



Car Seat SAFETY

The Law in Arizona

AGE **5** OR AGE **5-8** & **4'9"**

1. Any child under 5 years old must be secured in a child restraint system.
2. Any child at least 5 years old but under 8 years old who is also 4'9" tall or shorter must be secured in a child restraint system.

It is 'and' not 'or,' meaning that the law applies to children who meet both the age and height requirements.

Does your child need to ride in a restraint system if:

- She is 6 years old and 4'1" tall?
YES: She is more than 5 years old, but not yet 8, and not taller than 4'9".
- She is 9 years old and 4'5" tall?
NO: Although she is not taller than 4'9", she is not under 8 years old.
- He is 7 years old and 5'2" tall?
NO: Although he is more than 5 years old, but not yet 8, he is taller than 4'9".
- He is 7 years old, 4'8" tall and weighs 70 pounds?
YES: He is more than 5 years old but not yet 8 years old, and not taller than 4'9".
Weight is not a factor in Arizona.

The intent of this law is to improve the safety of children riding in our vehicles who are too big for a car seat, but still not big enough for a regular, factory-installed seat belt to provide adequate protection in the event of an accident.

A child who is older than 8 years and still rather small can use a booster seat, but it is not required.

This law doesn't apply to children riding in a vehicle manufactured before 1972, school bus, public transportation vehicle or a recreational vehicle.

Selecting the Right Car Seat

Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.

Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.

To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.

Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.



Birth - 12 months

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.



1 - 3 years

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.



4 - 7 years

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.



8 - 12 years

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.



A REAR-FACING CAR SEAT has a harness. In a crash it cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the neck and spinal cord.



A FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.



A BOOSTER SEAT positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.



A SEAT BELT should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

Source: www.safercar.gov