



Choose the Right Seat!

Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death of young children. A minor crash or even a sudden stop can seriously injure a child who is not riding in the right type of child safety seat. **You can reduce the risk by buckling your child into a properly-fitted safety seat on every ride.**

USE THIS CHART TO DETERMINE WHAT SAFETY SEAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD RIDE IN.

	WEIGHT	TYPE OF SEAT
INFANTS Birth to 1 year	Up to 20-22 lbs.	Infant seat or rear-facing convertible
TODDLERS 1 to 4 years	20-40 lbs.	Convertible or forward-facing
YOUNG CHILDREN 5 years and over (or children under 5 who weigh over 40 lbs.)	41-80 lbs.	Belt-positioning booster seat



WHEN IS A CHILD BIG ENOUGH TO WEAR AN ADULT SAFETY BELT?

1. Tall enough to sit without slouching, generally over 4'9" and 80 lbs.
2. Shoulder belt rests comfortably across the shoulder and chest, not on the neck or throat.
3. Lap belt fits securely, low and snug on hips.
4. Sits with back and buttocks against seat.
5. Knees completely bend over edge of seat.
6. Feet are flat on the floor.
7. Stays comfortably seated this way.

Safety Tips Before you go

DON'T SKIP A STEP— GIVE SAFETY A BOOST

Booster seats put children in the proper position to safely use an adult safety belt.

Please see chart on front of card for guidance.

- Children 12 and under should always ride in the back seat. Follow vehicle manufacturer's warnings about seating of children near airbags.
- **IMPORTANT:** Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an airbag.
- Never place a shoulder belt behind the back or under the arm.
- Set a good example—70% of children whose parents do not buckle up will not buckle up when they become adults. Wear your safety belt every time! Massachusetts law requires everyone to buckle up.
- Any object in a vehicle can become a projectile in a crash. Use a trunk or cargo area to properly store loose items.
- Learn to properly position your child's seat by reviewing the directions from the seat manufacturer and your vehicle owner's manual. If you still need assistance, find a Child Passenger Safety Technician near you at www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats or call 1-877-392-5956.

SUMMARY – MASSACHUSETTS CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW

- Children under age 5 or who weigh 40 pounds or less must ride in a properly installed, federally approved child safety seat.
- Children ages 5 through 12 must wear a properly fastened safety belt.
- A police officer can stop your vehicle if a child 12 or under is not properly restrained.