

## **Seat Belts & Safety Seats**

### SEAT BELTS

The Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code requires that, in vehicles manufactured after July 01, 1966, the driver and front seat occupants of a passenger car Class I or Class II truck or motor home shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt.

These regulations do not apply to any driver or front seat passenger of any vehicle manufactured before July 01, 1966. To any driver or front seat passenger who possess written verification from a physician, psychiatrist or other specialist qualified to make an informed judgment that he/she is unable to wear a safety seat belt for a specified reason. To any Postal Service rural letter carrier while operating any vehicle during the performance of his/her duties; or a driver who makes frequent stops and is traveling less than 15 miles-per-hour for the purpose of delivering goods or services. A violation of these provisions is a summary, secondary offense and carries a fine of \$10.

### CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW

All drivers are responsible to secure children from birth to age four in an approved child passenger restraint system (car seat). A violation of this provision is considered a summary, but primary, offense and could carry a maximum fine of \$100.

A new law signed by Governor Schweiker on December 23, 2002, outlined substantial changes to Pennsylvania's existing child passenger safety laws. Effective February 21, 2003, children, age four up to age eight will be required to be restrained in booster seats at all times. In addition, children ages eight through 18 will be required to buckle up when riding anywhere in a vehicle.

Previously, seat belt laws applied only to front seat passengers. A violation of these provisions are considered a summary, secondary offense, meaning drivers can be ticketed only when cited for another traffic violation, such as speeding or running a red light, etc. Fines for these violations could range from \$10 to \$100.

The changes were made in the child laws due to studies by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that shows children between the ages of four and eight are three times more likely to sustain serious injuries in a traffic crash if they are restrained with adult seat belts instead of in booster seats. It is also recommended that all children under the age of 13 ride in the back seat of a car.

A SAFE FAMILY IS ONE THAT BUCKLES UP - EVERY TRIP, EVERY TIME

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