

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.**

Tennessee Seat Belt Laws - (TCA 55-9-602 & 603) Primary Laws Effective July 1, 2005—Present			
Child's Age/Weight/Height	Type of Seat	Location of Seat	Additional Information
0-1 year & 20 lbs. or less	Rear Facing	Rear Seat if Available	Seat must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and be used according to child safety restraint system or vehicle manufacturer's instructions
1 year through 3 years & greater than 20 lbs.	Forward Facing	Rear Seat if Available	
4 years through 8 years & less than 4'9" tall	Belt Positioning Booster Seat	Rear Seat if Available	
9 years through 12 years & 4'9" tall or greater	Vehicle Seat Belt System	Rear Seat Recommended	
13 years through 17 years	Vehicle Seat Belt System		

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>

or call 1-800-99BELTS

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

Links



- [!\[\]\(95b42f0077faf7439a26242a54e021ec_img.jpg\) For information on choosing the correct type of car seat](#)
- [!\[\]\(e097ab4c08b8186dd0908330bbc2dc28_img.jpg\) National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration](#)
- [!\[\]\(1e9d865c5de095f8e3304757c49e79d7_img.jpg\) Safe Kids Worldwide](#)
- [!\[\]\(735b10d724a5f0ec5005c4eb3eb9c9d1_img.jpg\) Safe Kids Worldwide - Safety In and Around Cars](#)
- [!\[\]\(e6250f05bc27fa93236b816562b699f9_img.jpg\) Tennessee Child Restraint Law](#)
- [!\[\]\(d190cc638f389909d4b049d6c19e4cb2_img.jpg\) Tennessee Department of Health Child Safety Information](#)
- [!\[\]\(4d34001966c7597a8c3e4293694bde37_img.jpg\) Tennessee Unattended Children in Vehicles Law](#)
- [!\[\]\(70b9adae95aa76ce55f26a9fb944efce_img.jpg\) To check car seat recall list](#)