



Child Passenger Safety

F. A. Q.'s

(Frequently Asked Questions)



*Answers based on recommendations from
the American Academy of Pediatrics.*

1. **Q. *What does Pennsylvania's Law say about children and child safety seats?***
 - A. All children under age 4 are to be secured in an approved child safety seat anywhere in the vehicle. Children ages 4 to 8 are to be secured in an approved booster seat and seat belt system anywhere in the vehicle. (The law does not address weight requirements.) The maximum fine for violating this law is \$100, plus costs.
2. **Q. *When can I turn my child around?***
 - A. Infants should ride rear-facing until *at least* 1 yr AND 20 lbs. NEVER place a rear-facing child safety seat in front of an airbag. (A child's feet touching the vehicle seat back is not a safety concern. Read your safety seat instructions.)
3. **Q. *When can my child sit up front?***
 - A. Children should ride in the back seat until age 13.
4. **Q. *What if my car doesn't have an airbag?***
 - A. Frontal collisions are the most frequent type of crash. It is best to keep your child in the back seat, away from the impact.
5. **Q. *Why does my child need a booster seat?***
 - A. Seat belts are made for adults. In a crash, the lap belt can ride up across a child's stomach and cause serious injury or death.
6. **Q. *When is my child ready for a booster seat?***
 - A. Booster seats, which are used with BOTH a lap AND shoulder belt, are for children who weigh between 40 and 80 lbs, are under 4' 9" tall or are under age 8. Some booster seats reach weight limits of 100 lbs.

(over)

7. **Q. Can I use a shoulder belt adjuster instead of a booster seat?**
- A. No. Shoulder belt adjusters, sleeves and clips are "add-ons" that pull the lap belt across the stomach. Use a booster seat instead.
8. **Q. The shoulder belt bothers my child. Can I put the shoulder belt behind my child's back or under the arm?**
- A. No. Worn incorrectly, a shoulder belt can cause serious injury or death.
9. **Q. My child's booster seat seems loose after the lap and shoulder belt are buckled across my child. What should I do?**
- A. Buckle the lap and shoulder belt snugly across your child. It should not be ratcheted or locked. Ask a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician for more information, if needed.
10. **Q. When can I move my child to a seatbelt?**
- A. When your child is age 8 and tall enough so that the
- knees can bend at the edge of the vehicle seat AND
 - buttocks are pressed against the back of the seat AND
 - lap belt stays across the hips(not across the stomach) AND
 - shoulder belt stays across the shoulder (not on the neck).

Pennsylvania Law requires all children ages 8 to 18 to be properly restrained in a seatbelt anywhere in the vehicle.



Only certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians should install child safety seats. For the technician nearest you, contact the PA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Traffic Injury Prevention Project (TIPP) 1-800-CARBELT, The Comprehensive Highway Safety Program 570-433-0820, or visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

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