Tennessee Seat Belt Laws

Attention Drivers!

Protecting children in the car is your responsibility.
If children ever ride in your car—you must know and follow the law.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s Age/Weight/Height</th>
<th>Type of Seat</th>
<th>Location of Seat</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1 year &amp; 20 lbs. or less</td>
<td>Rear Facing</td>
<td>Rear Seat if Available</td>
<td>Seat must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and be used according to child safety restraint system or vehicle manufacturer’s instructions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year through 3 years &amp; greater than 20 lbs.</td>
<td>Forward Facing</td>
<td>Rear Seat if Available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years through 8 years &amp; less than 4’9” tall</td>
<td>Belt Positioning Booster Seat</td>
<td>Rear Seat if Available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 years through 12 years &amp; 4’9” tall or greater</td>
<td>Vehicle Seat Belt System</td>
<td>Rear Seat Recommended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 years through 17 years</td>
<td>Vehicle Seat Belt System</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional NHTSA Recommendations

- Never place a rear-facing seat in front of an active air bag!
- Child safety seats can not be used on side-facing jump seats.
- A booster seat should always be used with the vehicle lap AND shoulder belt. High-back booster seats are required when vehicle headrests are not available. Never allow a child to place the shoulder belt behind their back or under their arm.
- Children are ready for adult seat belts when they can sit back against seat with knees bent over edge of seat and feet on floor. Shoulder belt should cross shoulder and chest (not neck) and lap belt should rest across pelvis or hips (not abdomen).

Not all vehicle and family situations will have a good answer. You may need to work with a Child Passenger Safety Technician to find the best answer for a particular situation. You can find a technician at:

**Governor's Highway Safety Office**
**TN Traffic Safety Resource Service**
[http://www.tntrafficsafety.org](http://www.tntrafficsafety.org)
or call 1-800-99BELTS

Remember: Never leave your child in a HOT CAR. Never!
Links

- For information on choosing the correct type of car seat
- National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration
- Safe Kids Worldwide
- Safe Kids Worldwide - Safety In and Around Cars
- Tennessee Child Restraint Law
- Tennessee Department of Health Child Safety Information
- Tennessee Unattended Children in Vehicles Law
- To check car seat recall list