City of Monterey Park News Release

www.MontereyPark.ca.gov

Monterey Park Police "Click It or Ticket" Enforcement Campaign Starts May 20

Monterey Park, Calif. - May 17, 2019 - From May 20 to June 2, the Monterey Park Police Department will have additional officers on patrol looking for drivers and passengers who are not buckled up, including drivers who do not secure children in child safety seats. The enforcement effort is part of the national "Click It or Ticket" campaign focused on increasing seat belt use.

"Seat belts have proven time and time again to be life-savers," said Monterey Park Police Chief Jim Smith. "Buckling up should be second nature."

At 96.2%, California has one of the highest seat belt use rates in the nation. However, 532 people killed in crashes statewide last year were not wearing a seat belt.

"Putting on a seat belt takes a few seconds and is your best protection in a crash. We want everyone to be as safe as possible when driving or riding in a car and wearing a seat belt is the easiest way to do that," Chief Smith added.

In California, the fine for a seat belt violation is $162, and $490 for failing to secure a child in the proper safety seat. Under California law, children under two years old, 40 pounds and 40 inches are required be in a rear-facing car seat. Children under the age of eight must be secured in a car or booster seat.

California has a primary seat belt law, which allows law enforcement officers to ticket someone for not wearing a seat belt without committing another traffic violation.

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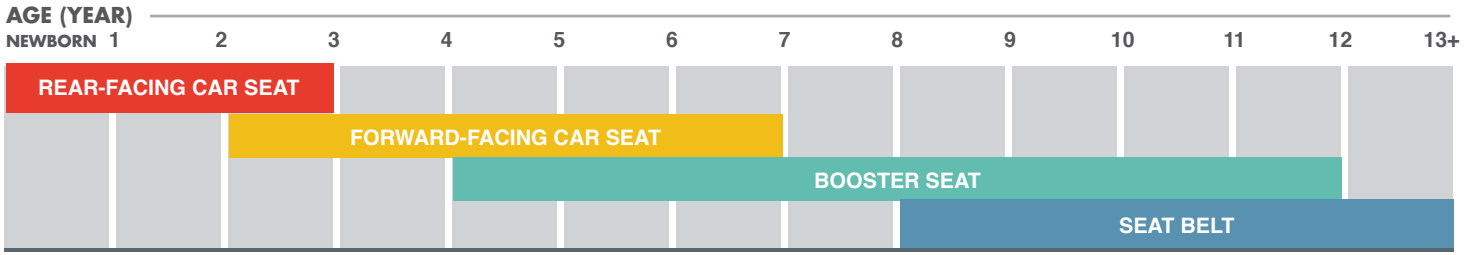
KNOW FOR SURE | IF YOUR CHILD IS IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT

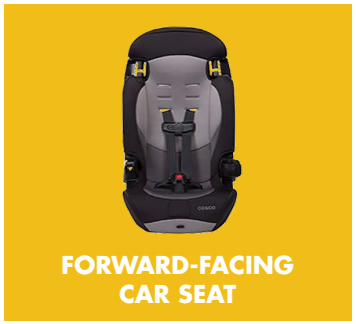


CHOOSING A CAR SEAT

- When it comes to selecting the right car seat for your child, one size does not fit all.
- There are four types of car seats: rear-facing, forward facing, booster and the standard seat belt.

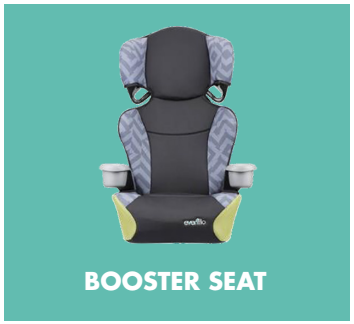
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT (NEWBORN – 2 YEARS)

- Children under two are required by law to be in a rear-facing car seat
- There are different types of rear-facing seats: infant-only, convertible and all-in-one. Infant-only is strictly for rear-facing. Convertible and all-in-one seats typically have bigger height and weight limits, allowing you to keep child in a rear-facing seat longer.



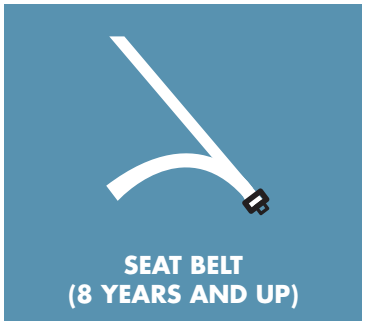
FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

- Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing seat with a harness and tether, which limits forward movement during a crash.



BOOSTER SEAT

- When your child reaches the top height or weight limit in a forward-facing seat, it is time to move up to a booster seat.
- Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly.



SEAT BELT (8 YEARS AND UP)

- A properly fitted seat belt must lie across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie across the shoulder and chest.
- Children 12 and under should always ride in the back seat.

- Learn more about finding and correctly using the right car seat at https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats
- Reduce the risk of death and injury by properly securing your child. To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible.

WHAT WE DO

- Show you how to properly install your car seat
- Adjust your harness so that it fits your child
- Discuss graduation, when your child can safely move to the next seat
- Check for recalls on your seat
- Give you the most current safety information

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Children under 2 years old, weighing under 40 pounds and under 40 inches tall must ride in a rear-facing car seat.

Children under the age of 8 must be secured in a car or booster seat in the back seat.

Children who are 8 years old OR have reached a height of 4'9" may be secured by a booster seat, but at a minimum must be secured by a safety belt.

CONTACT US

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CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

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NHTSA Child Car Safety

NHTSA.GOV/THERIGHTSEAT

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