

A GUIDE TO THE IOWA CHILD RESTRAINT LAW

Iowa Code 321.446, Data Code 198a - as of July 2010

Key Points:

- A child under 1 year old and weighing less than 20 lbs. must be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system
- A child age 1 up to 6 years old must be secured in a child restraint system (a safety seat or booster seat--NOT a seat belt)
- A child from age 6 up to age 11 must be secured in a child restraint system or by a safety belt
- Rear seat occupants up to age 18 must be secured by a safety belt

A "child restraint system" is a specially designed seating system, including a belt positioning seat or a booster seat that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards.

- The misdemeanor fine is \$100.00, plus costs (non-moving violation) totaling at least \$195.00
- The law applies to both residents and non-residents of Iowa
- The child restraint system must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- The child must be secured in the child restraint and the child restraint must be properly secured to the vehicle
- Non-use of a child restraint is probable cause to stop a vehicle
- An officer may investigate a suspected violation
- For unrestrained passengers age 0-13, the driver receives the citation, and for unrestrained passengers 14-17, the passenger receives the citation
- 1st offense citation will not result in conviction if driver "produces in court" proof of acquisition of child restraint

Exceptions:

- Children certified by a physician as having a medical, physical or mental disability making restraint use inadvisable
- Children on bus, including a school bus
- Children riding on motorcycles
- Children riding in vehicles manufactured before 1966
- Children transported in authorized emergency vehicles
- Children transported by peace officers on official duty
- Children riding in motor homes except if riding in the front passenger seat (where they must be restrained)
- Children for whom a seat belt is not available due to all other belts being used (example: 4th child in back seat with only 3 belts)

This is only a guide, provided through the courtesy of
Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau
Department of Public Safety

Produced with Federal Highway Safety Funds 07/10 10M



Marshalltown Police Department

Contact Information:

Officer David Danielson

(641) 754-5725

ddanielson@marshalltown-ia.gov



Marshall County Sheriff's Department

Contact Information:

Sergeant Ben Veren

(641) 754-6380

bveren@co_marshall.ia.us



Marshall County Child Passenger Safety Seat Program



The Marshalltown Police Department and the Marshall County Sheriff's Office are committed to promoting traffic safety in our community. Both departments proactively pursue traffic safety goals through education and enforcement initiatives. One of the newer programs available involves child safety seat education efforts. Through this effort both agencies have made child safety seat technicians available to provide educational materials and presentations regarding this important topic. The child seat technicians also are available to help install and inspect child seats to insure they are utilized safely and correctly.



Marshall County Sheriff's Office
2369 Jessup Avenue Marshalltown, IA
(641) 754-6380
www.marshallcountysheriff.com

Child Safety Seat Inspection Services

- Inspection of existing child safety seats and installation in your vehicle.
- Assistance with selection of seat for child size, proper installation, and maintenance.
- Verifying currently recalled child safety seats.
- Limited number of free replacement seats available for damaged or expired seats, or for families with financial limitations.
- Answering general questions about child passenger safety.

 **Safe Kids**[®]
Central Iowa
Central Iowa Safe Kids Coalition

The purpose of the program is to help reduce the incidence of the improper installation of car seats. A certified Child Safety Seat Technician will provide a free evaluation to ensure proper use of a child safety seat.



Marshalltown Police Department
909 South 2nd Street Marshalltown, IA
(641) 754-5725
www.marshalltown-ia.gov