

**Law Enforcement Occupant Protection
Awareness Course**
Lifesavers Conference
Curbside Law Enforcement Training Opportunities
March 16, 2015 9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
Sergeant Lance Mitchell, C.P.S.T.I., T.O.P.S.I.
Knox County Sheriff's Office

Acknowledgements:

This class was designed by:
Knox County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the
Maine Bureau of Highway Safety

With Assistance from the:
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Why was this class created?

What is your responsibility as a
Technician and/or Instructor?

Section 1:

Balancing Demands, Enforcement and Education

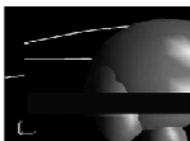
Ways of Integrating CPS Enforcement & Education

- Assess every traffic stop involving children

Section 2:

How Car Seats & Seat Belts Protect in Crashes

Comparing Lap Belt and Lap & Shoulder Belt



Section 3:

Use of Car Seats

Section 4:

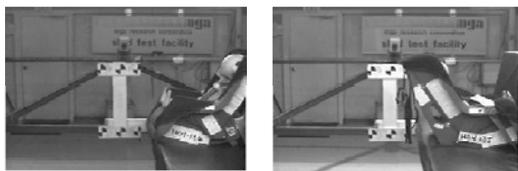
Harnessing the Child in the Car Seat Correctly

- Parts of the Harness
- Positioning & Harnessing Children in RF CS
- Positioning & Harnessing FF CS
- Booster Seats Proper Fit

Section 5:

- Installing Car Seats in Vehicles
- General Guide to Correct Installation
- The Right Spot in the Vehicle

Rear Facing vs. Forward Facing



Never Place a Rear Facing Car Seat in Front of an Airbag



Section 6:

Car Seats and Seat Belt Misuses

Harnessing Errors

- Straps in wrong slot
- Harness not placed on child correctly
- Harness too loose
- Harness adjuster not locked
- Retainer clip too high or too low or not fastened
- Frayed, twisted, pinned, knotted or damaged webbing



Installation Errors

- Seat belt not locked
- Seat belt too loose
- Car seat is installed in the wrong direction
- Incorrect recline angle
- Seat belt routed through the wrong belt path
- Locking clip not used or used incorrectly
- No tether or used incorrectly



Misuse of Booster Seats

- Incorrect routing of shoulder belt
- Incorrect routing of lap belt
- Booster must never be used with just a lap belt



Misuse of Seat Belts

- Shoulder belt too loose
- Shoulder belt under the arm
- Shoulder belt behind the back
- Double-buckling (2 kids using 1 belt)
- Shoulder Belt too high
- Lap belt too high



**Misuse Example 1:
What's Wrong with
This Picture?**

- ✓ Installed in front seat



**Misuse Example 3:
What's Wrong with
This Picture?**

- ✓ Child should be in a booster seat
- ✓ Child should not be wearing a backpack



**Misuse Example 5:
What's Wrong with
This Picture?**

- ✓ Harness straps are twisted
- ✓ Harness straps are loose
- ✓ Retainer clip is placed too low. Clip should be placed at the child's armpits



**Misuse Example 7:
What's Wrong with
This Picture?**

- ✓ Seat should be rear-facing.
- ✓ Seat belt is not in the correct belt path.



**Misuse Example 9:
What's Wrong with
This Picture?**

- ✓ Child should be in a booster seat



Section 7:

Special Considerations with Child Passenger Safety

- Police Vehicles



Section 8:

Conclusion – Where Do We Go From Here?

Let's Review

What can I see?

What should I do?

Maine State Law

Title 29-A §2081. Use of safety seat belts

§2081. Use of safety seat belts

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Child safety seat" means a child safety seat that meets the standards described in the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. [2001, c. 585, §1 (NEW); 2001, c. 585, §6 (AFF).]

B. "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards" means the standards described in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 571, in effect on January 1, 1981, as subsequently amended. [2001, c. 585, §1 (NEW); 2001, c. 585, §6 (AFF).]

C. "Federally approved child restraint system" means a child safety restraint that is intended to be used as crash protection in vehicles and that meets the requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213. [2003, c. 380, §1 (AMD); 2003, c. 380, §5 (AFF).] [2003, c. 380, §1 (AMD); 2003, c. 380, §5 (AFF).]

2. Children under 40 pounds. When a child who weighs less than 40 pounds is being transported in a motor vehicle that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with safety seat belts, the operator must have the child properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in a child safety seat. Violation of this subsection is a traffic infraction for which a fine of \$50 for the first offense, \$125 for the 2nd offense and \$250 for the 3rd and subsequent offenses must be imposed. A fine imposed under this subsection may not be suspended by the court.

Maine State Law

Title 29-A §2081. Use of safety seat belts, Cont.

3. Passengers less than 18 years of age. Except as provided in subsection 2, the following provisions apply to passengers less than 18 years of age riding in a vehicle that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts. Violation of this subsection is a traffic infraction for which a fine of \$50 for the first offense, \$125 for the 2nd offense and \$250 for the 3rd and subsequent offenses must be imposed. A fine imposed under this subsection may not be suspended by the court.

A. The operator shall ensure that a child who weighs at least 40 pounds but less than 80 pounds and who is less than 8 years of age is properly secured in a federally approved child restraint system. Nonprofit, municipal or contracted transportation service providers are exempt from this paragraph until February 1, 2005, except that the operator shall ensure that the child is properly secured in a seat belt. [2003, c. 380, §2 (AMD); 2003, c. 380, §5 (AFF).]

B. The operator shall ensure that a child who is less than 18 years of age and at least 8 years of age or who is less than 18 years of age and more than 4 feet, 9 inches in height is properly secured in a seat belt. [2007, c. 295, §2 (AMD).]

C. The operator shall ensure that a child who is less than 12 years of age and who weighs less than 100 pounds is properly secured in the rear seat of a vehicle, if possible. [2001, c. 585, §3 (NEW); 2001, c. 585, §6 (AFF).]

**Maine State Law
Title 29-A §2081. Use of safety seat belts, Cont.**

3-A. Other passengers 18 years of age and older; operators. When a person 18 years of age or older is a passenger in a vehicle that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts, the passenger must be properly secured in a seat belt. Each such passenger is responsible for wearing a seat belt as required by this subsection, and a passenger that fails to wear a seat belt as required by this subsection is subject to the enforcement provisions of subsection 4. The operator of a vehicle that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts must be secured in the operator's seat belt. Violation of this subsection is a traffic infraction for which a fine of \$50 for the first offense, \$125 for the 2nd offense and \$250 for the 3rd and subsequent offenses must be imposed. A fine imposed under this subsection may not be suspended by the court. A vehicle, the contents of a vehicle, the driver of or a passenger in a vehicle may not be inspected or searched solely because of a violation of this subsection.

Understanding Maine's Law and How to Enforce It

2. Children under 40 pounds. When a child who weighs less than 40 pounds is being transported in a motor vehicle that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with safety seat belts, the operator must have the child properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in a child safety seat. Violation of this subsection is a traffic infraction for which a fine of \$50 for the first offense, \$125 for the 2nd offense and \$250 for the 3rd and subsequent offenses must be imposed. A fine imposed under this subsection may not be suspended by the court

- **Most if not all manufacturers recommend children are rear facing until they are at least 1 yr. old and weigh at least 20 pounds**
- **Most if not all manufacturers recommend children are in a forward facing car seat with a harness until they are at least 4 yrs. old and weigh at least 40 pounds**

Understanding Maine's Law and How to Enforce It

A. The operator shall ensure that a child who weighs at least 40 pounds but less than 80 pounds and who is less than 8 years of age is properly secured in a federally approved child restraint system. Nonprofit, municipal or contracted transportation service providers are exempt from this paragraph until February 1, 2005, except that the operator shall ensure that the child is properly secured in a seat belt.

B. The operator shall ensure that a child who is less than 18 years of age and at least 8 years of age or who is less than 18 years of age and more than 4 feet, 9 inches in height is properly secured in a seat belt.

C. The operator shall ensure that a child who is less than 12 years of age and who weighs less than 100 pounds is properly secured in the rear seat of a vehicle, if possible.

- **A child over 40 pounds must be in a booster seat until they are 8 yrs. old and weigh at least 80 pounds**
- **4'9" is addressed in reference to seat belts in Section B, but is not addressed where it should be in Section A.**
- **Section C is self explanatory**

Understanding Maine's Law and How to Enforce It

3-A. Other passengers 18 years of age and older; operators. When a person 18 years of age or older is a passenger in a vehicle that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts, the passenger must be properly secured in a seat belt. Each such passenger is responsible for wearing a seat belt as required by this subsection, and a passenger that fails to wear a seat belt as required by this subsection is subject to the enforcement provisions of subsection 4. The operator of a vehicle that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts must be secured in the operator's seat belt. Violation of this subsection is a traffic infraction for which a fine of \$50 for the first offense, \$125 for the 2nd offense and \$250 for the 3rd and subsequent offenses must be imposed. A fine imposed under this subsection may not be suspended by the court. A vehicle, the contents of a vehicle, the driver of or a passenger in a vehicle may not be inspected or searched solely because of a violation of this subsection.

- All Passenger's are required to wear their seat belt properly
- Driver's are not required by Maine Law to "Properly" wear a Seat Belt, (i.e. You can summons a driver / passenger (depending on age) for allowing a passenger to wear a shoulder belt behind their back or under their arm, however a driver can not be summonsed for the same violation.

Get to Know Your CPS Technician (CPST)

They can:

- Assist with any questions you may have and can instruct ticketed individuals regarding proper installation of a car seat
- Assist with setting up and conducting a car seat Check-up Event

Contact the Bureau of Highway Safety CPS Coordinator regarding any local CPSTs, events, car seat inspection, distribution locations or trainings

Thank You!

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