

NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW

- Children younger than 7 are required to ride in a child restraint (car seat or booster seat). The restraint must be used correctly – following the manufacturer's instructions.
- A seat belt may be substituted for children younger than 7 who weigh more than 80 pounds and are more than 57 (4'9") inches tall.
- A lap belt may be used by children who weigh more than 40 pounds who ride in vehicles with lap-only seat belts or if all lap and shoulder belts are used by other occupants. (This is because booster seats require both a lap and shoulder belt for correct use.)
- Children ages 7 through 17 must be properly secured in a seat belt or child restraint (car seat or booster seat).
- The law applies to all seating positions – front seat and back.
- The driver is responsible for ensuring that all occupants younger than 18 are buckled up in the appropriate restraint.
- The penalty for violation is \$25 and one point against the license of the driver.

Effective: August 1, 2005



North Dakota Department of Health
Injury Prevention Program
800.472.2286

To help you select the right child restraint for your child, refer to guidelines on back.

Attention Parents and Caregivers



Confused?

To help you select the right child restraint for your child's age and weight, the North Dakota Department of Health offers the following [guidelines](#) for buckling up children.

INFANT SEATS!

- ✓ Babies should ride in rear-facing seats until they are at least 1 year old and weigh at least 20 pounds.



TODDLER SEATS!

- ✓ Children who weigh more than 20 pounds and are at least 1 year of age should ride in a forward-facing car seat with harness until they weigh 40 pounds.



BOOSTER SEATS!

- ✓ Children who weigh between 40 and 80 pounds and are less than 4'9" tall should use a booster seat to position the lap and shoulder belt.



SEAT BELTS!

- ✓ Kids who weigh more than 80 pounds and are more than 4'9" tall should use a seat belt. **If seat belt doesn't fit, refer to five-step test below.**



5-STEP TEST!

- ✓ Is the child seated all the way back against the vehicle seat?
- ✓ Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the end of the seat?
- ✓ Is the lap belt low on the hip bones?
- ✓ Is the shoulder belt centered on the shoulder and chest?
- ✓ Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child may need a booster seat to ride safely.

✓ Children 12 and younger should ride in the back seat – even if your vehicle doesn't have airbags.

STILL CONFUSED? If you have other questions about the safest way for your child to ride, please call the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2286 (press 1).