

Why are CHILD SAFETY SEATS Important?

What is an Approved Child Safety Seat?

A manufactured car seat less than 10 years old with a label that reads like "This child seat/child restraint conforms to all applicable safety standards."

What Are the Child Passenger Safety Requirements?

In Kansas, every child under four must be transported in an approved safety seat. In addition, children four but under fourteen must be protected by a safety belt.

What is the Penalty for Noncompliance?

The person transporting an unrestrained child is subject to a fine of \$20 plus court costs.

Can Child Safety Seats Be Rented?

Loaner seats are available from many sources throughout the state at little or no cost. For more information, contact your local county or city health department or hospital.

Every year, Kansas children are killed or injured in motor vehicle crashes from being thrown against dashboards and windshields. Often it happens when a collision is avoided by a sudden stop or swerve. Properly securing children in a vehicle offers the easiest and most effective protection. Consider a few facts:

- When a car has a collision or suddenly stops at 20 mph, an unrestrained infant can strike the dashboard or windshield with a sledgehammer force of 400 pounds.
- At 30 mph, a 125 pound adult is thrown forward with the force of nearly two tons. A child on the same adult's lap can be crushed between the adult and the vehicle.
- A correctly used safety seat prevents a child from being thrown about or even out of the car. It distributes the force of a crash more evenly over the child's body. Because the child seat is in effect, part of the car, the vehicle itself absorbs some the impact.
- All 50 states and D.C. now have child passenger safety laws.

What Kind of Safety Seats Are Available?

- 1** An infant seat is designed for a child up to 20 pounds. The infant and safety seat face rearward in a semi-reclined position.
- 2** A convertible seat is designed for children up to approximately 40 pounds. The seat reclines and faces rearward in the infant position and converts to sit upright and face forward for transporting toddlers.
- 3** A toddler seat is designed for children weighing 20 to 40 pounds who can sit up unassisted. The seat may be used facing forward since the child's shoulders and hips are developed enough to withstand forces of a crash.
- 4** A booster seat is designed for a child who has outgrown other safety seats. It provides forward impact protection and can be used with adult lap and shoulder belts.