Child Safety Seats
What’s The Law

• California law states that children **MUST** be properly restrained in an appropriate child passenger restraint system in the rear seat of a motor vehicle (safety seat or booster seat) until they are at least eight years of age **or** are 4 feet 9 inches tall. (California Vehicle Code 27360.)
Rear Facing Law

• A parent, legal guardian, or driver who transports a child under two years of age on a highway in a motor vehicle, shall properly secure the child in a rear-facing child passenger restraint system that meets applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards, unless the child weighs 40 or more pounds or is 40 or more inches tall. The child shall be secured in a manner that complies with the height and weight limits specified by the manufacturer of the child passenger restraint system.
Car Seat Types

• **Rear-Facing only** – sometimes referred to as “infant” seats – fits new born to about 1 year

• **Convertible** – new born up to about 6 years

• **Boosters** – 4 to 8 years

• **Safety belts** – at least 8 years of age or over 4’9” in height
Rear-Facing Only
also known as an “infant seat”

Weight range is generally
5 to 35 pounds
Infant seats can include multiple base units for convenience when used in more than one vehicle.
Rear-facing Only with no Base

• Most carriers of rear-facing only seats may be used without a base
• The belt path may look incorrect
• Check manufacturer’s instructions to confirm
Proper Harness Use

The internal harness for any car seat positioned in the rear-facing mode, should be at or below the child’s shoulders.
Common Misuse
Rear-Facing Seats and Air Bags

Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active air bag.
Rear Facing for as Long as Possible

- Kids can stay rear-facing until the top limits prescribed by the car seat manufacturer
- Top weight and/or height of seat
Convertible Seats – Rear or Forward Facing

- Convertible seats may be installed rear facing and transition to forward facing as the child grows
- Internal harness straps should be at or below the child’s shoulders, at or above for forward facing
Combination seat

- Combination seats can be used as a booster when harness is removed
Booster seats are used with seatbelts.

High back and low back booster seats

Used to properly position seatbelt
Booster Seats

Correct

Incorrect Seat Belt route
FVMSS Certified Products

RideSafer

mifold
GRAB & GO CAR BOOSTER SEAT
10x smaller
Just as Safe

On shoulder of face and neck
On bones of hips
Off delicate stomoch area
Installation Tips

• Installation using LATCH (Lower Anchor and Tethers for Children) are not used in conjunction with a seatbelt

• Choose the best seating position in the rear seat of the vehicle

• For infants - proper angle is essential – should be between 30 to 45 degrees. A pool noodle may be necessary

• Harness must be untwisted and **SNUG!**

• Retainer clip (chest clip) across chest at armpit level
CHILD IN CAR SEAT FALLS OUT OF MOVING CAR
Fatal Crash
LATCH = Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children
Latch Continued
Top Tether

• Top tethers reduce forward head excursion in a crash

• Use the top tether with a seat belt installation – not just LATCH
Seat Belt Basics - Switchable

Location of the Retractor

- Most common in newer vehicles
- Switch to locking mode
- All car seats must be locked “pre-crash”
Seatbelt

• Strong points of the body: Clavicle and hips
• If the seatbelt hits child’s neck or stomach they need a booster
• Avoid lap only belts if at all possible
• Keep children in rear seat until age 13
Contact Information

Officer Robert Rodriguez
(661) 396-6653
rcrodriguez@chp.ca.gov