



Important Information

about Ohio's Child Passenger Safety Law

ORC 4511.81

In Ohio, every child* under 8 years old must ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat unless the child is 4'9" or taller.**

Every child* from 8 to 15 years old who is not secured in a car seat must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt.

4 Steps for Kids

from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

1 For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds.

2 When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).

3 Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall).

4 When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall) they can use the adult seat belts in the back seat, if they fit properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).

The safest place for ALL children is in the back seat. Always read the child restraint instructions and vehicle owner's manual.

For More Information
www.nhtsa.gov (click on Child Safety Seat Information)

www.ohiohelpmegrow.org 1-800-755-GROW (4769) for information on a Child Passenger Safety Program near you.

*Unless there is a life-threatening situation, the parent has an affidavit signed by a licensed physician exempting the child from the law due to a physical impairment, or the vehicle is a taxicab, a public safety vehicle, is regulated under Ohio Revised Code 5104.011 or was manufactured without seat belts.

**Includes infant seats, convertible seats, forward-facing seats, booster seats and other federally approved safety devices.

Photo by Guillermo Ossa.

