

Missouri

Child Passenger Safety Law



Infant & Toddler

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Booster

Children ages four through seven who weigh at least 40 pounds must be in an appropriate child safety seat OR booster seat UNLESS they are 80 pounds OR 4'9" tall.



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Seat Belt

Children eight and over OR weighing at least 80 pounds OR at least 4'9" tall are required to be secured by a safety belt OR booster seat appropriate for that child.



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Children under 18

Riding in pickup cargo area not allowed.

Children ages eight through 15 must always wear safety belts. A law enforcement officer can stop you and issue you a citation for no other reason than non-compliance with this law.

For more information on child passenger safety programs and fitting assistance throughout Missouri,

Refer families to:

www.saveMOLives.com

1-800-800-BELT

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Offense by Category

	All Children Under 16*	Rear and Front-Facing	Booster	Belt
Statute	307.178	307.179	307.179	307.179
Charge Code	001N199754	001N200654	001N200654	001N200654
Type/Class	Infraction	Infraction	Infraction	Infraction

Note: Occupant restraint requirements for children under age 16 are **primary enforcement offenses** whether the child is riding in the front or rear seat.

*Each driver transporting a child under the age of 16 shall secure the child in a properly adjusted and fastened restraint.

Exemptions:

- Children who should be riding in a booster seat may ride in the back seat wearing only a lap belt if the back seat does not have a combination lap and shoulder belt - *booster seats should never be used with a lap belt only.*
- If there are more children in the **immediate** family than seating positions, the children who can't be restrained by a child safety restraint shall sit in the back seat unless the vehicle only has a front seat.
- Public carriers for hire (e.g. taxi cabs, public transportation).
- Students four or older on a school bus designed for 11 or more passengers.

Educating Parents/Caregivers

You have the perfect opportunity to share important information about protecting children:

- Provide informational web sites such as www.saveMOLives.com and www.NHTSA.gov. Provide child passenger safety handouts - available to order (no charge) at www.modot.org/safety.
- Always** refer them to the manufacturer's instructions which will determine whether this child safety seat is appropriate for their child.
- Explain to the driver that this charge (\$50 and court costs) will be dismissed if they prove to the court that they've acquired an appropriate child restraint.
- Children under the age of 13 are safest in the back seat. (*Note: this is not statute specific.*)

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