
Minnesota Statute 169.685

Child Passenger Restraint Law

- Effective July 1, 2009, a child who is both under age 8 and shorter than 4 feet 9 inches is required to be fastened in a child safety seat that meets federal safety standards. Under this law, a child cannot use a seat belt alone until they are age 8 or 4 feet 9 inches tall. It is recommended to keep a child in a booster based on their height, rather than their age.
- Safety seats must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions:
 - Child must be secured in the safety seat.
 - Seat must be secured to the vehicle with a seat belt or other appropriate device (LATCH) as authorized by the manufacturer.
 - Infants (under 20 pounds and less than 1 year of age) must be in a rear-facing safety seat, away from air bags.
- Law applies to all motor vehicles originally equipped with factory-installed seat belts.
- Law applies to all seating positions.
- Driver's record carries the violation and driver is responsible for paying the fine.
- Petty misdemeanor fine for violation is \$50 (may be waived if violator shows proof of obtaining a safety seat within 14 days).
- Applies to both residents and non-residents of Minnesota.
- Suspected non-use is a valid basis to stop a motor vehicle.

Exceptions

- Children riding in emergency medical vehicles, when medical needs make use of a restraint unreasonable.
- Children riding in a motor vehicle for hire, including a taxi, airport limousine or bus, but excluding a rented, leased or borrowed motor vehicle.
- Children riding with a peace officer on official duty, when a restraint is not available (a seat belt must be substituted).
- Children certified by a licensed physician as having a medical, physical or mental disability that makes restraint use inadvisable.
- Passengers in school buses.

For more information, contact the Minnesota Child Passenger Safety Program at:

- www.buckleupkids.state.mn.us
- www.carseatsmadesimple.org
- www.dps.state.mn.us/ots

245A.18 CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINT SYSTEMS.

Subdivision 1. **Seat belt use.** A license holder must comply with all seat belt and child passenger restraint system requirements under section 169.685.

Subd. 2. **Child passenger restraint systems; training requirement.** (a) Programs licensed by the Department of Human Services under Minnesota Rules, chapter 2960, that serve a child or children under nine years of age must document training that fulfills the requirements in this subdivision.

(b) Before a license holder, staff person, or caregiver transports a child or children under age nine in a motor vehicle, the person transporting the child must satisfactorily complete training on the proper use and installation of child restraint systems in motor vehicles. Training completed under this section may be used to meet initial or ongoing training under Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subparts 1 and 2.

For all providers licensed prior to July 1, 2006, the training required in this subdivision must be obtained by December 31, 2007.

(c) Training required under this section must be at least one hour in length, completed at orientation or initial training, and repeated at least once every five years. At a minimum, the training must address the proper use of child restraint systems based on the child's size, weight, and age, and the proper installation of a car seat or booster seat in the motor vehicle used by the license holder to transport the child or children.

(d) Training under paragraph (c) must be provided by individuals who are certified and approved by the Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety. License holders may obtain a list of certified and approved trainers through the Department of Public Safety Web site or by contacting the agency.

(e) Child care providers that only transport school age children as defined in section 245A.02, subdivision 16, in school buses as defined in section 169.011, subdivision 71, clauses (1) to (4), are exempt from this subdivision.

History: 1990 c 568 art 2 s 54; 1993 c 13 art 1 s 31; 1Sp2005 c 4 art 1 s 22; 2006 c 254 s 1; 2007 c 112 s 20