Child Safety Seat Guidelines

Rear-Facing Seat

- Infants under 20 pounds and under 1 year of age must be in a rear-facing infant seat.

- A rear-facing seat must never be placed in front of an active air bag.

Forward-Facing Seat

- Over 1 year of age and over 20 pounds.

Belt-Positioning Booster Seat

- Children under age 8 and shorter than 4 feet 9 inches are required to be in a child safety seat or booster.

- Boosters are for children up to 4 feet, 9 inches, typically ages 4–8.

Child Passenger Restraint Law
Minnesota Statute 169.685, subd. 5

- Children under age 8 and shorter than 4 feet 9 inches tall are required to be fastened in a child safety seat or booster seat that meets federal safety standards.

- Safety seats must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions:
  - Child must be secured in the safety seat.
  - Seat must be secured to the vehicle with a seat belt or LATCH.
  - Infants (under 20 pounds and under 1 year) must be in a rear-facing safety seat.

- Law applies to all motor vehicles originally equipped with factory-installed seat belts.

- Law applies to all seating positions.

- Driver is responsible.

- Petty misdemeanor fine for violation is $50 (may be waived if violator shows proof of obtaining a safety seat within 14 days).

- Applies to both residents and non-residents of Minnesota.

- Suspected non-use is a valid basis to stop a motor vehicle.

Exemptions

- Children riding in emergency medical vehicles, when medical needs make use of a restraint unreasonable.

- Children riding in a motor vehicle for hire, including a taxi, airport limousine or bus, but excluding a rented, leased or borrowed motor vehicle.

- Children riding with a peace officer on official duty, when a restraint is not available (a seat belt must be substituted).

- Children certified by a licensed physician as having a medical, physical or mental disability that makes restraint use inadvisable.

- School buses that meet FMVSS 222 for compartmentalization.

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