

California Buckle-Up Laws

Applies to all passenger vehicles (including RVs) and trucks, not buses. All occupants must be **properly** restrained. Proper belt use: lap belt crosses hips or upper thighs; shoulder 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(b) Children must ride rear-facing until they are 2 years old, unless child weighs at least 40 pounds or is at least 40 inches tall.

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. 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.

V.C. 27361 LEO reasonably suspecting a violation of Section 27360 or 27360.5, or both, may stop a vehicle transporting a child.

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 (9-17-20)

Four Types of Safety Seats

Rear-facing-only seat

Fits until child reaches maximum weight (22-40 lbs.) or head close to top edge. **Must** be installed facing rearward.



Convertible safety seat



Fits up to 30-50 lbs. rear facing, 40-85 lbs. forward facing.

Rear facing is required until age 2, unless 40 lbs. or 40" or more.

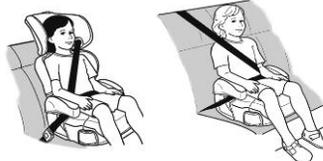
Forward-facing-only

Most fit from 30 lbs. up to 40-90 lbs. Child must be at least age 2 unless 40 lbs. or 40" or more.

Harness-only restraint systems may be used.



Booster seat



For children who outgrow safety seats with a harness. Most children need a booster from about

age 4-6 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
- ✓ Child under age 2 facing front of car
- ✓ Rear-facing child in front of air bag
- ✓ Harness loose or not on shoulders
- ✓ Chest clip on tummy instead of chest
- ✓ Safety seat not installed tightly
- ✓ Shoulder belt under arm or behind back
- ✓ Shoulder belt close to child's face (needs booster)