

# Keep Me in a Safe Seat

## SAFETY SEAT GUIDELINES



### Newborn-2 years

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, Illinois law requires children under age 2 to be properly secured in a rear-facing child restraint system unless they weigh more than 40 pounds or are more than 40 inches tall. Children must remain rear-facing until age 2.

*Children riding rear-facing may use a rear-facing-only car seat or a convertible car seat installed rear-facing. Always follow the car seat manufacturers harnessing instructions and height and weight limitations for a rear-facing installation.*



### Ages 2-4

Children should remain rear-facing as long as possible and may be transitioned to a forward-facing car seat with an internal harness system. Always follow the car seat manufacturers harnessing instructions and height and weight limitations for a forward-facing installation. Children should be secured in a forward-facing seat with an internal harness system until they reach the upper height or weight limit allowed by the seat manufacturer.

*A forward-facing car seat has a harness and tether that limit a child's forward movement during a crash.*



### Ages 4-8

When children outgrow the forward-facing seat, they may transition to a belt-positioning booster seat.

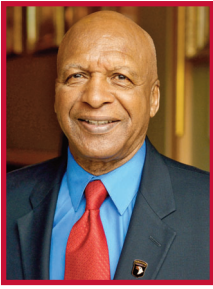
*A belt-positioning booster seat positions the seat belt so it fits properly over the stronger parts of a child's body.*



### Ages 8-12

Children should stay in a belt-positioning booster seat until they can fit properly in an adult lap/shoulder seat belt.

*An adult lap/shoulder seat belt should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.*



As a parent and grandparent, I cannot stress the importance of making sure our children are properly secured in the appropriate child safety seats. Automobile crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for children.

Our children deserve the best protection while riding in a vehicle. The best way to keep a child safe in the car is to use the right car seat in the right way. The reverse side of this card provides more information for safely securing your child in your vehicle.

Remember that children and airbags do not mix – the safest place for young passengers is in the back seat.

The Secretary of State's office provides car safety seat inspections at several Driver Services facilities throughout the state. I encourage you to visit one of these facility fitting stations to ensure your child's safety seat is installed properly and meets manufacturers height and weight guidelines for safe traveling. Making sure your car seat is properly installed will give you peace of mind that your little ones are well-protected.

Also, remember Illinois requires **ALL** passengers to be buckled up, regardless of their age or where they sit in the vehicle.

Be a good example, buckle up!

*Jesse White*

JESSE WHITE  
Secretary of State



## IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS

Select a car seat that fits a child's age and size and that can be safely secured in your vehicle.

Keep children in rear-facing safety seats until they are at least age 2.

Never install a rear-facing seat in front of an active airbag.

Keep children in the back seat until they reach age 13.

Know the history of your safety seat.

Do not use a safety seat that is more than 6 years old or past the expiration date stamped on the seat.

Register your safety seat with the manufacturer so you will be notified of any recalls. You can also check for recalls at [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

Do not attach anything to the car safety seat unless the manufacturer allows its use. This includes toys, mirrors, window shades and belt tightening tools.

All objects in the vehicle should be stowed in the trunk or tied down. They can be projectiles if a crash or sudden stop occurs.

### REMEMBER

Illinois law requires all children under age 8 to be secured in an appropriate child safety seat.

For more information or to schedule a car seat inspection or installation, please call:

**1-866-247-0213**