

Wisconsin's Child Passenger Safety Belt & Booster Seat Law



A TWEEN SAFETY RESTRAINT INITIATIVE
Created by Safe Communities and funded by a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Implementation of the new booster seat law (Wisconsin Act 106)

- The Child Booster Seat Law went into effect on June 1, 2006.
- To provide education about the new law, written warnings will be issued instead of citations for the first violations during a grace period from June 1 until December 31, 2006.
- Warnings issued during the grace period must be sent to the WisDOT.
- Second and subsequent violations of the law before January 1, 2007, (during the grace period) are grounds for a citation.
- On January 1, 2007, law enforcement officers will begin issuing citations for violations.

How to comply with the law: *(Diagram on reverse side.)*

Generally, children must be properly restrained in a child safety seat until they reach age 4 (previous requirement), and in a booster seat until age 8 (new requirement). The new law includes the following four-step progression for effective child safety protection in vehicles:

- 1** Rear-facing child safety seat in the back seat* is required when the child:
 - is less than 1-year-old or
 - weighs less than 20 pounds.
- 2** Forward-facing child safety seat in the booster seat* is required where the child:
 - is at least 1-year-old but less than 4-years-old
 - weighs at least 20 pounds but less than 40 pounds.

- 3** Booster seat is required when the child:
 - is at least 4-years-old but less than 8-years-old
 - weighs at least 40 pounds but less than 80 pounds
 - is not 57-inches (4-feet, 9-inches) or taller.

- 4** Safety belt is required when the child:
 - is 8-years-old or older or
 - weighs 80 or more pounds or
 - is 57-inches or taller.

Exceptions:

- Children whose body-size, physical condition or medical condition makes safety restraints unreasonable are still exempt from the booster seat and safety belt laws.
- There no longer is a "personal Needs" exemption allowing the child to be removed from a safety restraint to attend to the child's personal needs, such as feeding or diapering, while the vehicle is moving.

Changes to mandatory safety belt law:

- Under the new law, drivers may be cited for allowing passengers of any age to be unbelted in their vehicle (The new law removes a previous provision in the mandatory safety belt law that did not make the driver responsible for unbelted passengers age 16 or older.)

For more information or answers to questions, contact: The Wisconsin Information Network for Safety at its toll-free number, 1-866-511-9467, or website: www.BoosterSeat.gov

Source: Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety



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