

KEEP ME IN A SAFE SEAT

SAFETY SEAT GUIDELINES



Newborn-2 years

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, Illinois law requires children 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.

Children riding rear-facing may use a rear-facing-only car seat or a convertible car seat installed rear-facing. Always follow the car seat manufacturers harnessing instructions and height and weight limitations for a rear-facing installation.



Ages 2-4

Children should remain rear-facing as long as possible and may be transitioned to a forward-facing car seat with an internal harness system. Always follow the car seat manufacturer's harnessing instructions and height and weight limitations for a forward-facing installation. Children should be secured in a forward-facing seat with an internal harness system until they reach the upper height or weight limit allowed by the seat manufacturer.

A forward-facing car seat has a harness and tether that limit a child's forward movement during a crash.



Ages 4-8

When children outgrow the forward-facing seat, they may transition to a belt-positioning booster seat.

A belt-positioning booster seat positions the seat belt, so it fits properly over the stronger parts of a child's body.



Ages 8-12

Keep your child in a belt-positioning booster seat until they are big enough to fit in an adult seat belt 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.



SECRETARY of STATE
ALEXI GIANNOULIAS

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As a parent, I cannot stress the importance of making sure our children are properly secured in the appropriate child safety seats. Car crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for children.

Our children deserve the best protection when riding in a vehicle. The best way to keep a child safe in the car is to use the right car seat in the right way. You can find more information for safely securing your child in your vehicle on the reverse side of this card.

Remember that children and airbags do not mix – the safest place for young passengers is in the back seat.

Making sure your car seat is properly installed will give you peace of mind that your little ones are well-protected.

Also, remember that Illinois law requires ALL passengers to be buckled up, regardless of their age or where they sit in the vehicle.

Be a good example and always buckle up!

ALEXI GIANNOULIAS
Secretary of State



IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS

Select a car seat that fits a child's age and size and that can be safely secured in your vehicle.

Keep children in rear-facing safety seats until they are at least age 2.

Never install a rear-facing seat in front of an active airbag.

Keep children in the back seat until they reach age 13.

Know the history of your safety seat.

Do not use a safety seat over 6 years old or past the expiration date stamped on the seat.

Register your safety seat with the manufacturer so you will be notified of any recalls. You can also check for recalls at www.safercar.gov.

Do not attach anything to the car safety seat unless the manufacturer allows it. This includes toys, mirrors, window shades and belt-tightening tools.

All objects in the vehicle should be stowed in the trunk or tied down. They can be projectiles if a crash or sudden stop occurs.

REMEMBER

Illinois law requires all children under age 8 to be secured in an appropriate child safety seat.