

# Minnesota Child Passenger Safety Law

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/169.685>

Changes effective August 1, 2024

*If a child can be placed in more than one category, then the child must be placed in the more protective category.*



REAR-FACING  
CAR SEAT

An infant under 2 years old must be secured in a rear-facing convertible or infant carrier seat.



FORWARD-FACING  
CAR SEAT

A child at least 2 years old AND has outgrown the manufacturer's height or weight limits for a rear facing car seat must be secured in a forward facing car seat with internal harness.



BOOSTER SEAT

Children at least 4 years old who have outgrown their forward facing car seat with internal harness must be secured by a belt-positioning booster seat using the lap and shoulder belt



SEAT BELT

A child at least 9 years old or has outgrown their booster seat AND the child can pass the **"5 Step Test"** may be restrained by lap and shoulder belt if the child can be secured properly.

***A child under 13 years old, must sit in a back seat of a motor vehicle, if a rear seat is available, and be properly restrained.***

**The 5-step test demonstrates how the seat belt fits correctly:**

1. The child sits all the way back against the vehicle seat.
2. The child's knees bend over the edge of the vehicle seat.
3. The lap belt fits snugly across the hips near the top of the child's thighs, not the child's abdomen.
4. The shoulder belt snugly crosses the center of the child's chest and shoulder, not the child's neck.
5. The child sits correctly, without slouching, for the duration of the ride.

**Every driver who transports a child or children under the age of 18 years in a motor vehicle is required to have the child or children restrained in a child safety seat or seat belt.**

**If a child can be placed in more than one category, then the child must be placed in the more protective category (rear-facing being the most protective category).**