEARS**  
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

**4 - 7 YEARS**  
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

**8 - 12 YEARS**  
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly, the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. *Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.*

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*Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.*

Many booster seats allow for child passengers up to 63" and 120 lbs., check your seat car seat manufacturer's instructions (check height and weight limits) and read the vehicle owner's manual.

DID YOU KNOW? WE CAN HELP!

Car seats can seem complicated, but we are here to help. Ensure your child is in the right seat for his/her size and age and that it is installed properly.

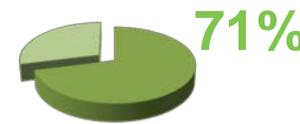
Call 540-635-4128 for an appointment to have your car seat installed or inspected today!

The Warren County Sheriff's Office is an official Virginia Department of Health Safety Seat Check Station

Car seats reduce the risk of toddlers (1 to 4 years old) being killed in cars by



Car seats reduce the risk of infants (under 1 year old) being killed in cars by



- Every 33 seconds, one child under 13 is involved in a crash.

- Car crashes are a **leading killer of children** ages 1 to 13.

- According to NHTSA, **59% of car seats are installed incorrectly.**

- In 2014, **24 percent of children 4 to 7 were moved to seat belts before they were big enough.** Nearly one-tenth of these kids were unbuckled. Make sure your kids are in the right car seat for their age and size.

- From 2010-2014, **398 children were killed in crashes while riding in front seats.** Keep all kids under 13 buckled in the back.

- **Buckling your child isn't a choice—it's the law.**

- **The GOOD NEWS is that there are many ways to help keep your child passengers safe.**

Don't wait until it's too late; be sure you know that your child is safest they can be in your vehicle.