

# Child Safety Seat Guidelines



- **Rear-Facing Seat**
  - Infants under 20 pounds and under 1 year of age must be in a rear-facing infant seat



- **Forward-Facing Seat**
  - Over 1 year of age and
  - Over 20 pounds



- **Belt-Positioning Booster Seat**
  - As of July 1, 2009, children under age 8 and shorter than 4 feet 9 inches are required to be in a child safety seat or booster.
  - Boosters are for children up to 4 feet, 9 inches, typically ages 4-8.



## **Child Passenger Restraint Law**

### **Minnesota Statute 169.685, subd. 5**

- Children under age 8 and shorter than 4 feet 9 inches tall are required to be fastened in a child safety seat or booster seat that meets federal safety standards.
- Safety seats must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions:
  - Child must be secured in the safety seat
  - Seat must be secured to the vehicle with a seat belt or LATCH
  - Infants (under 20 pounds and under 1 year) must be in a rear-facing safety seat
- Law applies to all motor vehicles originally equipped with factory-installed seat belts
- Law applies to all seating positions
- Driver is responsible
- Petty misdemeanor fine for violation is \$50 (may be waived if violator shows proof of obtaining a safety seat within 14 days)
- Applies to both residents and non-residents of Minnesota
- Suspected non-use is a valid basis to stop a motor vehicle

### **Exceptions**

- Children riding in emergency medical vehicles, when medical needs make use of a restraint unreasonable
- Children riding in a motor vehicle for hire, including a taxi, airport limousine or bus, but excluding a rented, leased or borrowed motor vehicle
- Children riding with a peace officer on official duty, when a restraint is not available (a seat belt must be substituted)
- Children certified by a licensed physician as having a medical, physical or mental disability that makes restraint use inadvisable
- Passengers in school buses