



Virginia's Child Passenger Safety Laws

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VIRGINIA'S CHILD RESTRAINT DEVICE LAW (Code of Virginia Article 13 - Section 46.2)

The major requirements of Virginia's Child Safety Seat Law:

- Child restraint devices are required for children through the **age of seven (until 8th birthday)**. Safety seats must be properly used and approved by Department of Transportation standards. **There is no height or weight requirement associated with this law.** The Virginia law is based solely on age.
- Rear-facing child restraint devices must be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. In the event the vehicle does not have a back seat, the child restraint device may be placed in the front passenger seat only if the vehicle is either not equipped with a passenger side airbag or the passenger side airbag has been deactivated.
- Children can no longer ride unrestrained in the rear cargo area of vehicles.
- The law applies to anyone (i.e. parents, grandparents, babysitters, friends) who provides transportation for a child in any vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968. Public transportation (taxis, buses), regulation school buses, and farm vehicles are exempted.
- The child restraint law is primary enforcement -- no other violation need be committed prior to ticketing for failure to have a child in an approved seat.
- A \$50 civil penalty fine is imposed for failure to have a child in a child restraint device. Any person found guilty a second or subsequent time, on different dates, will be fined up to \$500. An additional \$20 civil penalty fine is assessed when persons transporting a child exempted from this law due to medical reasons do not carry a written statement of the exemption. All fines collected go into a special fund to purchase safety seats for low-income families.
- There are assistance programs for low-income residents who cannot afford a safety seat. Contact Virginia Department of Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention at 1-800-732-8333 for more information.

VIRGINIA'S PASSENGER SAFETY BELT LAW (Code of Virginia Article 12 - Section 46-2)

The major requirements of Virginia's Child Safety Belt Law:

- Children **age 8 through age 17 (until age 18)** must be belted correctly in vehicle safety belts, in vehicles manufactured after January 1, 1968. Exemptions are taxicabs, school buses, executive sedans and limousines.
- This safety belt law is primary enforcement -- no other violation need be committed prior to ticketing for failure to have a child correctly buckled up.

VIRGINIA'S PICKUP TRUCK LAW (Code of Virginia Section 46.2 - 1156.1)

- No person under age 16 shall be transported in the rear cargo area of a pickup truck.
- There are exemptions for certain parades and farming operations.

Injury Prevention Hotline 
1-800-732-8333
for resources and information

For specific questions regarding laws and proper use of child restraints view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) list, call the Injury Hotline at 1-800-732-8333, or email your inquiry to a [Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician](#).

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Last Updated: 03-12-2013

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