

# CAR SEAT SAFETY

## The Law

As a driver, you are responsible for ensuring all passengers under 16 years of age are properly buckled up. Drivers are responsible for making sure that children are in the appropriate child car seat or booster seat, and that the seat is used and installed correctly. The fine for not using the proper seat as required by law is \$90 plus two demerit points and a victim fine surcharge.

## Universal Anchorage System (UAS)

As of September 2002, federal regulations require all Canadian Vehicles to be manufactured with universal anchorage bars that will make it easier for parents to properly secure child car seats.

## Recalls

Child car seats and booster seats are sometimes recalled by the manufacturer. To ensure your child's seat has not been recalled, contact the manufacturer, or check Transport Canada's Website at <http://www.tc.gc.ca>.

## Manufacturer's Instructions

Always follow the vehicle owner's manual and the child car seat manufacturer's instructions for correct installation, weight and height limits, and use of a locking clip.

## CHILD CAR SEAT LAW AND BEST PRACTICES

Child Development	Law	Best Practices
Infant	<b>Rear-facing</b> Under 9 kg (20 lb.)	Rear-facing
Toddler	<b>Forward-facing</b> 9 to less than 18 kg (20 to less than 40 lb.)  <b>Rear-facing</b> A toddler can be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system, if the manufacturer's specifications permit or recommend the system for use by children who weigh 9 kg or more and not less than the weight of the toddler.	Child is at least 9 kg (20 lb.), is able to pull self to stand and meets manufacturer's height and weight recommendations. Always use with a tether strap.  Keep rear-facing until able to pull self to stand and as long as practicable as per child seat manufacturer's instructions.
Pre-school to Primary Grade	<b>Booster Seat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From 18 kg (40 lb.) to less than 36 kg (80 lb.) <b>and</b></li><li>• Standing height of less than 145 cm (4 ft. 9 in.) <b>and</b></li><li>• Less than 8 years of age.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only lap and shoulder combination belts are to be used with booster seats.</li><li>• The lap belt should fit snug and low across the hips not the stomach.</li><li>• Shoulder belt should go over the shoulder and across the middle of child's chest.</li><li>• Some children, depending on their size, may be safer in a booster seat for longer than required by law. Always refer to manufacturer's instructions.</li></ul>

## Keep Your Child Safe and Secure in the Car

Motor vehicle collisions are *the leading* cause of death and injury among children and youth (Canadian Institute of Child Health).

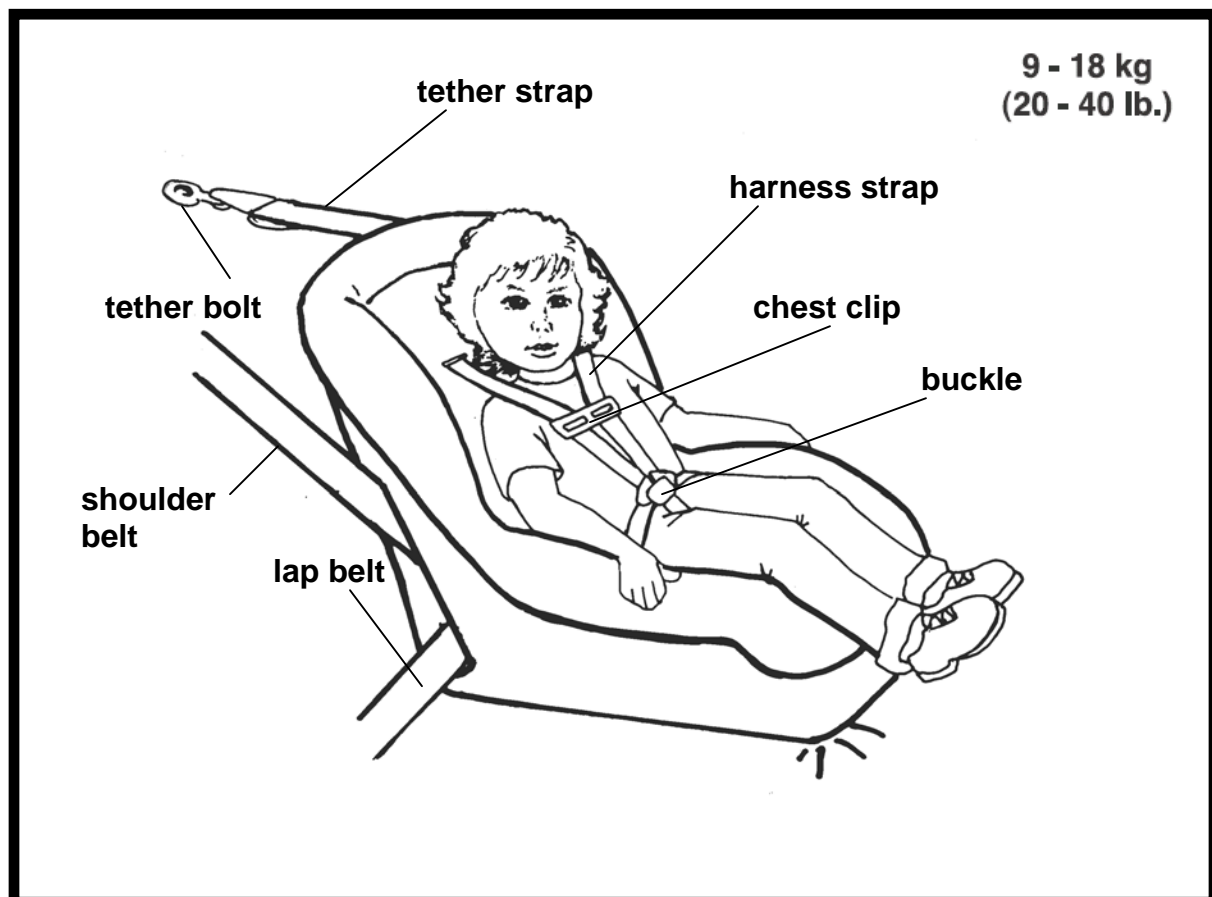
Seat belts are designed for adults and larger children. In a collision your child can slip out from a seat belt and won't stop moving until he or she hits something or someone. A seat belt can also cause serious injuries to a young child.

Child car seats help keep infants and toddlers safe during a collision – but the seat must be used correctly. Using your child's car seat properly will reduce your child's likelihood of being injured or killed in a collision by seventy-five per cent.

A booster seat will help protect your child when he or she has outgrown the child car seat but is still too small for a seat belt.

*Insist that your child be safe and secure...every ride.  
Contact your local public health unit to find out about child car  
seat inspection clinics in your area.*

### Forward-facing child car seat



## Tips for Using Child Car Seats

- **Never** place a child car seat or booster seat in front of an air bag. Keep children away from all active air bags. Children younger than 13 years of age are safest in the back seat.
- Never place the shoulder strap behind the child's back or under the arm.
- Middle of the ear should not be higher than top of the forward-facing car seat/booster, vehicle seat or headrest.
- Make sure the harness system is tight.
- Make sure the seat belt or Universal Anchorage System (UAS) is tight. Kneel on the car seat to push it into the vehicle seat; then tighten and fasten the seat belt or UAS to ensure there is no more than 2.5 cm (1") movement from side to side. In addition, for rear-facing ensure there is no more than 2.5 cm (1") forward movement at the foot of the car seat and for forward-facing no more than 2.5 cm (1") forward movement at the top of the car seat.
- The seat should not have been in a collision, be under recall, be more than 10 years old, be older than the manufacturer's expiry date, or show signs of deterioration. Make sure it comes with instructions and all necessary hardware.

## Car Seat Safety Resources in Renfrew County

**For more information about the correct use of the child restraints and/or to arrange an appointment for a free inspection of your child's seat, contact:**

### Pembroke Area

- Murphy Ford 735-6861
- Ontario Early Years Centre  
Renfrew-Nipissing – Pembroke 735-7575/  
1-866-547-7613

- O.P.P. Upper Ottawa Valley 735-0188
- Pembroke City Police 732-9975
- St. John Ambulance 735-0772

### Killaloe/Barry's Bay Areas

- Community Resource Centre 757-3108
- Mobile Toy Bus (OEYS-  
Killaloe) 1-888-757-3108
- O.P.P. Killaloe 757-2600

### Deep River/Petawawa Areas

- Ontario Early Years Satellite 584-4886  
Deep River Family Enrichment  
Network

### Renfrew/Arnprior Areas

- Ontario Early Years Satellite 433-9901  
- Renfrew Kids Corp/CAPC
- O.P.P. Renfrew 432-3211

**Note:** If possible, the child should be present during the inspection because part of the inspection involves assessing placement of child in the car seat. Please bring the car seat manufacturer's instructions and the vehicle manual.

# **CONTACT NUMBERS**

## **Transport Canada Information**

1-800-333-0371

[www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety](http://www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety)

A listing of all Public Notices and Information Notices are available through Transport Canada.

## **Ontario Ministry of Transportation**

1-800-268-4686

[www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)

**For general information about Car Seat Safety, contact:**



**Renfrew County & District Health Unit**

Health Info Line

at 735-8666 or 1-800-267-1097, Ext. 666

**Contact your vehicle manufacturer for installation of tether bolt(s).**