

Tennessee Child Restraint Law

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13 in America.

The Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) strives to reduce serious injuries and fatal crashes by educating parents, caregivers, and members of the community about the **proper use of car seats, boosters, and seat belts.**

Source: Tennessee Highway Safety Office

Tennessee Seat Belt Law

(TCA 55-9-602 & 603) Primary Laws
Effective July 1st 2005-Present

Child's Age/ Weight/Height	Type of Seat	Location of Seat
0-1 year & 20lbs or less	Rear-Facing	Rear Seat if Available
1 yr through 3 yrs & greater than 20lbs	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 & 4'9" tall or greater	Vehicle Seat Belt System	Rear Seat Recommended
13 yrs through 17 yrs	Vehicle Seat Belt System	

Seat must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and be used according to child safety restraint system or vehicle manufacturer's instructions

According to the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), all infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their manufacturer. All children who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit should use a front forward facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer.