For more information, visit 
www.buckleupnc.org or call 
the NC Child Passenger 
Safety Resource Center 
at 800-672-4527.

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Use rear-facing car seats as long as possible, but at least until a child is 2 years old or until he or she reaches the upper weight or height limit allowed by the child seat’s manufacturer.** Check to be sure:

- The child sits facing the back of the car in the car seat.
- The car seat is reclined according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

Rear-facing only seats
- Never face toward the front of the car.

Convertible car seats
- If your child is small, use rear-facing until he or she reaches the maximum height or weight set by the manufacturer. Then use forward-facing.
- Can often be used rear-facing for children up to 40 or 45 pounds, depending on the model.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Children are required to use a car seat or booster seat until they are at least 8 years old or 80 pounds (whichever comes first). And the seat belt must fit properly when used on its own. Keep children under age 13 in a rear seat of the vehicle.

Children should stay in booster seats until they are large enough for the lap and shoulder seat belts to fit properly. This usually occurs when a child is between 8 and 12 years old. If the belts do fit properly, continue to use a booster seat. Check to be sure:

- The child always uses a seat belt with both lap and shoulder belts.
- The lap belt sits low on the child’s hips, not on the stomach.
- The shoulder belt crosses over the shoulder and collar bone, not on the neck, under the arm or behind the back.
- The seat belt is snug, lies flat and is comfortable on the child.

NORTH CAROLINA LAW REQUIRES ALL VEHICLE PASSENGERS TO BUCKLE UP

As your State Fire Marshal and Insurance Commissioner, I promise to make North Carolina safe for each and every one of you. As State Chair of Safe Kids North Carolina, I invite that same promise to every child across our great state. Please take a moment to review this information about North Carolina child restraint laws and remember to buckle-up your children every time you get in the car and encourage other parents and caregivers to do the same. It’s the law and it could save a life.

— Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey

** Recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

www.ncsafekids.org • www.clickitorticket.org • www.ncdoi.com/osfm