



“Law of Love”

Dear Motorist:

Known as our “Law of Love”, Pennsylvania’s child passenger restraint system law underwent some changes in 2003, but the goal is always the same: to save young lives.

As before, children under age 4 must be secured in car safety seats.

Effective Feb. 21, 2003, new provisions require children ages 4 through 7 to be restrained in booster seats. The new requirement is based on the fact that adult seat belts are not designed to fit young children. They often ride up onto a child’s abdomen, putting young children at risk for intestinal, liver, spleen, head and spinal cord injuries in a crash. Data shows these children, restrained only by seat belts, are 3.5 times more likely to suffer serious injury in an accident.

This pamphlet further describes our child car seat and seat belt usage laws, and provides added safe travel tips. Remember, your loved ones are depending on you!

Sincerely,

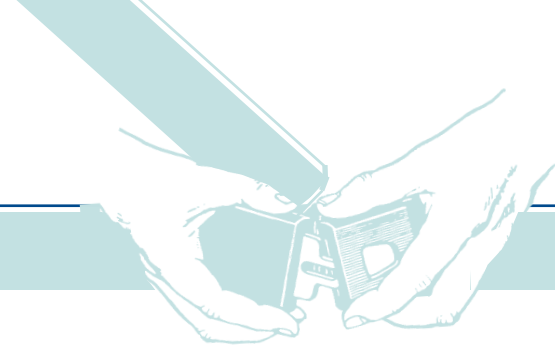
Wayne D. Fontana
State Senator—42nd District

Pennsylvania’s Child Passenger Protection Act

- Infants and toddlers up to age 4 must be securely fastened in approved child safety seats. Violations are a primary offense, meaning that the presence of another code violation is not necessary for penalty under the law.
- Children ages 4 through 7 must be securely fastened in a booster seat. Violations are a secondary offense, meaning that the presence of another code violation is necessary for penalty under the law.
- All drivers are responsible for making sure children are properly secured.
- Fines for violations of Pennsylvania’s child safety seat or booster seat requirements range up to \$100. HOWEVER, the law also requires the charges and fine to be dismissed if the violator subsequently shows proof of purchase of the necessary child safety or booster seat.

Safe Travel Tips For Children & Adults

- All passengers of a vehicle should be secured at all times by both lap and shoulder belts.
- A lap belt should fit snugly over the hips, below the abdomen, and a shoulder belt should cross the collar and breast bones, away from the neck.



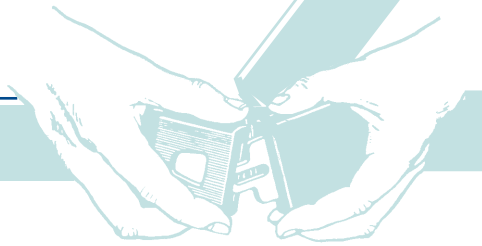
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for the proper installation of a child safety seat.
- Infant seats face backward and are semi-reclined until age 1 and 20 pounds. Toddler seats face forward and are upright from age 1 to 40 pounds. Convertible seats are available that function as both infant and toddler seats. Safety booster seats are available for older children.
- Children under the age of 12 are safest riding buckled, in a safety seat approved for their age and size, in the rear seat of a car.
- A child safety seat should be anchored with the car’s seat belt and the seat’s harness must fit snugly (*one finger-width of space at the collarbone*). Infant and toddler seats should move *no more than 1" side to side*.
- Rear facing child safety seats should never be used in the front seats of vehicles with passenger side air bags.
- Both driver and front passenger seats should be moved as far back as possible, especially when an air bag is present.

SAFETY SEAT TIPS

For more information on child seats, booster seats and seat belts, call the

Traffic Injury Prevention Project (TIPP)
TOLL FREE: 1-800-CAR-BELT

or 1-800-227-2358



For Older Children & Adults:
**Pennsylvania's
 Safety Belt Use Law**

*No matter how close your destination,
 set a good example by using your seat
 belt whenever you travel.*

*Not only will you influence others to
 buckle up for safety, **it's the law!***

- Drivers and all front seat passengers are required to use seat belts.
- Child passengers ages 8 to 18 are required to use seat belts in the front and back seats of a vehicle.
- Exemptions apply to those with a medical excuse signed by a physician, rural letter carriers, deliverers of goods or service vehicle operators driving at speeds less than 15 m.p.h. and making frequent stops, and drivers of automobiles manufactured before July 1, 1966.
- Drivers ages 16 to 18 are not permitted to operate a motor vehicle in which the number of passengers exceeds the number of available safety seat belts in the vehicle.
- Violations are a secondary offense and are punishable by fines and costs totaling up to \$51.50.



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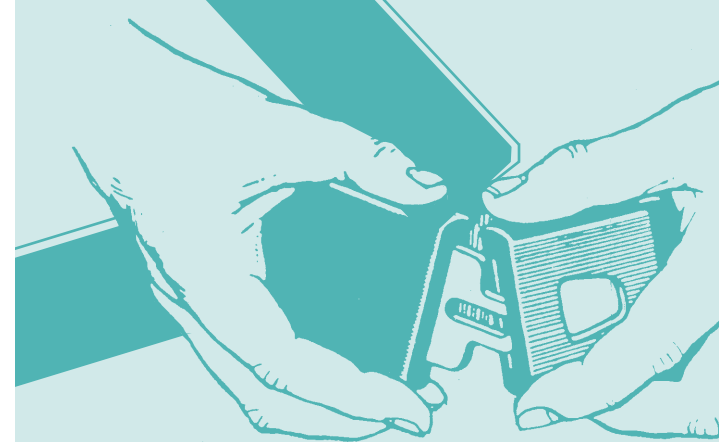
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PENNSYLVANIA'S
"Law of Love"

**CHILD
 PASSENGER
 SAFETY**



Provided as a public service by

**State Senator
 WAYNE D. FONTANA**