

# Child Safety Seats



# What's The Law

- California law states that children ***MUST*** be properly restrained in an appropriate child passenger restraint system in the rear seat of a motor vehicle (safety seat or booster seat) until they are at least eight years of age or are 4 feet 9 inches tall. (California Vehicle Code 27360.)

# Rear Facing Law

- A parent, legal guardian, or driver who transports **a child under two years of age** on a highway in a motor vehicle, **shall** properly secure the child in a **rear-facing child passenger restraint system** that meets applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards, unless the child weighs 40 or more pounds or is 40 or more inches tall. The child shall be secured in a manner that complies with the height and weight limits specified by the manufacturer of the child passenger restraint system

# Car Seat Types

- Rear-Facing only – sometimes referred to as “infant” seats – fits new born to about 1 year
- Convertible – new born up to about 6 years
- Boosters – 4 to 8 years
- Safety belts – at least 8 years of age or over 4'9" in height



# Rear-Facing Only

also known as an “infant seat”



Weight range is generally  
5 to 35 pounds

# Bases for Infant Carriers



Infant seats can include multiple base units for convenience when used in more than one vehicle



# Rear-facing Only with no Base

- Most carriers of rear-facing only seats may be used without a base
- The belt path may look incorrect
- Check manufacturer's instructions to confirm





# Proper Harness Use



CORRECT



INCORRECT



SNUG



NOT SNUG

The internal harness for any car seat positioned in the rear-facing mode, should be **at or below** the child's shoulders



# Common Misuse



# Rear-Facing Seats and Air Bags



## **This Vehicle is Equipped with Advanced Air Bags**

**Even with Advanced Air Bags**  
Children can be killed or seriously injured by the air bag.  
The back seat is the safest place for children.  
Always use seat belts and child restraints.  
See owner's manual for more information about air bags.



Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of  
an active air bag



# Rear Facing for as Long as Possible

- Kids can stay rear-facing until the top limits prescribed by the car seat manufacturer
- Top weight and/or height of seat





# Convertible Seats – Rear or Forward Facing



- Convertible seats may be installed rear facing and transition to forward facing as the child grows
- Internal harness straps should be **at or below** the child's shoulders, **at or above** for forward facing

# Combination seat

Harness  
Mode



Booster  
Mode



- Combination seats can be used as a booster when harness is removed





# Booster Seats



Booster seats are used with seatbelts.

High back and low back booster seats

Used to properly position seatbelt



# Booster Seats



Correct



Incorrect Seat Belt  
route

# FVMSS Certified Products



**mifold**  
GRAB & GO CAR BOOSTER SEAT



**10x**  
smaller



Just as Safe



On shoulder, of face and neck

On bones of hips

Off delicate stomach area



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SUPER TOUGH PLASTIC POLYMERS

TOP DESIGNERS

AI

PIECOLI



# Installation Tips

- Installation using LATCH (Lower Anchor and Tethers for Children) are not used in conjunction with a seatbelt
- Choose the best seating position in the rear seat of the vehicle
- For infants - proper angle is essential – should be between 30 to 45 degrees. A pool noodle may be necessary
- Harness must be untwisted and **SNUG!**
- Retainer clip (chest clip) across chest at armpit level



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# CHILD IN CAR SEAT FALLS OUT OF MOVING CAR





# Fatal Crash





LATCH = Lower Anchors and Tethers for CHildren





# Latch Continued



# Top Tether



- Top tethers reduce forward head excursion in a crash

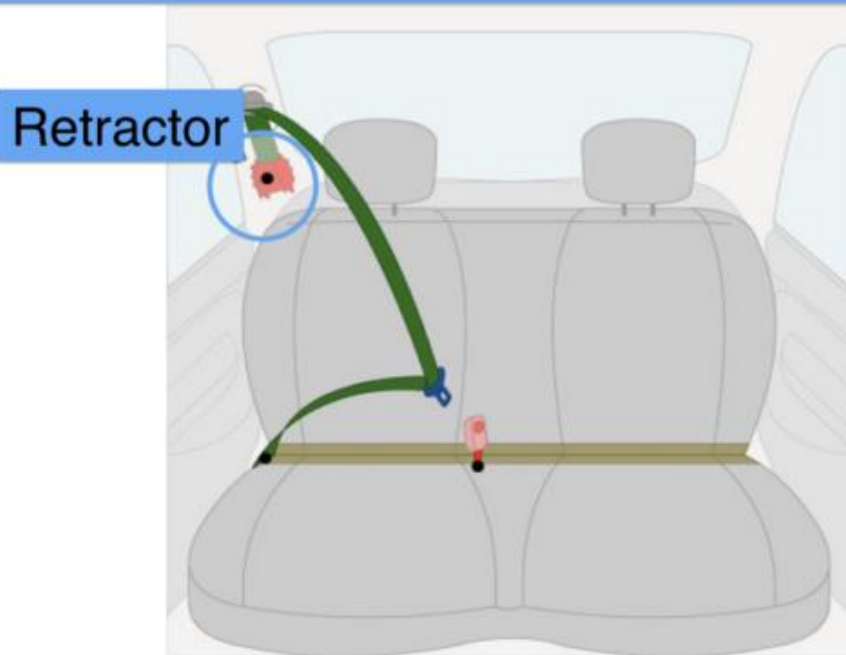


- Use the top tether with a seat belt installation – not just LATCH



# Seat Belt Basics - Switchable

## Location of the Retractor



- Most common in newer vehicles
- Switch to locking mode
- All car seats must be locked “pre-crash”



# Seatbelt

- Strong points of the body:  
Clavicle and hips
- If the seatbelt hits child's  
neck or stomach they need a  
booster
- Avoid lap only belts if at all  
possible
- Keep children in rear seat  
until age 13



# Contact Information



Officer Robert Rodriguez

(661) 396-6653

[rcrodriguez@chp.ca.gov](mailto:rcrodriguez@chp.ca.gov)