

Transportation

In accordance with the Rule:

- Before a license holder, caregiver, substitute or helper transports a child under age nine in a motor vehicle they must complete training on the proper use and installation of child restraint systems. Refer to Chapter 13 for specific requirements.
- Children must be individually fastened in a seat belt or an approved safety seat appropriate for their size and used according to manufacturers instructions.
- Children under age 8 must ride in a federally-approved car seat or booster seat unless the child is 4'9" or taller.
- Any vehicle used to transport children must be licensed in accordance with Minnesota laws, and the driver must have a current, valid drivers license.
- Written permission to transport must be obtained from parents.
- An adult must be present at all times in a vehicle with children.
- Car seats should be destroyed after 6 years, or sooner if involved in an accident, should never be purchased at a garage sale, and should always be checked for recalls. To check for recalls, call Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-2772, website: www.cpsc.gov or check the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for additional car seat recalls, website: www.nhtsa.gov



Child Restraint Laws

Child Passenger Restraint Law MN Stat. 169.685

- All children under age 8 must ride in a federally-approved car seat or booster seat unless the child is 4'9" or taller.
- Safety seats must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Infants (under 20 pounds and 1 year of age) must be in a rear-facing safety seat.
- Child must be secured in the safety seat.
- Seat must be secured to the vehicle.
- Law applies to all motor vehicles originally equipped with factory-installed seat belts.
- Law applies to all seating positions.
- Driver is responsible.
- Petty misdemeanor fine for violations 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.

These laws are minimum safety standards and do not reflect best practices for properly securing children within vehicles. All vehicle occupants should buckle up regardless of seating position. For children under 80 pounds to properly be secured in a vehicle they should sit in an appropriate child safety seat or booster seat.

The best guideline for children's passenger safety is up to a minimum of 8 years AND 80 pounds AND 4'9" height.