

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death and disability for children nationwide. Car seats are 71 percent effective in reducing infant fatalities, 54 percent effective in reducing toddler fatalities and 67 percent effective in reducing the need for hospitalization.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Kentucky's car seat law?

Children under 40 inches must be installed correctly in a federally approved car seat. KRS 189.125 (3)(a)

2. What is Kentucky's booster seat law?

Children younger than eight and between 40 and 57 inches must be in a booster. Children younger than eight and over 57 inches do not have to ride in a booster seat. KRS 189.125(3)(b)

3. When can my child go forward-facing?

A child should be kept rear-facing up to the maximum rear-facing weight limit of the seat (read instructions or seat label.)

4. Which slots should I use for the harness straps?

When rear-facing: The harness straps should be at or below the child's shoulders. When forward-facing: The harness straps should be at or above the child's shoulders.

5. What is the clip located on the harness strap?

The clip is called the retainer clip and should be at armpit level. It enables the harness to stay in the proper position.



6. How tight should the harness straps be on the child?

The straps must be snug against the child's shoulders so you cannot pinch any excess webbing.

7. How tight should my child's seat be in the vehicle?

The seat should only move up to one inch side-to-side or back-and-forth when pulling at the belt path.

8. When can my child sit in the front seat?

The risk of injury is more significant for children in the front seat, with or without an airbag. Research shows it is best for children 12 and under to ride in the back seat.

9. When should I replace my car seat?

You must replace the car seat if it is older than the manufacturer's expiration date (read instructions or seat label) or has been in a crash. Check with your insurance company before purchasing a new seat. Using a seat with an unknown history is not recommended.

10. Where can I get my car seat checked?

Contact Norton Children's Hospital at 502-629-7358 or e-mail ncpw@nortonhealthcare.org. Other sites: Contact your local fire station, police department, health department or other safety-related agency and ask if they have a certified child passenger safety technician on staff.

You may also visit: cert.safekids.org and click "Find A Tech."

11. What are the straps with two hooks at the end for?

The straps secure the seat by using the lower anchors instead of the seat belt. Either system is safe to use if used correctly. The anchors are where the seat cushion meets the seat's backrest. Connect each hook to the anchor across from it to secure the car seat. Car manufacturers have different use rules, so reading the manual for proper use is essential. The seat belt and tether should be used when a child's weight plus the car seat weight is over 65 pounds.

12. What is the strap with a hook at the top of all forward-facing seats?

It is called a tether and has been required in vehicles since 1999. When used correctly during a crash, it prevents 4-6 inches of forward motion. Whether you use the seat belt or lower anchor systems, you should ensure the seat is always secured to the appropriate anchor in your car. You must read the vehicle manual to find out where they are located for that seating position.

