



**The Children's Hospital**

*A program of the  
Children's Health Advocacy Institute*

# Colorado's Child Restraint Law

Colorado Revised Statute 42-4-236

Most recent changes effective August 1, 2010

**Bolded Text** indicates Colorado Law.

Similar Text indicates "best practice" recommendations by national safety experts\*.



## **Infants must ride in the back seat in a rear-facing car seat until they are at least 1 year old and at least 20 lbs.**

Safety experts\* recommend that children remain in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible for the best protection in a crash. Many convertible car seats allow children to ride rear facing until 30 lbs., refer to manufacturers specifications.

## **Children 1-4 years old must ride in a car seat.**

Again, safety experts\* recommend that children remain in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible for the best protection in a crash.

Safety experts\* recommend restraining children in the back seat in a five-point harness car seat until at least 40 lbs. for the best protection. Use the upper tether where applicable; refer to vehicle's owner's manual.



## **Children 4-8 years old must continue to ride in a child restraint. Typically this is a booster seat.**

Safety experts\* recommend that children remain in the back seat in a child restraint. Regardless of age, children weighing less than 40 lbs. are safest in a car seat.

## **Children 8-16 years old must use a seat belt.**

All passengers in a vehicle should always be properly buckled up, either with an appropriate car seat, booster seat or seat belt.

Safety experts\* consider proper seat belt fit to adhere to the following:

- (1) The child can sit all the way back against the seat with their knees bent naturally at the edge of the seat;
- (2) The shoulder belt comfortably crosses the shoulder between the neck and the arm; and
- (3) The lap belt sits low on the child's hips and touches the thigh

Safety experts\* recommend children less than 57" inches tall remain in a booster seat regardless of their age or weight because of the above factors. The safest location for a child is in the back seat.



For more information, contact the Colorado Child Passenger Safety Program.

[www.CarSeatsColorado.com](http://www.CarSeatsColorado.com) (303) 239-4625 or (877) LUV-TOTS or [www.SafeKids.org](http://www.SafeKids.org).

\*Safety experts include The Children's Hospital in accordance with the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Safe Kids Worldwide.

