

Keep your child safe when driving **IT'S THE LAW!**

CALIFORNIA CAR SEAT LAW

Children under 2 years old must be rear facing unless they **weigh 40 pounds or more, or they are 40 inches tall or more.**

Children under age 8 must be buckled into a car seat or booster in the back seat. **Children age 8 or older, or who are 4'9" (4 feet 9 inches) or taller,** may use the vehicle seat belt if it fits properly. To fit properly, the lap belt must be low on the hips and touching the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt must cross the center of the chest. If children are not tall enough for proper belt fit, they must ride in a booster or car seat. **Everyone in the car must be properly buckled up.**

Most children will outgrow an infant seat before age 1

- The next step is a convertible car seat.
- Rear facing is 5 times safer than forward facing.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children ride rear facing to the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat manufacturer.

Kaitlyn's Law

It's against California law to leave a child who is 6 years of age or younger alone in the car without the supervision of a person at least 12 years old if:

- The keys are in the ignition or the car is running, or
- There is a significant risk to the child.

Children must be properly buckled in a car seat that is **rear facing until the age of 2**



Fines and penalties

For each child under 16 who is not properly secured, parents (if in the car) or drivers can be fined more than \$500 and get a point on their driving records.

For answers to your child safety seat questions, please contact Alameda County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency **1.510.618.2050** (English, Spanish) or visit the California Department of Public Health at **cdph.ca.gov/vosp**. Hospitals and clinics may also offer car seat education and resources.

Content adapted from "California Car Seat Law Changes", California Department of Public Health.