

## NEBRASKA SAFETY LAWS

### Child Passenger Restraint Law

- Children up to age 6 must ride correctly secured in a federally-approved child safety seat (primary law).
- Children ages 6 to 18 must ride secured in a safety belt or child safety seat (secondary law).
- Children up to age 18 are prohibited from riding in cargo areas (primary law).
- If the driver holds a provisional operator's permit or a school permit, all passengers must ride buckled up (secondary law). This applies to all seating positions in the vehicle. This violation carries a \$25 fine plus court costs and 1 point is assessed against the operator's driving record.
- Child care providers must transport all children securely in an appropriate safety seat or safety belt. Violation may include revocation of child care license (primary law).

### Occupant Protection Law

- Drivers and front seat passengers are required to ride buckled up in a safety belt or child safety seat (secondary law). This violation carries a \$25 fine plus court costs.

**Primary Law:** Any person driving in Nebraska can be stopped and ticketed solely for this violation.

**Secondary Law:** Drivers are cited for this violation only if stopped and ticketed for a separate violation.

## IOWA SAFETY LAWS

**In Iowa, parents are required to make sure their children are properly restrained in a car seat when riding in a motor vehicle. The law states:**

- A child under the age of 1 who weighs less than 20 pounds must be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system.

- A child under the age of 6 must be secured in a safety seat or booster seat. A seat belt alone is not appropriate.
- Children between the ages of 6 to 11 must be secured in a child restraint system or by a safety belt.
- All children under the age of 18 must wear a seat belt.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ALWAYS follow the manufacturer's instructions for both the car seat and the vehicle for correct use and installation.
- ALL passengers, including adults, should be properly buckled in a car seat, safety seat or seat belt. Pregnant moms should wear a seat belt across the shoulder and under the belly across the hips.
- Only use items that originally came with the seat.
- Mirrors and toys are discouraged as they pose a safety hazard.
- Car seats expire. Check for an expiration date on a sticker. It should be stamped into the plastic or indicated in the instruction manual.
- Car seats can be recalled for various reasons. Make sure you register your car seat with the manufacturer.
- Be aware of what you have loose in the vehicle as it may become a projectile in a crash.
- NEVER leave your child alone in or around a vehicle.
- Avoid bulky clothing; harness straps should be snug against child's body. Light layers of clothing are recommended. A blanket or coat may be placed OVER the harness straps.
- Infant carriers are for travel only. It is not recommended to leave a child in an infant carrier for extended periods of time. NEVER leave a child unattended or place infant carriers on elevated surfaces.

## CAR SEATS AT A GLANCE

### 1 Infants/Toddlers

Rear-facing infant carrier and rear-facing convertible seats



### 2 Toddlers/Preschoolers

Convertible seats and forward-facing combination seats with a harness



### 3 School-aged Children

Booster seats



### 4 Older Children

Seat belts



We know children.



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## CAR SEAT EDUCATION

## CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY BASICS

### BABIES UNDER 2 USE REAR-FACING CAR SEATS

- The child always rides in a back seat and never in front of an air bag.
- The child always rides in a car seat that is size- and age-appropriate and doesn't have additional head supports, toys or harness covers added to it.
- The child always sits facing the back of the car in the car seat at the correct reclined angle.
- Chest clip should be fastened at armpit level.
- Harness straps are at or slightly below shoulder levels. The straps should be snug against the child's body. Check for snugness using a pinch test to make sure the harness fabric cannot be pinched vertically.
- The car seat is buckled tightly using the seat belt OR LATCH system (but not both) and doesn't move more than one inch when pulled side to side.
- The child uses a bigger seat rear-facing until they outgrow the harness. Car seat manufacturers offer seats at higher weight limits to allow children to remain rear-facing longer.



To schedule a car seat appointment at Children's Hospital & Medical Center, call 402-955-8090.

Children's Hospital & Medical Center  
8200 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE 68114  
402-955-5400



### PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY AND BUCKLE UP!

To learn more about how to keep your child safe, visit:  
[www.ChildrensOmaha.org](http://www.ChildrensOmaha.org)  
[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)  
[www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)  
[www.SafeKids.org](http://www.SafeKids.org)

### TODDLERS AND BIG KIDS USE FORWARD-FACING CAR SEATS

If the child is over the age of 2 and has outgrown the weight and height limits for the rear-facing seat:

- The child always rides in a back seat and never in front of an air bag.
- The child always rides in a car seat appropriate for size and age.
- Harness straps are at or slightly above shoulders and should be snug against the child's body. Check for snugness using a pinch test to make sure the harness fabric cannot be pinched vertically.
- Chest clips are fastened at armpit level.
- The child's car seat is buckled tightly using the seat belt OR LATCH system (but not both) and doesn't move more than one inch when pulled side to side. Use the top tethers designed for the seat.
- LATCH can only be used to a certain maximum weight. Check both vehicle and car seat manuals for details.

### OLDER, BIGGER KIDS USE BOOSTER SEATS

If the child is less than 4 feet, 9 inches tall AND has outgrown the weight and height limit of the forward facing car seat:

- The child always rides in a back seat and never in front of an air bag.
- The child always rides on a booster seat using a seat belt with lap and shoulder straps.
- The lap belt sits low on their hips, not on their stomach.
- The shoulder belt is on their shoulder – not on their neck, under their arm or behind their back.
- The seat belt is snug, flat and comfortable on them.
- The child may be between the ages of 8 to 12 before the seat belt fits.

### KIDS READY FOR SEAT BELTS

If the child is over 4 feet, 9 inches tall and has outgrown the booster seat:

- Children ages 13 and younger should always ride in the back seat and never in front of an air bag.
- The child should always use a seat belt with lap and shoulder straps.
- The lap belt should sit low on the hips, not on the stomach.
- The shoulder belt is on their shoulder – not on their neck, arm or behind their back.
- The child's back is firmly against the seat and their knees should bend at the front edge of the seat. They should be able to sit this way for the entire ride.
- The seat belt is snug, flat and comfortable on them. If the seat belt does not fit right, they must use a booster seat.



### THE 5 STEP TEST

- 1 Back against the vehicle seat
- 2 Knees bend at edge of seat
- 3 Lap belt low on tops of thighs
- 4 Shoulder belt between shoulder and neck
- 5 Stay through the entire trip

  
**Children's**  
HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

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