



# Child Restraint Basics

Quick Reference Law Enforcement Guide



**M.R.S Title 29-A §2081: Maine's Child Passenger Safety (CPS) law is one of the strongest in the country. The law requires that:**



## Rear Facing

- Children must ride in a rear-facing child restraint system until they turn two years of age.\*
- Rear facing car seats, may NEVER be installed in front of an active airbag.
- The chest clip should be armpit level with a snug harness at or BELOW the child's shoulders.



## Booster Seats

- Children who weigh less than 80 lbs., are less than 4 feet 9 inches in height, and are less than 8 years of age, must be in a booster seat.
- Shoulder AND lap belts, MUST both be used with a booster.



## Forward-Facing

- Children who weigh 55 lbs. or less, must ride in a federally approved five-point harness child restraint system.\*
- The top tether should be used when available.
- The chest clip should be armpit level with a snug harness positioned at or ABOVE the child's shoulders.



## Seat Belts

- A child under 12 yrs. old should be properly secured in the back seat of the vehicle, if possible.
- Lap belt lays across upper thighs and across chest; knees bend at seat edge.

\*Unless in rare circumstances, the child exceeds the child safety seat manufacturer's instructions, and no other option is available.