

Oregon State Law

UPDATE Last revision May 25, 2017

CHILD RESTRAINT LAW

Child passengers must be restrained in child safety seats until they weigh forty pounds or reach the upper weight limit for the car seat in use. Infants must ride rear-facing until they reach two years of age unless the child turned age one prior to May 26, 2017

BOOSTER SEAT LAW

Children over forty pounds or who have reached the upper weight limit for their forward-facing car seat must use boosters to 4'9" tall or age eight and the adult belt fits correctly.

National "best practices" recommends that children ride in the back seat through age twelve

Description of Restraint Types

A **REAR-FACING CAR SEAT** is the best seat for your infant to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.

A **FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT** has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.

A **BOOSTER SEAT** positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.

A **SEAT BELT** should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.



Car Seat Recommendations for Children

Birth –2 years

- * Children under age 2 must always ride in a rear-facing car seat. Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats generally have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing up to 2 years old

2-4 years

- * Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

4-7 years

- * Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

8-13 years

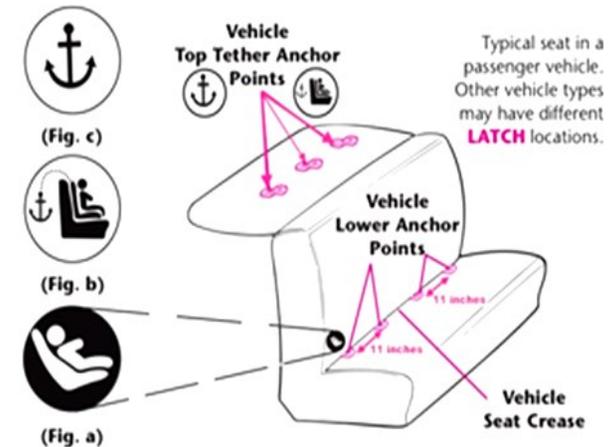
- * Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. The child's knees should bend comfortably at the edge of the seat and they can sit all the way back against the vehicle seat.

What is LATCH?

LATCH stands for **L**ower **A**nchors and **T**ethers for **C**hildren.

It is a way to secure a child safety seat to the vehicle using straps from the child safety seat that connect to special metal anchors in the vehicle. LATCH can be found in vehicles model year 2003 and newer.

Cars built before 2003 that do not have LATCH must still use the seat belt which is just as safe.



CHILD SAFETY SEAT INFORMATION WEBSITES

www.oregon.gov/odot/ts/Pages/safetybelts

This has a variety of Oregon rules, statutes and laws

www.nhtsa.gov

This website has a recall list available

www.carseat.org

This website has a recall list available



How to Test Your Seat

Right Seat

Check the label on your car seat to make sure it's appropriate for your child's age, weight limit and height. Car seats have an expiration date so please check the label on the car seat to make sure it is still safe. You can also check it against the recall list to be sure there are no problems with the seat.

Right Place

It is *recommended* that all children should ride in the back seat until they are 13 years old.

Right Direction

You want to keep your child in a rear-facing car seat until age 2. When he/she is 2 and outgrows the seat, move your child to a forward-facing car seat. Make sure to attach the top tether after you tighten and lock the seat belt or lower anchors.

***Rear Facing**

The harness straps need to be **at or below** the shoulders.

***Forward Facing**

The harness straps need to be **at or above** the shoulders.



Inch Test

Once your car seat is installed, give it a good shake at the base or belt path. Can you move it more than an inch side to side from the belt path? A properly installed seat will not move more than an inch at the belt path.

Pinch Test

Make sure the harness is tightly buckled and coming from the correct slots (check car seat manual). Now, with the chest clip placed at armpit level, pinch the strap at your child's shoulder. If you are unable to pinch any excess webbing, you're doing well.



Always follow the car seat manufacturers recommendations

Schedule Your Child Safety Seat Appointment

To reserve a spot for our monthly child safety seat checks please call
541-774-2300

These spots must be scheduled in advance and your seats should already be installed in your vehicle.

Our monthly seat checks will be held on the 2nd Thursday of every month and will be from 10 am to 2 pm.

Fire Station 6 located at 3700 E Barnett Rd.

Alternate locations may be used and current information will be made available at the time of scheduling.

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**Other Local Resources**  
**It is always best to call first to check their schedule and availability.**

**Ashland Fire-Rescue**  
541-482-2770

**Jackson County Fire District 3**  
541-826-7100

**Jackson County Fire District 5**  
541-535-4222

**Jackson County Car Seat Coalition**  
541-664-5578

# Child Safety Seats

## Information and Scheduling Guide



**IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?**



## **Medford Fire-Rescue**

200 S. Ivy Street, Room #180  
Medford, OR 97501  
Ph. (541) 774-2300  
[www.medfordfirerescue.org](http://www.medfordfirerescue.org)