



Michigan's Booster Seat Law

Effective July 1, 2008



Children must be fastened in a car seat or on a booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall.

Children must be in a seat until they reach the age requirement or the height requirement, whichever comes first. For example:

- If your child is 8 years or older, but under 4'9" tall, the law does not apply.
- If your child is under 8 years old, but over 4'9" tall, the law does not apply.

Remember: In both of these cases, your child may be safer in a booster seat but it is not required by law.

Types of booster seats

A booster is a seat that boosts a child up so that the seat belt fits properly. There are two types of booster seats, no-back and high-back.

A no-back booster can be used when the vehicle seat/head rest supports the child's head.

A high-back provides head and neck support and can be used on vehicle seats with or without head restraints.

ALL booster seats MUST be used with a lap/shoulder safety belt.



More information

Best practice is to keep your child in a car seat with a "5-point" harness until they are at least 40 lbs. before using a booster seat. Car seats are available with higher forward-facing harness weight limits of 65 lbs. or more. Some forward-facing seats also convert to a high-back booster.

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions and choose a seat that is right for your child and fits in your vehicle.

Booster seats are readily available in many retail stores. A no-back booster costs about \$15-\$20 and a high-back ranges from \$20-\$100 or more depending on the style.

To get your child car seats checked by a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, call:

Plymouth Township Police, Officer Jamie Senkbeil

(734) 354-3243

Amended Michigan Child Occupant Protection Law

Effective Date

07/01/2008

Law Mandate

- Infants through children age 3 must be properly restrained in an appropriate child safety seat.
- Children ages 4-7 and less than 4' 9" must use a child safety seat.
- Safety belt law covers all occupants in front seating positions.
- Children ages 15 and under must be restrained in some manner regardless of seating position.
- The law requires the driver to secure both the child safety seat and the child properly.

Enforcement

- The child safety seat and booster seat law is a primary offense.
- That means police officers can pull over a vehicle for a violation of this law alone.
- Including fines and fees, the violation could cost between \$65 and \$165 for each unrestrained child in a vehicle.
- Points are not assessed for a violation of this law.
- Limited exceptions apply, e.g. if there are more passengers than safety belts available and all safety belts are being utilized in compliance with the law.