

Keep Me in a Safe Seat

SAFETY SEAT GUIDELINES

Newborn-12 months

Children under age 1 and weighing less than 20 pounds should always ride in a rear-facing only car seat or a convertible seat used rear facing.

A rear-facing only car seat is the best seat for a young child to use. It has a harness and in the event of a crash, it cradles and moves with a child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.



Ages 1-4

It is recommended children remain in a rear-facing car seat until age 2 or until they reach the upper height or weight limit of the seat. When children outgrow a rear-facing seat, they may transition to a forward-facing car seat with a harness system.

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

Ages 4-8

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. 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

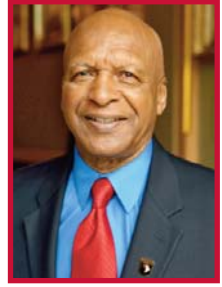
Children should stay in a belt-positioning booster seat until they can fit properly in an adult lap/shoulder seat belt.

An adult lap/shoulder seat belt should lie across the upper thighs, and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

JESSE  WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE

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



Our children deserve the best protection while riding in a vehicle. The best car seat is one that fits the child and the vehicle, and is used correctly every time. The reverse side of this card provides more information for safely securing your child in your vehicle.

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

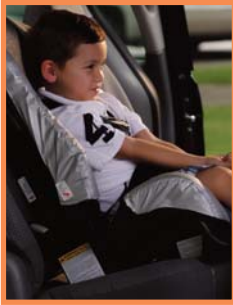
The Secretary of State’s office provides car safety seat inspections at several Driver Services facilities throughout the state. I encourage you to visit one of these fitting stations to ensure your child’s safety seat is installed properly and meets federal height and weight guidelines for safe traveling. Making sure your car seat is properly installed will give you peace of mind that your little ones are well-protected.

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

Be a good example, buckle up!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State



IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS

- Select a car seat that fits a child’s age and size, and can be safely secured in your vehicle.
- Keep children in rear-facing safety seats as long as possible.
- 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 more than six 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 its use. 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.

For more information or to schedule a car seat inspection or installation, please call:

1-866-247-0213