

Child Passenger Safety Fact Sheet

Child Passenger Safety Recommendations

- The Massachusetts Law requires children to ride in child passenger restraints until they are 5 years old and weigh 40 pounds.
- Always follow manufacturers' instructions when installing a child safety seat.
- Infants up to 20 pounds and 1 year old should ride in a rear-facing child safety seat.
- Children in rear-facing child safety seats should never be placed in the front seat of vehicles with a passenger-side air bag. An inflating air bag striking a rear-facing child safety seat can result in death or severe injury.
- Children who weigh more than 20 pounds and who are 1 year of age or older may ride in a forward-facing child safety seat.
- Children between 40 and 80 pounds, and less than 4'9" tall, should ride in a booster seat. A booster seat helps the seat belt to fit correctly and safely and gives children more comfort and visibility.
- Children who are under 12 years old, and have outgrown their booster seats, should be properly restrained in a seat belt, seated in the rear seat whenever possible.

Child Passenger Safety Resources

- Whenever possible, have your child safety seat checked by a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician. CPS Technicians can educate and demonstrate the proper use of child safety seats to parents and caregivers. This is a cost-free service open to the public. To find a CPS Technician in Massachusetts, please go to www.seatcheck.org and enter your zip code or call the Massachusetts State Police Child Passenger Safety Hotline at **508-988-7090**.
- The CAR-SAFE Line is a toll-free help-line for Massachusetts residents who have questions about passenger safety. To reach the CAR-SAFE Line, please call **1-800-CAR-SAFE** (or **1-800-227-7233**).
- The Injury Prevention and Control Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health can provide you with detailed child passenger safety information. Please call the Injury Prevention and Control Program at **(617) 624-5070** or visit their web site at www.state.ma.us/dph/fch/injury/.
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) can provide you with detailed child passenger safety information, including rules, regulations, and recalls regarding child safety seats. Please contact NHTSA's regional office in Cambridge at **(617) 494-3427** or visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov.