

Pregnancy and Seat Belts

- Pregnant women should wear the lap belt under the stomach, as low on the hips as possible and against the upper thighs.
- The shoulder belt should rest between the breasts. Make sure the straps fit snugly.

Common car seat safety errors

- Turning a child from a rear-facing safety seat to a forward-facing safety seat too soon.
- Safety seat is not secured tight enough - should not shift more than one inch side to side or out from the seat at the belt path.
- Harness on the child is not tight enough — if you can pinch harness material, it's too loose.
- Retainer clip is up too high or too low —should be at the child's armpit level.
- The child is in the wrong car seat — don't rush your child into a seat belt.
- Use either LATCH or a seat belt to secure an infant, convertible or forward facing seat, but not both together.

New York Seat Belt Law

- The driver and front seat passenger must be restrained with a seat belt.
- All back seat passengers under age 16y must be either in a certified child safety seat or a seat belt.

New York Child Passenger Safety and Booster Seat Law

- **Children under the age of 2 must use a rear-facing car seat.**
- All children up to their 8th birthday must be properly restrained in a certified child safety seat.
- It is recommended to keep a child in a booster based on their height and weight, rather than their age.



November 2019

Child Passenger Safety

- Car seats must meet federal motor vehicle standards and be installed properly to prevent injuries.
- Read the car seat manufacturer instructions and the motor vehicle owner's manual to ensure the car seat is used and installed correctly.
- Follow instructions carefully.
- Check the car seat instruction manual for the weight, height and age restrictions for each car seat.



1 Rear-Facing

2 Forward-Facing

3 Booster Seat



- There are 3 types of rear-facing car seats: infant seats, convertible seats and all-in-one seats.
- The NYS law requires **all children under the age of 2 must use a rear-facing car seat.**
- Children may stay rear-facing longer in convertible car seats based on the seat's height and weight limits.
- Always install rear-facing safety seats in the reclined position (45 degree angle) and per car seat manufacturer instructions.
- Keep the harness straps snug and at or below the shoulders.
- Rear-facing seats should be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. If a car seat must be used in the front seat, air bags must be turned off.
- Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active airbag.



- Types of forward facing seats with a harness are a convertible, combination and all-in-one seats.
- Check the manufacturer instructions for exact positioning.
- For children who have outgrown a rear-facing seat: Children should use a forward-facing harnessed seat until they outgrow the weight limit (typically 40-80 pounds).
- Place forward-facing seats in the upright position and per car seat manufacturer instructions.
- Move the harness straps to the proper reinforced slots at or above the shoulders and keep the straps snug.



- Children must use a booster seat after they outgrow a forward-facing harnessed seat and remain in a booster until they fit into an adult seat belt.
- Both low back and high back booster seats must be used with a lap and shoulder belt.
- Booster seats keep the lap belt positioned properly around a child's hips and the shoulder belt in the correct position.
- Some booster seats have a high back and some come with no back.
- Booster seats without a back must only be positioned in vehicles that have a head rest.

4 Adult Seat Belt



- Your child is ready for an adult seat belt when they can sit with their back against the vehicle seat back and knees bent over the vehicle seat edge without slouching.
- The belt should cross the shoulder (not the neck), and the thighs (not the abdomen). This is usually around 4'9".