

**AIR BAG**

# AIR BAG

**A**ir bags, when combined with lap/shoulder safety belts, have saved many lives and prevented many injuries in motor vehicle crashes. However, children and air bags do not mix. Air bags could seriously injure or kill children who are sitting in the front seat.

That's why the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is taking immediate action to address this problem. Through media advisories and consumer information fact sheets, we are informing the public and advising all parents how to transport their children safely. NHTSA is working with states and communities to increase child seat and safety belt use by strengthening restraint use laws, improving enforcement, and increasing public information about these laws and their benefits.



Photograph Donated by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

## You Can Help

Use the materials in this folder to tell people about the dangers associated with children and air bags. This safety planner includes a poster/flyer, an air bag hang tag, copy for a newsletter article, and questions and answers about air bags and kids. The material is "camera-ready," so each piece can be printed inexpensively.

The flyer/poster can be posted on bulletin boards and distributed throughout your organization, your business, and your community. Car dealers can place the hang tag on the rear view mirror of new cars in the dealer showroom or on cars brought in for service. Advocates could also place them under the windshield wipers of cars in parking lots. Use the tagline "For Safety's Sake...The Back Seat is the Best Seat" on envelopes, or add it to your organization's letterhead. Include the newsletter article in your company or organization's newsletter or bulletin, and distribute the material to the media. Working with the local media is a great way to help get the word out to community residents. Radio and TV stations, community newspapers, newspaper supplements, high school and college publications, community bulletin boards, and cable TV are all viable media outlets.

Your help is critical. It's key to ensuring that everyone knows that children are safest when they're belted properly in the **back seat** of a car—especially when that car is equipped with a passenger-side air bag.

# QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED ABOUT CHILDREN AND AIR BAG-RELATED INJURIES

## DANGER TO CHILDREN

**Question:** Why are air bags dangerous to children age 12 and under?

**Answer:** Air bags inflate at speeds up to 200 mph—faster than the blink of an eye—to protect adults in a front-end collision. That blast of energy can severely hurt or kill passengers and drivers who are too close to the air bag. An infant's head in a rear-facing safety seat is directly in front of the air bag as it breaks through the dashboard and instantly inflates. Even some forward facing child safety seats could possibly place the child within range of the air bag before it is fully inflated. Also, if a child is unbelted, or too small for the lap and shoulder belts to fit properly, or wriggling around or leaning forward, there is a danger that the child will be too close to the dashboard during that instant that the air bag begins to inflate.

## IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY BELTS

**Question:** How can an air bag work so well for adults, but hurt children in the front passenger seat?

**Answer:** An average size adult who is correctly belted is not likely to come in contact with the air bag until it is fully inflated. A fully inflated air bag spreads the force of the crash across a wide area of the body. Even an unbelted adult will probably come in contact with the air bag at the chest area after the bag has at least partially inflated. For greatest protection, both the driver and front passengers

should be correctly belted and the seats moved back as far as practical to allow ample space for the air bag to expand.

Unbelted or improperly belted children can easily slide off the seat during pre-crash braking, throwing them against the dashboard where the air bag can strike them on the head or neck with tremendous force before it is fully inflated.

The air bag only inflates in front end crashes and collapses immediately. For protection in all types of collisions—multiple, rollover, rear-end, side and front end—it is very important to always use both lap and shoulder belts.

## BACK SEAT IS THE SAFEST SEAT

**Question:** Why are children safer in the back seat?

**Answer:** The rear seat is the safest seat for any passenger. Head-on crashes cause the greatest number of serious injuries. A person sitting in the back seat is farthest away from the impact and less likely to be injured. People sitting in the rear have the soft back of the front seat in front of them, instead of hard surfaces like the windshield, mirror or dashboard.

**For Safety's Sake...  
The Back Seat is  
the Best Seat.**



The  
Air Bag  
That Saves  
Your  
Life Could  
Kill  
Your Child.

- The **back seat** is the **safest** place for children of any age to ride.
- **Never** put an infant (less than one year old) in the front of a car with a passenger-side air bag.
- **Infants** must always ride in the back seat facing the **rear** of the car.
- Make sure **everyone** is **buckled up**. Unbuckled occupants can be hurt or killed by an air bag.

**For Safety's Sake...The Back Seat is the Best Seat.**



For more information, call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393 or visit our web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

If it is absolutely necessary for a child age 12 or under to ride in the front seat of a car with a passenger side air bag, secure the child in a restraint system that is correct for the size of the child—a front-facing child safety seat, a booster seat, or a lap/shoulder belt—AND move the front seat as far back away from the dashboard as possible.

If the vehicle has no back seat, such as a pickup truck, an infant will be safe in a rear-facing child seat only if the vehicle does not have a passenger-side air bag or if it has a cutoff switch for the passenger side air bag.

In summary, people riding in the front seat who are most likely to be injured or killed by an inflating air bag are:

- infants riding in rear-facing car seats;
- children age 12 and under who are not properly secured in a restraint system that is appropriate for their size—a forward facing safety seat, booster seat, or correct fitting lap and shoulder belts;
- children or adults who are not buckled up;
- children or adults who place the shoulder belt either behind their back or under their arm; and
- persons sitting too close to the steering wheel or dashboard so that they come into contact with the air bag before it is fully inflated.

## BEING SMOTHERED BY AN AIR BAG IS A MYTH

**Question:** Is it true that a passenger can be smothered by an air bag?

**Answer:** No! The injuries that occur are caused by the inflating bag hitting the head and neck of an out-of-position passenger or the inflating bag hitting the back of an infant seat behind a baby's head. The air bag loses its air right after it inflates, so the stiff fabric does not remain over the passenger's face.

## TURNING AN INFANT SEAT AROUND

**Question:** When parents learn that an air bag can harm a baby in a rear-facing infant seat, many of them want to place the baby facing forward. Is this okay?

**Answer:** No! Infants must always ride facing the rear in the **back seat**.

Both the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) warn that babies should ride facing the back until they are at least one year old and weigh at least 20 pounds. A child under age one does not have strong neck muscles; the head would snap forward in a crash if the baby were facing forward. This could cause serious neck and spinal cord injury.

When the child is facing the back, the force of the crash is spread across the whole body. The child seat harness must be snug, and the seat should be at a 45-degree angle to support the baby's head and maintain an open airway. Some safety seats have an indicator on

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

the side to show the correct angle. A child seat that installs in a position that is too upright can be angled properly by using a firmly rolled sheet or towel under the foot of the seat.

## NEED TO BE ABLE TO SEE BABY WHILE DRIVING

**Question:** Many parents don't want to put their infants in the back seat because they cannot see them. Shouldn't a parent keep an eye on the baby to make sure it is not choking or experiencing some other health problem?

**Answer:** The risk of a serious injury in a crash is much greater than the risk of a healthy baby having a life-threatening problem during a car ride. A healthy baby correctly buckled in a rear-facing child seat should be as safe as a child placed in a crib for a nap or an overnight sleep. Parents do not stay in the room to watch a sleeping baby.

Drivers traveling with children should always allow plenty of time to pull off the road if they are concerned about the baby or need to tend to the child's needs.

## USING ONLY THE LAP PORTION OF A LAP/SHOULDER BELT SYSTEM

**Question:** If a child is too small to wear a shoulder belt correctly, will the lap belt protect the child from an air bag?

**Answer:** No. If a child uses only the lap portion of a safety belt, his or her upper body will be thrown forward when the driver brakes or during the crash itself. The inflating bag

will strike the child's head and neck very hard.

Whether in the front seat or rear seat, children can suffer serious or fatal injuries if they wear a shoulder belt wrong, such as under the arm or behind the back. A child who is too short for the shoulder belt (for example, the belt cuts across the neck or face) should always use a convertible or toddler safety seat (if the child is under 40 pounds and 40 inches) or a belt-positioning booster seat (if the child is over 40 pounds and 40 inches). Remember that a belt-positioning booster seat must be used with both the lap and shoulder belts, preferably in the rear seat, which is always safer than the front seat.

## IDENTIFYING VEHICLES WITH AIR BAGS

**Question:** How can a driver or passenger tell whether a vehicle has an air bag?

**Answer:** Vehicles with air bags have one or more of the following markings:

- the words "Air Bag" or the letters "SRS" (Supplemental Restraint System) or "SIR" (Supplemental Inflatable Restraint) on the steering wheel and dashboard panel.
- a warning label on the sun visors or on the sides of the open door frame.
- a warning in the vehicle owner's manual.

Consult the owner's manual to find information about carrying children safely in a vehicle equipped with an air bag.



**Ricardo Martinez, M.D.**  
*Administrator*  
*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*

## Potential Dangers of Air Bags to Children

Air bags are standard equipment in almost all new cars and are designed to supplement the protection provided by safety belts in frontal crashes. Federal safety standards require that all new passenger cars and light trucks be equipped with both driver- and passenger-side air bags by 1999. While air bags have a good overall safety record and have saved an estimated 1200 lives as of the end of 1995, they pose several risks for children.

An infant in a rear-facing safety seat must **never** be placed in the front seat of a motor vehicle with a passenger-side air bag. During a forward impact, the rapidly inflating air bag could strike the safety seat with enough force to seriously injure or kill the infant. Infants under one year of age and under about 20 pounds must ride in a **rear-facing** safety seat placed in the **back seat** of the vehicle, especially if the vehicle is equipped with a passenger-side air bag.

Forward-facing safety seats, as used with toddlers and older children, typically place children at least several inches closer to the dashboard than the normal adult seating position. Therefore, the safest practice is to place all child safety seats in the **back seat**

of the vehicle. If it is absolutely necessary to place a forward-facing safety seat in the front of a vehicle with a passenger-side air bag, the vehicle seat should be adjusted as far back as possible from the dashboard.

Air bags pose special hazards for any children who ride unrestrained or incorrectly restrained in the front seat. Like all occupants, children should always be properly restrained in safety seats or safety belts. Unfortunately, surveys indicate that as many as 35 percent of young children ride unrestrained. Pre-crash braking may throw an unrestrained child against the dashboard at or near the passenger air bag location. When this happens, the inflating air bag and its plastic cover can violently impact the out-of-place child with such force that it can injure or even kill the child. **The safest place for all children is correctly restrained in the back seat of the vehicle.**

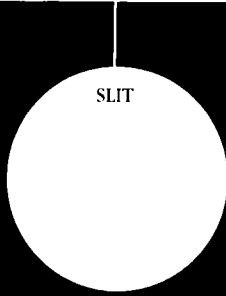
To ensure that your children ride safely, remember these rules:

- The **back seat** is the **safest** place for children of any age to ride.
- **Never** put an infant (less than one year old) in the front of a car with a passenger-side air bag.
- **Infants** must always ride in the back seat facing the **rear** of the car.
- Make sure **everyone** is **buckled up**. Unbuckled occupants can be hurt or killed by an air bag.

For more information regarding children and air bags, call NHTSA's toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393 or visit our web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> or write to:

Child Safety Seats  
National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration  
400 7th Street, S.W., NTS-13  
Washington, DC 20590

## AIR BAG HANG TAG



The  
Air Bag  
That Saves  
Your  
Life Could  
Kill  
Your Child.

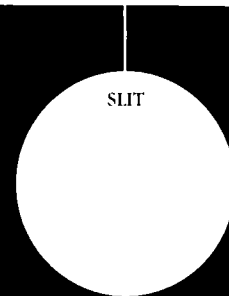
PRINT IN RED

### FRONT

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U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**



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### BACK

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DOT HS 808 456  
September 1996



## Strengthening Child Passenger Safety Laws

### Increase Car Seat and Belt Use Decrease Crash Fatalities and Injuries

**T**raffic crashes are a leading cause of death in the United States. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories have child passenger safety laws ("car seat laws"). However, many of these laws have serious gaps and exemptions in coverage which diminish the protection that all children need in motor vehicles.

#### Close Gaps Between Belt Laws and Child Safety Laws

- Raise the age limit on child restraint laws to cover up to age 16. Most laws cover babies and children up to about 5 years of age, and one-third of them protect children over 6 years old. However, older children may not be protected adequately by your state's belt use law. For example, in most states a 10-year old can legally ride in the back seat without being secured because the laws in those states apply only to front seat occupants. Also, the belt use laws in most states permit only secondary enforcement.
- Make the driver responsible for restraint use by all children under 16 years of age. Safety belt laws in a number of states assign responsibility to the parent or guardian, who may not be the driver—or even be in the car. Also, child passenger laws in some states do not assign responsibility to any specific adult, making them difficult to enforce. In addition, some laws contain unnecessary exemptions for drivers who are not the vehicle owner or who are not related to the children being carried.
- Child restraint laws should specifically make it illegal to carry kids in the cargo area of pickup trucks. NHTSA's "Kids Aren't Cargo" campaign seeks to encourage closing this legislative gap.

#### Upgrade Child Safety Laws— Eliminate Exemptions

- Require child restraint systems (car seats) for children up to 4 years old and 40 lbs. Older children can be restrained with child restraint systems (appropriate for the child's size and weight) or safety belts, if they fit properly.
- Eliminate exemptions for overcrowded vehicles. In nearly half of the states, children can ride unsecured if all safety belts are in use.
- Eliminate the exemption for "attending to the personal needs of the child." This encourages adults to carry children in their laps during feeding or other activities. That behavior is highly risky. For example, 37 percent of the babies who died in California crashes in 1989 were riding on laps.

#### Contents

- *Close Gaps Between Belt Laws and Child Safety Laws*
- *Upgrade Child Safety Laws—Eliminate Exemptions*
- *Conduct Combined Public Awareness and Enforcement Campaigns*
- *Urge Parents To Carry Children In The Rear Seat*

### **Exemptions (continued)**

- Tighten the guidelines for issuing medical waivers that allow children with special medical needs to ride unrestrained. Advances in child restraint systems have made it possible to accommodate children with almost any type of cast or physical disability.
- Eliminate exemptions for out-of-state vehicles, drivers, and children. Currently children in nearly half of the states are not required to be secured if the vehicle or driver is from another state. Children need to be protected, even when they're in a vehicle which is just "passing through" or with a family with an out-of-state license.

### **Conduct Combined Public Awareness and Enforcement Campaigns**

- Publicity and enforcement must go hand-in-hand. The publicity should educate the public about the importance of proper child passenger protection. The enforcement campaign should include information on correct use as well as publicity to raise public awareness of the law and its enforcement.
- Raise awareness of vehicle/child safety seat compatibility. Many parents and others who transport children do not understand the potential deadly results from a child seat that is not secured safely and securely in a vehicle.

Everyone using a child safety seat should remember three things:

- read the instructions for the child safety seat;
- read the vehicle owner's manual; and,
- test for a snug, secure fit.

### **Urge Parents To Carry Children In The Rear Seat**

- *The rear seat is the safest place for children of all ages.*
- *Infants (less than one year of age) should never be carried in the front seat of a car or truck with a passenger-side air bag.*
- *Infants must always ride in the rear seat, facing the rear of the car.*
- *Children should not ride with the shoulder belt tucked under their arm or behind their back.*
- *Make sure everyone is correctly buckled up. Unbelted, or improperly belted occupants can be hurt or killed by the deploying air bag.*

*These reports and additional information are available through your State Office of Highway Safety, the NHTSA Regional Office serving your state, or from NHTSA Headquarters, Traffic Safety Programs, NTS-10, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.*

# SAFETY FACTS

S U M M E R 1 9 9 6



## TRANSPORTING YOUR CHILDREN SAFELY: TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS

The safest way to transport young children is in a child safety seat in the rear seat of your car. Every state has a child passenger protection law. Small children (usually, up to age 4) are required to ride in approved child safety seats or to use safety belts, regardless of whether they're in the front or back seat. Don't think that an adult can safely hold a child. Even a belted adult cannot protect a child during a collision. A crash impact can pull an infant from an adult's arms with a force of 300 pounds or more. *Infants and young children should ride in child safety seats on every trip they take.*

### Proper Use of Child Safety Seats

A child safety seat that is installed and used correctly will provide very effective crash protection for your child. If your child safety seat doesn't fit your car, don't try to "make" it work by make-shift measures. Incorrect use of a child safety seat can drastically reduce its effectiveness.

Make sure that your child is protected by carefully reading and following both sets of instructions. Also, read the car owner's manual for installation instructions and *make special*

### INSIDE

 **Traffic Safety Tips**

 **Size and Weight Guide**

 **Auto Safety Hotline**



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

*note of seat belts that may not work with a child safety seat.*

### Remember:

❖ Select a child safety seat that fits your child and your car. Use it correctly, and use it every time your child rides in a motor vehicle.

❖ Infant seats are designed to be installed facing the rear of the vehicle to provide the most protection for very young passengers. *Never place a rear-facing safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle that has an air bag on the passenger side. The air bag could strike the back of the safety seat*

*with enough force to seriously injure your child.*

❖ Never let children ride in the bed of a truck, or sleep and play in the rear of any vehicle without the proper restraint.

❖ Place children in the back seat. This is the safest place for any child to be.

❖ Fasten the child seat harness snugly over the child's shoulders.

❖ Buy and use only child safety seats that meet DOT requirements. Look for this label on the safety seat:

*"This child restraint system conforms to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards."*

The stamp of manufacturing should be after January 1, 1981.

❖ Do not buy a used child safety seat if the instructions or DOT label are missing. Call the Auto Safety Hotline to obtain recall information. A used seat is not a bargain if it is not safe.

### Cars and Child Safety Seats - Do They Fit Together?

All child safety seats are not compatible with all cars, seats, or restraint systems in cars. Make certain that your child safety seat will fit the car and seating position in which it will be used.

# ABOUT CHILD SAFETY

## TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS

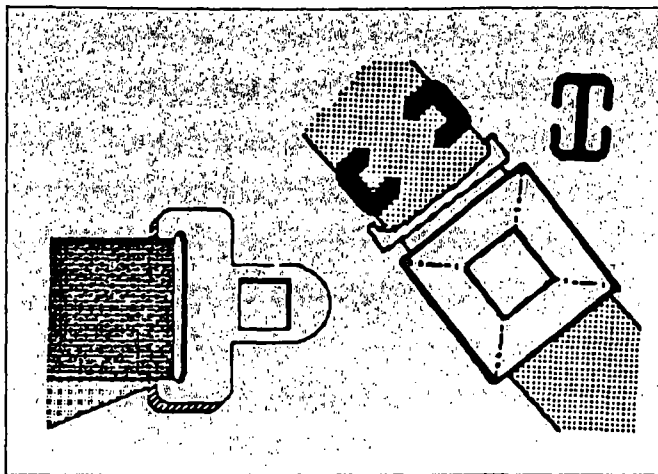
### Some problems to avoid:

- ❖ A child safety seat that is too large to put into the back seat of the car, or has a base which extends too far over the edges of the car's seat. (At least 80 percent of the child safety seat base should be resting on the car's seat.)
- ❖ A child safety seat that is too large for the vehicle's safety belt system.
- ❖ A safety belt buckle that is impossible to latch or tighten through the child safety seat.
- ❖ Child safety seats with lift-up shields that are too high for the car. (The child cannot be removed easily from such a seat.)

If you have any of these problems, it's time to get a new safety seat. The best child safety seat for you is the one that fits your child, fits your car, and is convenient to use.

### Latch Plates and Locking Clips

In some cars, the safety belt has a latch plate that moves freely along the belt to adjust its fit. (See Figure 1.) To use an infant or child safety seat with this type of belt system, a **locking clip** must be used. (See Figure 1.) This clip comes attached to the child safety seat, and in-



▲ Figure 1. A latch plate and a locking clip.

structions for using it are included. Some restraint systems require a **heavy duty locking clip**. You can obtain one from your dealer.

A locking clip is not needed if the belt is *manually adjustable*--that is, with a latch plate that does not move freely. Most vehicles have this kind of belt at the center rear seat.

### Automatic Crash Protection and Child Safety Seats

Your new car may have air bags or automatic safety seats. Each is designed to provide additional protection to front seat occupants.

**Air Bags** provide front seat occupants with supplemental protection but they do not take the place of a safety belt or child safety seat. If children must ride in the front seat of a car equipped with air bags, they should be protected with a child safety seat, booster seat, or by the car's safety belt (for older children). Again, rear-facing child safety seats should never be

placed in the front seat of a car equipped with a passenger-side air bag. Place the child seat in the rear of the car.

**Automatic Safety Belts:** If your front-seat safety belts are motorized or attached directly to the door, then do not use a child safety seat in that seating position, unless the car manufacturer provides specific instructions on how to do so safely. (Check the vehicle owner's manual.)

### Remember: Your Child's Safety Depends on You

When shopping for a new car, take your safety seat along to make sure it will fit the car you choose. When shopping for a child safety seat, test each model for fit and convenience in your car and let your child try it.

A shopping guide for child safety seats is available free of charge from:  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
NTS-13  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

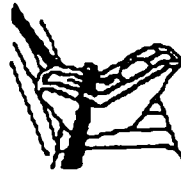
Many communities have child safety seat loaner programs; contact your local hospital or public health department for more information.

Your child's size and weight determines the type of child safety seat to use. The chart on the next page shows the correct types of child safety seats for each size of child. Use it when you look for a new safety seat. ■

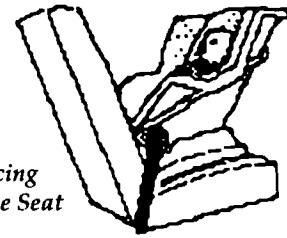
# SIZE AND WEIGHT GUIDE FOR CHILD SAFETY SEATS

**From Birth to  
9-12 Months or 20 Pounds**

Use an infant or convertible  
seat facing the rear.



Infant Seat



Rear Facing  
Convertible Seat

**9-12 Months or 20 Pounds to  
4 Years or 40 Pounds**

Use a convertible or toddler seat.



Convertible  
Seat

**4 Years or 40 Pounds to  
8 Years or 70 Pounds**

Keep children in convertible or  
toddler seats as long as they will fit.

When they have outgrown the convertible or  
toddler seat,

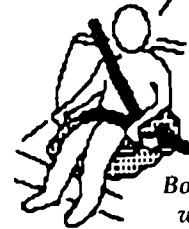
❖ If the vehicle has a lap/shoulder belt in the rear seat, use a  
booster seat that positions the lap/shoulder belt  
correctly--secures the lap belt across the child's hips,  
and positions the shoulder belt so it does not cross  
the face or the front of the neck.

OR

❖ Use the rear lap/shoulder belt alone IF it fits properly---  
does not cross the face or neck and fits across the  
child's hips and does not ride up across the stomach.

❖ If no rear lap/shoulder belt is available, use a shield-type  
booster seat restrained by the vehicle lap belt.

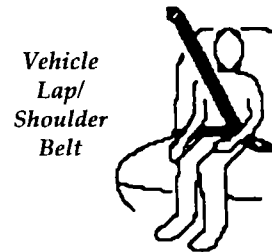
❖ If no other type of restraint is available, use the lap belt,  
positioned low on the hips and adjusted snugly.



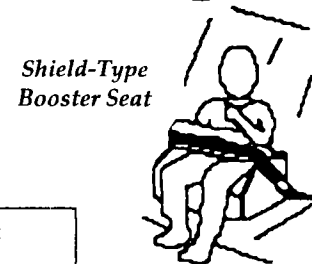
Booster Seat  
with Lap/  
Shoulder Belt

**8 Years and Older  
or 70 Pounds or More**

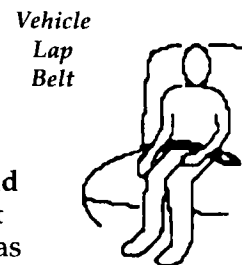
Use the protection system that is in the vehicle.



Vehicle  
Lap/  
Shoulder  
Belt



Shield-Type  
Booster Seat



Vehicle  
Lap  
Belt

**NOTE: Ages and weights are approximate. Manufacturer's instructions should be consulted for exact figures. Use only safety seats labeled: "This child restraint system conforms to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards" and has a stamp of manufacturing after January 1, 1981.**

**AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE**  
**CHILD SAFETY SEAT QUESTIONNAIRE**

**FOR AGENCY USE ONLY**

REFERENCE NUMBER

DATE RECEIVED

**OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)**

|                    |                               |       |            |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| LAST NAME          | FIRST NAME AND MIDDLE INITIAL | HOME  | WORK PHONE |
| STREET ADDRESS     | CITY                          | STATE | ZIP CODE   |
| SIGNATURE OF OWNER |                               |       | DATE       |

| CHILD'S NAME | AGE | HEIGHT/LENGTH | WEIGHT |
|--------------|-----|---------------|--------|
|--------------|-----|---------------|--------|

|                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                    |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| MANUFACTURER                                                                                                                                | MODEL NUMBER/NAME                                                                  | DATE MANUFACTURED  |
| SEAT WAS<br><input type="checkbox"/> Purchased<br><input type="checkbox"/> Obtained through loaner program<br><input type="checkbox"/> Gift | SEAT WAS OBTAINED<br><input type="checkbox"/> New<br><input type="checkbox"/> Used | DATE SEAT OBTAINED |

| MAKE OF VEHICLE | MODEL OF VEHICLE | YEAR OF VEHICLE |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |                                                                                                |  |                          |  |                                                                                         |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>ACCIDENT?</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                |  | <b>NUMBER INJURED</b>                                                                          |  | <b>NUMBER FATALITIES</b> |  | <b>POLICE REPORT FILED?</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |  |
| <b>CHILD SEAT LOCATION:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Right<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rear <input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Center |  | <b>FACING DIRECTION:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Forward <input type="checkbox"/> Backward |  |                          |  |                                                                                         |  |

[illegible]

**CONTINUE ON BACK IF NEEDED**

**This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, will be in support of the agency's action.**

Fold to show Return Address (no stamp needed). Fasten with tape or staple and mail.

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued):**

\*U.S. Government Printing Office: 1992 — 312-673/51824

U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

400 Seventh St., SW.  
Washington, DC 20590

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300



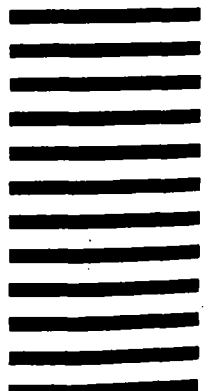
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**U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Auto Safety Hotline, NEF-11 HL  
400 Seventh Street, SW.  
Washington, DC 20590**

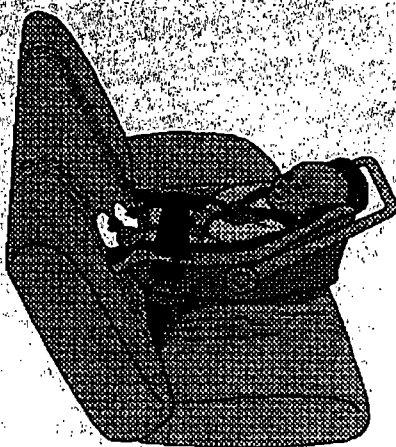


# IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD SAFETY SEAT HAS A SAFETY PROBLEM, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

## AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE (800) 424-9393

If you think that your child safety seat has a safety problem, you can assist the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) by completing and mailing back the Child Safety Seat Questionnaire (CSSQ) included with this fact sheet, or by calling the Auto Safety Hotline.

The toll-free Hotline number, (800) 424-9393, can be reached from anywhere in the United States. If you are calling from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, the number is (202) 366-0123. A Spanish-speaking operator is available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern time. The Hotline is available to



the hearing impaired through a teleprinter (TTY) number, (800) 424-9153. In the Washington, D.C. area the TTY number is (202) 366-7800.

If there are any documents relevant to your case, attach them to your completed CSSQ. If you are not sure of any information requested in the CSSQ, leave the box blank.

The CSSQ asks if you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of your report to the manufacturer. If so, check YES on the CSSQ and sign and date it.

**Is your child safety seat registered?** If not, you can register it with the manufacturer by calling the Auto Safety Hotline and requesting a registration form to complete.

Check out our home page for information on a variety of vehicle safety topics.  
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>