

PENNSYLVANIA's - Child Passenger Safety Law

After ACT 81 (effective 12/24/2011) A Guide for Law Enforcement

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TRAFFIC INJURY PREVENTION PROJECT:

- 1  **Rear-Facing:** For the best possible protection, secure children in a rear-facing child safety seat until 2 years of age or until the maximum weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat. Children younger than 1 year should always ride in a rear facing car seat.
- 2  **Forward-Facing:** When children outgrow the rear-facing child safety seat, secure them in a forward facing child safety seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.
- 3  **Belt-Positioning Booster Seat:** Once children outgrow their forward-facing child safety seat, secure them in a belt positioning booster seat until the vehicle lap and shoulder belt fits properly, typically when the child is approx. 4 feet 9 inches in height and between 8 and 12 year of age.
- 4  **Seat Belt:** When Children outgrow their belt-positioning booster seat, secure them in a properly fitted lap and shoulder belt. A lap and shoulder belt fits properly when the lap belt lays low and snug across the hips/upper thigh and the shoulder belts fits across the center of the chest and shoulder

*****ALL CHILDREN UNDER AGE 13 SHOULD RIDE IN A BACK SEAT*****

Fore more information visit: www.pakidstravelsafe.org

**Pennsylvania's Seat belts and Child Seats Law after ACT 81
Title 75 Section 4581 - Restraint Systems (effective 12/24/2011)**

From PAMVC Title 75 4581 & Title 67 section 102

Note: Section 1503c2.1 further restricts the number of occupants a new driver under 18 years old may have in a vehicle.

(Medical Exceptions for Child Passenger Restraints must be on PennDOT form SG-5/9-03)

ALL APPLY TO: Passenger Cars, Class 1 & 2 Trucks, Motor Home, Classic, & Antiques

- 4581(a)(1) – Every occupant under 4 years old must be in a safety seat used in accordance with the manufactures instructions. This is a **primary** Vehicle Code violation with a fine of \$75 and Court Costs.
- 4581(a)(1.1) – Every occupant 4 years old to under 8 years old must be in a booster seat used in accordance with the manufactures instructions. (Exceptions from Title 67 section 102 for the use of a booster seat for Lap belt ONLY positions, more than 80lbs, or taller than 57 inches. CHILD MUST STILL utilize a seat belt system.) This is a **primary** Vehicle Code violation with a fine of \$75 and Court Costs.
- 4581(a)(2)(i) – Every occupant 8 years old to under 18 years old must be in a seat belt. This is a **primary** Vehicle Code violation with a fine of \$10 and no Court Costs.
- 4581(a)(2)(ii) – Every driver and front seat passenger 18 years old and older must be in a seat belt. This is a **secondary** Vehicle Code violation with a fine of \$10 and no Court Costs. (Exceptions in 1581a3iii)
- 4581(a)(3) – A Junior Operator may have no more passengers that there are seat belts. This is a **primary** Vehicle Code violation with a fine of \$10 and no Court Costs.

Rear-facing	Front-facing	Booster	Seat belt 8 to 18	Seat belt Over 18	Under 18 Driver / # Passenger
4581 (a) (1)	4581 (a) (1)	4581 (a) (1.1)	4581 (a) (2) (i)	4581 (a) (2) (ii)	4581 (a) (3)
Failed to provide/ properly use child restraint system	Failed to provide/ properly use child restraint system	Failed to provide/ properly use an approved child restraint system	Failed to provide/ properly use seat belt	Failed to provide for front seat passenger or driver to properly use seat belt	Driver under 18 operating with more passengers than seat belts
Primary \$75 + Costs	Primary \$75 + Costs	Primary \$75 + Costs	Primary \$10 NO Costs	Secondary \$10 NO Costs	Primary \$10 NO Costs

4581(d): all child restraints must be used as designed by the manufacturer

	Under 1 yr	1-3 yrs.	4-7 yrs.	8-18 yrs.
Less than 20 lbs.	Rear-facing safety seat	Rear-facing safety seat		
20-40 lbs.	Rear-facing safety seat	Front-facing safety seat	**Booster seat (using lap & shoulder belt)**	
Over 40lbs. Under 57"		Booster seat (using lap & shoulder belt)	Booster seat (using lap & shoulder belt)	Seat belt
Over 80lbs. or Over 57"		Seat belt	Seat belt	Seat belt

Use Child seat manufactures height and weight recommendations to transition
**Front-facing Safety Seat suggested until child reaches max. weight of seat