

# TENNESSEE SEAT BELT LAWS

## (TCA 55-9-602 & 603) PRIMARY LAWS

Effective July 1, 2005 - Present

Child's Age/ Weight/Height	Type of Seat	Location of Seat	Additional Information
0-1 year & 20 lbs. or less	Rear-Facing	Rear Seat If Available	Seat must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and be used according to child safety restraint system or vehicle manufacturer's instructions.
1 yr. through 3 yrs. & Greater than 20 lbs.	Forward-Facing	Rear Seat If Available	
4 yrs. through 8 yrs. & Less than 4'9" tall	Belt-Positioning Booster Seat	Rear Seat If Available	
9 yrs. through 12 yrs. or 4'9" tall or greater	Vehicle Seat Belt System	Rear Seat Recommended	
13 yrs. through 17 yrs.	Vehicle Seat Belt System		

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# Additional NHTSA Recommendations

- ★ Never place a rear-facing seat in front of an active air bag!
- ★ Child safety seats cannot be used on side-facing jump seats.
- ★ A booster seat should always be used with the vehicle lap AND shoulder belt. High-back booster seats are required when vehicle headrests are not available. Never allow a child to place the shoulder belt behind their back or under their arm.
- ★ To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- ★ Follow your car seat manufacturer's instructions and your vehicle owner's manual on how to install.
- ★ **Get Help** - To find the best answer or resources for your particular child seat situation visit [www.tntrafficsafety.org](http://www.tntrafficsafety.org) and click on "Child Passenger Safety" tab.



Governor's Highway  
Safety Office

## TN Traffic Safety Resource Service

[www.tntrafficsafety.org](http://www.tntrafficsafety.org)

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