



CELINA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Partnerships in Prevention – Police and Community

By working together we can achieve a safer community

Protecting Children in Cars



Car Seats and Seat Belts



What is the Texas Law?

Sec. 545.412. CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY SEAT SYSTEMS; OFFENSE

(a) A person commits an offense if the person operates a passenger vehicle, transports a child who is younger than eight years of age, unless the child is taller than four feet, nine inches, and does not keep the child secured during the operation of the vehicle in a child passenger safety seat system according to the instructions of the manufacturer of the safety seat system.

Sec. 545.413. SAFETY BELTS; OFFENSE.

(a) A person commits an offense if:

(1) the person:

(A) is at least 15 years of age;

(B) is riding in a passenger vehicle while the vehicle is being operated;

(C) is occupying a seat that is equipped with a safety belt; and

(D) is not secured by a safety belt; or

(2) as the operator of a school bus equipped with a safety belt for the operator's seat, the person is not secured by the safety belt.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) operates a passenger vehicle that is equipped with safety belts; and

(2) allows a child who is younger than 17 years of age and who is not required to be secured in a child passenger safety seat system under Section [545.412\(a\)](#) to ride in the vehicle without requiring the child to be secured by a safety belt, provided the child is occupying a seat that is equipped with a safety belt.

(<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/TN/htm/TN.545.htm#545.412>, August 1, 2017).

What Type of Child Car Safety Seat Should I Use?



Safecar.gov 2017



Safecar.gov provides the resources to assist you in selecting and installing the correct car seat by the child's age and size.

For more information visit: <https://www.safecar.gov/parents/CarSeats/Car-Seat-Safety.htm?view=full>

Seat Belts



Safecar.gov 2017

Go to Safecar.gov for information on motivating kids to buckle up:

<https://www.safecar.gov/parents/SeatBelts/Seat-Belt-Safety.htm>

Preventing a Child from Suffering Heatstroke in a Car



NHTSA August 2017

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

Vehicular heatstroke happens when a child is left or trapped inside a car or truck. The temperature inside a vehicle can quickly rise high enough to kill a child—even when it doesn't feel that hot outside. Understanding how and why these tragedies happen is the key to protecting America's children.

It Happens to Good Parents: In the vast majority of vehicular heatstroke deaths between 1998 and 2016, the child was mistakenly left in or gained access to the vehicle when unsupervised. Don't leave yourself vulnerable by believing this can only happen to irresponsible parents. These tragedies can and do happen to people like you.

It Happens Fast: in 10 minutes, a car can heat up by 20 degrees. Even on a mild day the temperature inside a vehicle can hit 110 degrees. If a child's body temperature reaches 107 degrees, that child will die.

Since 1998, we've lost 725¹ children to heatstroke tragedies—25 this year alone and summer has just begun. We all need to be on guard to protect kids. Follow these tips:

- **Look Before You Lock:** Get into the routine of always checking the back seats of your vehicle before you lock it and walk away.
- **A Gentle Reminder.** Keep a stuffed animal or other memento in your child's car seat when it's empty, and move it to the front seat as a visual reminder when your child is in the back seat. Or place your phone, briefcase, or purse in the back seat when traveling with your child.
- **A Routine Check.** If someone else is driving your child, or your daily routine has been altered, always check to make sure your child has arrived safely. Set a reminder on your phone to call and check in.
- **A Key to Safety.** Keep your vehicle locked and keep your keys out of reach; nearly 3 in 10 heatstroke deaths happen when an unattended child gains access to a vehicle.
- **Act to Save a Life:** You should [act if you see a child alone in a vehicle](#). Call law enforcement immediately and free the child from the vehicle to protect that child's life (<https://www.nhtsa.gov/heatstroke-reminder-protect-kids>, August 1, 2017).