

## What is Ohio's Car Seat Law?

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- Any child under 4 years old
  - Any child under 40 pounds
  - Properly used car seat
  - Kids 4 years to either 8 years or 4'9" must be in a booster
  - Kids 8 up to 15 in a car seat, booster seat or a seat belt
  - Any vehicle equipped with seat belts at the time of manufacture
  - Fines of \$25 and more plus possible jail time for a second offense
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For more information call:  
**740-368-1700**

## Ohio's Occupant Protection Program

Ohio's Occupant Protection Program is an education program designed to reduce the number of traffic deaths in Ohio.

The Occupant Protection Program is funded by federal grant money which is divided into smaller grants and awarded to 9 regions in Ohio. These grants are overseen by The Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Ohio Traffic Safety Office with support from Ohio Department of Health.

Ohio's Occupant Protection Program is available in all 88 counties to help with car seats, booster seats, seat belts and other related questions and issues.



*"Dedicated to Your Health"*  
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# Ohio Booster Seat Law



# And Other Ohio Occupant Protection Laws



## Car Seat Laws

*Ohio Revised Code 4511.81*

### Age 0 up to 4 and 40 lbs

#### Child Restraint Violation

If a child is either under age 4 or under 40 lbs., they must be in a car seat. So a car seat must be used:

- If child is younger than 4 but weighs 40 lbs or more
- If a child weighs less than 40lbs but is older than 3

### Age 4 up to 8, OR 4'9" tall

#### Booster Seat Violation

A child age 4 up until they reach either age 8 or 4'9" tall must be in a booster seat.

- Children 8 years old are exempt.
- Children 4'9" tall are exempt.

### Age 8 up to age 15

#### Seat Belt Violation

Child age 8 up to age 15 must be in a seatbelt regardless of front or back seat occupancy.

*Children are safest in the back seat until at least 13 years old.*

All of the above sections require the **driver to be ticketed**, not the child.

*All of the above sections have a minimum fine of \$25 and a maximum fine of \$75. Second offenses fines to \$250 and jail time to 30 days.*

*Ohio Revised Code 4513.263*

**Seat Belt Violation** for front seat occupants age 15 and older applies to:

- Driver,
- Passenger not wearing, but driver gets ticket,
- Passenger not wearing and gets ticket,
- All parts of the seatbelts must be worn.

*Ohio Revised Code 4507.071*

**Probationary License Driver (15-17 yr olds) Seat Belt Violation**

- Driver responsible for all occupants wearing seatbelts
- Cannot have more passengers than seatbelts

*Ohio Revised Code 4511.51*

**Pickup Truck beds** (cargo area) occupant not allowed if under age 16 and factory installed seatbelts are not present. Tailgates cannot be open and no one can sit on tailgates, except public maintenance/street workers.



## Booster Seat Choices

### Backless Boosters:



May be used as long as a child has head support from the vehicle's seat back.  
(Think whiplash.)

### Highback Boosters:



May be used as long as child's ears are not above the booster back.

All Booster seats must be used with a lap and shoulder belt.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q- My child is 8 years old and is only 4'2" tall. Is he required to be in a booster seat?

A- No, at 8 years he is exempt from the booster law.

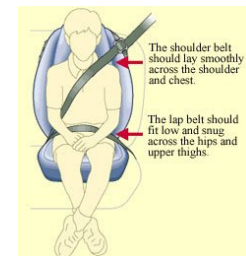
Q- My child is 7 years old and is 4'9" tall. Is she required to be in a booster seat?

A- No, once a child reaches 4'9" she is exempt from the booster law.

Q- How do I know when my child is ready to be in just a seatbelt?

A-It is safest to keep children in car seats or boosters as long as possible, beyond what the law covers and if your child cannot do the following:

- Sit with his back flush to the vehicle seat back – no slouching and be able to bend his knees fully over the front of the seat.
- Have the shoulder belt fit on the middle of his shoulder.
- Have the lap belt ride across his hip bones not his tummy.



Q- What if I have a medical problem and wearing a seat belt is not possible?

A- You must carry an affidavit from your doctor exempting you.

For more information call the Delaware General Health District at: 740-368-1700