

## California Buckle-Up Laws

Applies to all passenger vehicles (including RVs) and trucks, not buses. All occupants must be *properly* restrained. Proper belt use: lower (lap) portion of belt crosses hips or upper thighs; upper (shoulder) portion of the belt, if present, crosses chest in front of occupant.

### CHILD PASSENGERS

**V.C. 27360(a)** Children must ride in safety seat or booster in back seat until at least age 8. Cite parent/guardian (if present) for each child unrestrained, not properly restrained, or in front seat. Cite driver if parent is not in the car.

**Exceptions:** Medical condition (court determines). Safety belt permitted (must fit properly) if child over 40 lbs. and no shoulder belt in rear; child 4'9" or more; life-threatening emergency and no safety seat available. Front seat permitted if safety seat cannot be properly installed in back or all rear seats are occupied by children 7 or under. Rear-facing safety seats not permitted in front with active passenger air bag.

**V.C. 27360.5(a)** Children at least 8 and under 16 must ride in safety seat, booster, or properly fitted vehicle belt (back seat not required, but recommended). Cite parent/guardian (if present). Cite driver if parent is not in the car.

#### **V.C. 15620(a)**

No person shall leave a child age 6 or younger alone in a vehicle or with a child under 12 .

### OTHER OCCUPANTS

#### **V.C. 27315**

**(d)(1)** Cite driver for self and for passengers 16 or older if not properly secured in a safety belt.

**(e)** Also may cite passengers 16 or older if not properly secured in a safety belt.

**(f)** Cite registered owner of car if safety belts have been removed or not working.

#### **V.C. 23116**

Cite **(a)** driver and **(b)** persons riding unrestrained in the back of a pickup or flatbed truck (no exception for camper shell).

**SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.**

(800) 745-SAFE www.carseat.org #445 (4-12-12)

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## Four Types of Safety Seats

### Rear-facing-only seat

Fits until baby reaches maximum weight (22-35 lbs.) or head close to top edge. **Must** be installed facing rearward.

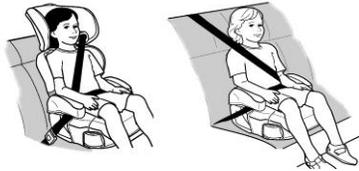


### Convertible safety seat

Fits up to 30-45 lbs. rear facing, 40-85 lbs. forward facing. Rear facing is required until age one, recommended until age 2.

### Forward-facing-only

Most fit from 30 lbs. up to 40-90 lbs. Child must be at least age one (recommended age 2). Harness-only restraint systems may be used.



### Safety booster seat

For children who outgrow safety seats with a harness. Most children need a booster from about age 4 until at least age 10-12 for proper belt fit.

### Quick Checklist for Visible Errors

These dangerous mistakes are easy to spot:

- ✓ Child riding unrestrained or sharing belt
- ✓ Child riding in front seat
- ✓ Baby facing front of car
- ✓ Rear-facing baby or child in front of air bag
- ✓ Harness loose or not on shoulders
- ✓ Chest clip on tummy instead of chest
- ✓ Shoulder belt under arm or behind back
- ✓ Shoulder belt close to child's face (needs booster)

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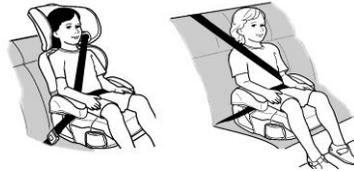


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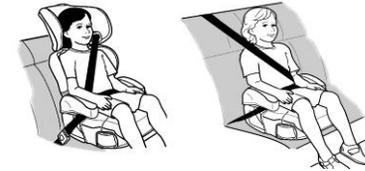


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