



Florence County Health Department

501 Lake Ave PO Box 410 Florence, Wisconsin 54121 715-528-4837
A.Seibold, RN, MS Health Officer/Director



NEWS RELEASE

05/20/2024

Annette Seibold
Florence County Health Department
715-528-4837
FAX 715-528-5269
aseibold@florencecountywi.gov

Car Seat Safety Laws

Florence, WI –

Experts agree that child car seats save lives and they are the law. The state of Wisconsin offers specific guidance in § 347.48 for child passenger safety systems. The following is not all-inclusive, but a brief review. *Best practice uses the maximum height or weight limits for the car seat based on car seat manufacturer instructions and meets/ exceeds state law requirements to keep your child safe.

- **Birth-12 months or under 20lbs:** Rear-facing child restraint. *Best practice is to keep them rear facing until they reach the height or weight limit set by the car seat manufacturer.
- ***Age 1-3 and 20-40lbs:** Must be in either a rear- or forward-facing child restraint. *Best practice is to go by the height and weight limit set by the car seat manufacturer. Turning them to forward facing only once they reach either the weight or height limit of a rear-facing car seat.
- **Age 4-7 years and 40-80lbs and under 57”:** Must be in either a rear- or forward-facing child restraint or a booster seat. *Best practice is to look at your car seat height and weight limits if the child has exceeded the limits for a rear- or forward-facing car set to move them to booster.
- **Age 8 or older or more than 80lbs or taller than 57”:** An adult safety belt is permissible. *Best practice is to follow the 5-step test: Back against the vehicle seat, knees bend at the edge of the seat, lap belt on tops of thighs, not on belly, shoulder belt between neck and shoulder, sits properly. No slouching, no playing with seat belt. Children should ride in the back seat until age 13.

These laws are in place to help you keep your child safe. Many car seats are not installed or used correctly in the car. Having a properly installed child passenger safety seat keeps your child safer in the car. Keep in mind that car seats are not crash tested for all terrain vehicles (ATV's) and are not approved for use in those recreational vehicles.

The Florence County Human Services Department conducts free personal car seat checks in collaboration with St. Vincent de Paul at the Florence County Courthouse. To have your car seat checked by a certified Car Seat Technician, please call Laura Knoll at 608.440.2932 to schedule your free appointment.

###