

# TENNESSEE KIDS GET A BOOST

## TENNESSEE CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW (TCA 55-9-602)

Effective July 2005- Present



### REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Children under one year of age, or any child weighing twenty pounds or less, must be secured in a child passenger restraint system in a rear facing position, in the rear seat, if available.



### FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

Children age one through age three, and weighing more than twenty pounds, must be secured in a child safety seat in a forward facing position in the rear seat, if available.



### BOOSTER SEAT

Children age four through age eight, and measuring less than four feet nine inches (4'9") in height, must be secured in a belt-positioning booster seat system in the rear seat, if available.



### SEAT BELT

Children age nine through age 12, measuring four feet nine inches (4'9") or more in height, must be secured in a seat belt system. It is recommended that any such child be placed in the rear seat, if available.

- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Seats must meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (§ 571.213) and be used according to the child safety restraint system and vehicle manufacturer's instructions.
- NEVER place an infant in front of an airbag!

# WHY BOOSTER SEATS?

Young children who have outgrown their forward facing car seats are still too small for an adult lap and shoulder belt. When these young children wear adult seat belts, they can suffer serious injuries to the head, neck, spinal cord and abdomen. All it takes is a **BOOST** to put them in the proper position for the adult lap/shoulder belt to protect them!



## BOOSTER SEAT Q & A



**Q: Why would I use a high-back booster seat instead of a low-back booster seat?**

A: High-back booster seats must be used when vehicle seat backs are low or do not have head restraints. This type of seat provides head, neck, and back support for the child.

**Q: How do I use my Combination or All-In-One car seat as a booster?**

A: When your child outgrows the height or weight limits of the harness, remove the harness and use the seat as a booster. Be sure to carefully follow the instructions on how to convert your seat to a booster.

**Q: How does a booster seat help if it isn't latched to the car?**

A: Booster seats are not tightly installed in the vehicle as other child restraints are. Booster seats are held in place by the child's weight and the vehicle's lap and shoulder belts. The booster seat is designed to help the lap and shoulder belt fit properly, by raising and positioning your child. The lap and shoulder belt together function as the restraint.

**Q: How should the seat belt fit my child when they are in a booster seat?**

A: The lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest, and not across the neck or face.

**Get Help-** To find the best answer or resources for your particular child seat situation, visit the Tennessee Traffic Safety Resource Service at [www.tntrafficsafety.org](http://www.tntrafficsafety.org) and click on the "Child Passenger Safety" link. There you can find a child passenger safety fitting station near you and speak with a certified technician.

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