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Child Passenger Safety Information

DPS Committee Report on Child Passenger Safety (PDF)

- ▶ The Texas Child Occupant Restraint law has recently changed. The new version of the Texas Transportation Code 545.412 language will be posted on this web page as soon as the official printing of the law has been released.

The [June 2, 2009 \(PDF\)](#) DPS news release clarifies the changes in the law and is available for printing or downloading.

- ▶ The following presentations are designed to help answer questions that law enforcement officers and the general public may have concerning the changes to the child safety seat and occupant safety laws: 545.412 and 545.413
[DPS Basic Child Passenger Safety \(PDF | PPT\)](#)

Proper Child Restraint Recommendations

Conditions	Infants	Toddlers	Other Children	
Weight and Age	Birth to at least 1 year old AND at least 20 pounds	Birth to at least 1 year old More than 20 pounds and less than 35 pounds	More than 1 year old, more than 20 pounds, up to approximately 40 pounds	More than 40 pounds, ages 4-8 unless 4'9" tall
Type of Seat	Infant only or rear-facing convertible	Rear-facing convertible designed for heavier infants	Convertible or forward-facing seat with harness	Belt-positioning booster (high-back or no-back)
Seat Position	Rear-facing only	Forward-facing	Forward-facing	Forward-facing
Always Make Sure	Harness straps are at, or below, shoulder level.	Harness straps should be at or above shoulder level-check manual.	Harness straps should be at or above shoulder level-check manual.	Belt-positioning booster seats are used with lap\shoulder belt combination only.
Remember	Do not place infants in the front seat of vehicles with active air bags.	5-point harnesses provide the best protection	5-point harnesses provide the best protection	Make sure the lap belt portion fits low and tight to avoid abdominal injuries.

Children 12 and under are safest when properly restrained in the rear seat. Keep children rear-facing as long as possible. Always refer to the child safety seat instructions and vehicle manufacturer's instructions for weight and height limits, proper use and installation.

For more information, contact [Beth Warren](#), Occupant Safety Programs Coordinator at or (512) 424-5639.

Other Links:

- ▶ [Fitting Stations and Installation Assistance](#)
- ▶ [Texas State Occupant Restraint Law](#)

- ▶ [News Release to Clarify the Child Safety Seat Law \(PDF\) updated 8/28/09](#)
- ▶ [Texas Cooperative Extension](#)
- ▶ [Safe Riders](#)



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