

# Buckle Up

OBEDIENT THE LAW

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*To save lives and prevent injuries, Minnesota has a mandatory safety belt law. Not complying with the law can result in a safety belt ticket which can cost you between \$50-\$75 (including court fees).*

### THE SAFETY BELT LAW IN MINNESOTA STATES:

Children under 4 years old are required to be fastened in a child safety seat that meets federal safety standards.

Children 4 to 11 years of age must be buckled up while in a vehicle, regardless of where they are seated.

All drivers and front seat passengers of a vehicle are required to use a safety belt—regardless of age.

Drivers with an instruction permit or a provisional license are required to ensure all passengers in their vehicle, under the age of 18, are wearing safety belts.

*The seat belt use rate for Minnesota is 75 percent. If 85 percent of Minnesotans buckled up, 70 deaths and 1,800 serious injuries would be prevented and \$118 million dollars would be saved each year.*

Four  
out of five  
car seats  
are used  
incorrectly.

It only takes  
four minutes.



Don't Skip A Step



# Don't Skip A Step

- Children should ride in child safety seats as long as possible, ideally until at least 8 years of age.
- The safety seat should meet federal safety standards and be installed properly to prevent injuries.
- Double check that you are using the safety seat correctly, by reading the manufacturer's instructions and the motor vehicle owner's manual.
- Be sure and check the instruction manual for the weight and height restrictions for each child safety seat.
- Remember to read and follow your vehicle owner's manual and car seat instructions carefully.

# Don't Skip A Step

For more information contact  
the Minnesota Child Passenger Safety Program at  
**(800) 818-9296**



## REAR-FACING SEAT

Infant only or convertible seat  
Newborn to at least 1 year old  
and 20 pounds

Always place rear-facing safety seats in the  
reclined position at a 45-degree angle.  
Keep the harness at or below the shoulders.



## FORWARD-FACING SEAT

(with a harness)

Convertible seat or child-only seat  
1 to 4 years old

Place forward-facing in the upright position.

Move the harness straps to the proper  
reinforced slots, usually the top slots.

Check the manufacturer's instructions for  
exact positioning. Some types of child seats  
can be used as a booster.



## BOOSTER SEAT

4 to 8 years old

Necessary for a child who has outgrown the  
convertible or child-only seat, the booster seat  
keeps the lap belt positioned properly around a  
child's hips and the shoulder belt in the correct  
position. Some boosters come with a high back,  
others come without a back, but both must be used  
with a lap and shoulder belt. Boosters without a  
back may only be used in vehicles with a  
head rest. If the vehicle is equipped with a lap belt  
only, use a tethered harness or check with an auto  
dealership to have shoulder belts installed.



## ADULT SAFETY BELT

Over 8 years old  
and 57" (4'9") tall

Your child is ready for an adult safety belt  
when they can sit with their back against  
the vehicle seat and their knees bent  
comfortably and completely over the vehicle  
seat edge without slouching. Usually  
children over 80 pounds and 8 years old  
can fit correctly in lap/shoulder belts.



Minnesota Department of Public Safety  
Office of Traffic Safety

[www.dps.state.mn.us](http://www.dps.state.mn.us)  
[www.buckleupkids.state.mn.us](http://www.buckleupkids.state.mn.us)