



Florence Police Department News Release

New Child Passenger Law

A new child passenger law went into effect in late May, but you may not have heard yet: **child passengers under age two must use a child seat with harness in a rear-facing position, unless the child turned one year of age prior to May 26, 2017.** Previously, the age requirement for rear-facing was up to age one, but safety advocates have known for years that rear-facing is a best practice. Now, in Oregon, it's law.

Buckle up correctly every time, every trip

Over the past few weeks, law enforcement agencies around the state have been looking for opportunities to educate motorists about this new law, along with Oregon's other occupant safety law for child passengers, which says a child over age two (or who turned one year of age prior to May 26, 2017) must ride in a car seat with harness or in a booster until they reach age eight or 4' 9" in height and the adult belt fits them correctly. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading nationwide cause of death for children ages one through twelve years old. Too often it's because the child was riding in the wrong type or incorrectly installed child restraint. Parental modeling can significantly affect a child's behavior with respect to nurturing consistent and proper restraint use habits.

Florence Police Chief Tom Turner, "We hope to use this stepped up effort in education and enforcement to help reduce the number of child deaths in Oregon."

REMINDER: Oregon law requires children less than forty pounds be restrained in a child seat. Children under two years of age (or who turned one year of age prior to May 26, 2017) or weighing less than twenty pounds must be restrained in a rear-facing child seat. A child over forty pounds must be restrained in either a child seat or a booster seat appropriate for their size until they reach age eight or 4' 9" tall AND the adult belt system fits them correctly.

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