



# Newsletter

JUNE 2008

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## Child Safety Seat Law Upgraded

Starting June 30, Maryland's Child Passenger Safety law will change, requiring children to ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat until age eight— unless the child is 4' 9" tall or weighs more than 65 lbs. All children younger than 16 years of age must ride in a booster seat, safety seat or a vehicle seat belt in passenger vehicles.

Even when children can legally ride in a car seat belt, many kids still need the protection of a booster seat beyond age eight. This is because vehicle

seat belts are designed to fit adult body proportions. In a crash, an improperly-fitting adult seat belt may actually injure a child instead of protecting him or her.

How can you tell if your child is ready for an adult seat belt? Maryland Kids In Safety Seats recommends using the 'Five-Step Test.'

1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?

3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered 'no' to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat to make both the shoulder and lap belt fit right for the best crash protection.

To learn more about child passenger safety, call the Maryland Kids In Safety Seats program at 1-800-SEAT

## Partnership Updates and Upcoming Events

### CHAIR-ELECT

The Partnership for a Safer Maryland is soliciting nominations for the position of Chair-elect. Nominations should be sent to the partnership e-mail address.

### TRAFFIC SAFETY

The University of Maryland with Maryland Highway Safety Office and others are conducting annual traffic safety survey.

-Survey used to identify traffic safety concerns both statewide and locally.

\*\*Survey is completely anonymous\*\*

Go to <http://www.marylanddriversurvey.com>

or  
GOOGLE web-search: Maryland driver survey.com



# Maryland's Child Passenger Safety Law Has Changed

(Effective June 30, 2008)

- **Every child** under 8 years old must ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat.\*

Unless the child is 4 feet, 9 inches or taller, or weighs more than 65 pounds.

- **Every child** from 8 to 16 years old who is not secured in a car seat must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt.



## Protect your children as they ride!

The back seat is the safest. Children under 13 years old should ride in the back seat.



### Questions?

Call Maryland Kids In Safety Seats  
(KISS)

at 1-800-370-SEAT or  
(410) 767-6016.

Or visit us online at [www.mdkiss.org](http://www.mdkiss.org)

\* "Child safety seat" includes infant seats, convertible seats, forward-facing seats, booster seats, or other federally approved safety devices.

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Maryland KISS Program

Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

John M. Colmers, Secretary, DHMH

