


Child Passenger Safety  
Education and Diversion  
Program



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Objectives

- Implement child passenger safety diversion programs in Wood County
- Refresh patrol officers on child passenger safety

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Why Educate?

Nationally, 4 out of 5 car seats are not installed properly (locally 90-100%)

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 3 to 6 and 8 to 14 in the U.S., with 1,670 motor vehicle-related deaths to children under age 14 occurring in 2007 (NHTSA 2008)

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## What We Want From You

1. Take a moment to look for misuse on a traffic stop
2. Ticket
3. Distribute diversion program brochure

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## Diversion Program Example

1. Police Officer cites for violation and issues brochure (first offense only).
2. Family sets up an appointment with car seat technician prior to court date for education.
3. After family complies with car seat education, technician signs a form to be given to the court system to waive citation forfeiture (forfeiture only – citation will still appear on defendant's record as a 1<sup>st</sup> offense).
  - Ultimate Goal = Improve safe travel of our children and save lives!

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## Who To Ticket?

1. No Use
2. Gross Misuse

Should only take a moment to determine these types of misuse.

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### What is the Law?

- STEP 1. Rear-facing to 1 year **and** 20 pounds.
  - IN THE BACK SEAT (if equipped)
- STEP 2. Forward-facing to 4 years old **and** 40 pounds
  - IN THE BACK SEAT (if equipped)
- STEP 3. Booster seat up to 8 years old, **or** 80 pounds **or** 4'9" tall, whichever comes first
- STEP 4. Seat belt for older children

\*\*\*Child must be properly restrained\*\*\*

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#### Step One: Rear-Facing

Requirements:  
Def: 347.48(as)1

To 1 year **and** 20 lbs.

In back seat (if equipped).

Harness at or below shoulders.



Note: AAP recommends children rear face until 2y0a. (Not WI law).

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\*\*\*Child must be properly restrained\*\*\*

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#### Step Two: Forward Facing with Harness

Requirements:  
Def: 347.48(as)2

To 4 years and 40 lbs.

In back seat (if  
equipped).

Harness at or above  
shoulders.




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### What is the Law?

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- STEP 2. Forward-facing to 4 years old **and** 40 pounds
  - IN THE BACK SEAT (if equipped)
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\*\*\*Child must be properly restrained\*\*\*

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**Step Three:  
Booster Seat**

**Requirements:**  
**Def: 347.48(as)3**

Minimum age and weight to be in a booster is 4 years old and 40lbs.

To 8 years old, or 80 lbs or 4'9" tall - whichever comes first.

Must use lap and shoulder belt with booster.



Most inexpensive type of booster. Vehicle seat must provide head support to top of child's ears.

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### Statutory Authority to Cite

- 347.48(4)(ag) 3. "Properly restrained" means any of the following:
  - a. With respect to par. (as) 1. and 2., fastened in a manner prescribed by the manufacturer of the child safety restraint system which permits the system to act as a body restraint but does not include a system in which the only body restraint is a safety belt of the type required under sub. (1). (ie. Harness straps tight, retainer clip high, proper seat for child's height/weight, seat installed correctly).
    - a. Par. (as) 1 = children 1y00 and 20lbs (ie. Infant seat)
    - b. Par (as) 2 = children 1y00 and 20lbs-4 years old and 40lbs (ie. Forward facing)
  - b. With respect to par. (as) 3. (refers to booster seat kids), wearing a safety belt consisting of a combination lap belt and shoulder harness approved by the department under sub. (2) and fastened in a manner prescribed by the manufacturer of the safety belt so that the safety belt properly fits across the child's lap and the center of the child's chest in a manner appropriate to the child's height, weight, and age that permits the safety belt to act as a body restraint. (ie. Shoulder belt not behind child's head).

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### Exemption for No Use

- 347.50(3)(b)
- (b) No forfeiture may be assessed under par. (a) if **all** of the following apply:
- 347.50(3)(b)1. The motor vehicle was not equipped with a child safety restraint system meeting the requirements under s. 347.48 (4) (am) at the time the uniform traffic citation was issued.
- 347.50(3)(b)2. The person provides proof that, within 30 days after the uniform traffic citation was issued, a child safety restraint system meeting the requirements under s. 347.48 (4) (am) was purchased or leased and properly installed in the motor vehicle.
- 347.50(3)(b)3. The person has not, within the immediately preceding 3 years, been issued a uniform traffic citation for a violation of s. 347.48 (4) (am).

No diversion program necessary; however, for uniformity you may want to have them follow the same process.

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**Who To Ticket?**  
**Gross Misuse**

(1) Harness loose }  
 (2) Retainer clip low } These often occur together.

(3) Installation:  
 • Car seat loose or not buckled in at all (or tipped to side).  
*"Is it ok for me to touch your child's car seat"*  
 • Infant seat forward facing or in front seat.  
 • Booster with lap belt only.

(4) Improper seat type  
 (5) NO use

Should only take a moment to determine these types of misuse.

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**Gross Misuse**  
**Harness Strap-Retainer Clip**

- Harness loose-child should not be able to lean forward or hang out the window.
- Retainer clip low.

Note: Both of these could allow the child to slip out of the seat themselves. When a parent says, "he unbuckles himself" this is most likely the problem.

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### Gross Misuse Car Seat Installation



Rear-facing car seat installed in front seat.

(If vehicle is equipped with backseat, it must be in the back.)

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#### Gross Misuse

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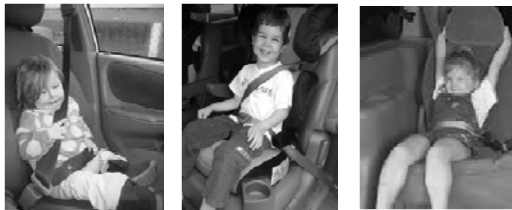
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### Gross Misuse Improper Seat



Red Flag: Just looks weird. Undersized child in a booster.

Red Flag: Slouching. Undersized child in booster or seatbelt only.

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### Who To Ticket?

#### Gross Misuse

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### Statute #

- Child Passenger Seat violation:
  - **PENALTY:** 347.48(4)(am) : states that children under 8 yoa must be properly restrained in a child seat.
  - Definitions:
    - 347.48 (as)1 - covers rear facing children (<1yoa, <20lbs)
    - 347.48 (as)2- covers forward facing children (≥1yoa & 20lbs but <4yoa & 40lbs)
    - 347.48 (as)3- covers booster seats (≥ 4yoa & 40lbs)
- Safety Belt violation: 347.48 (2m)
- Transporting child <16 in open truck cargo area: 346.922(1)

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## Online Resources

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)
  - Laws
  - Child seat "Ease of Use" ratings
  - Child seat check sites
- Safety Belt Safe: [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org)
  - Parent fact sheets
  - Guidelines for childcare providers
  - Childcare provider transportation information form
- Safe Kids: [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)
  - Recall lists
  - Safety in and around cars
  - Activities for kids (coloring sheets, puzzles, mazes, etc.)

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## Local Resources

- Wood County Health Department
  - Several certified technicians
  - Low-income car seat program
  - Car seat rental program
  - Free car seat checks
- Saint Joseph's Children's Hospital
  - Certified technicians in NICU, PICU, and Birth Center
  - Permanent fitting station
- Marshfield Fire and Rescue
  - Certified technicians
  - Permanent CR recycling station
- Law Enforcement Technicians
  - (1) each at - Marshfield, Wood County and Wisconsin Rapids

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**Thumbs up** to  
all of you for  
**making the**  
**children** in our  
community  
**safer!**



*Our children depend on your support*

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**Thank you for taking the time  
to ensure children travel safe!**

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