

What changed in the law?

All violations of this section became a primary offense, including seat belt use for all ages.

Enforcement action on a first offense is restricted to a written warning effective until July 1, 2018.

When can an officer write a citation rather than a warning?

A seat belt citation can be issued when the individual violating the law has previously been issued a written warning for the same violation.

How are seat belt warnings being tracked?

Written seat belt warnings will be tracked in UCJIS, using the Driver License inquiry screen accessed by the officer or dispatch.

Can an officer issue a citation for a seat belt violation if the individual is stopped for a different offense?

Only after the first written warning is issued can a citation be given regardless of whether or not a motorist is stopped for a different offense.

When do these changes become effective?

May 12, 2015

What is the penalty for a seat belt citation?

After the 1st offense and written warning, a seat belt citation can be issued. Maximum fine is \$45. Fine is waived upon completion of an online 30-minute seat belt safety course available through the Utah Safety Council. Course fee will be waived through July 1, 2018.

Seat Belt Facts

- Are the single most effective traffic safety device for preventing death and injury
- Reduce the risk of injury or death by 50% when used properly
- Help the driver stay put, maintaining control of the vehicle during a collision

What happens after July 1, 2018?

During the 2018 legislative session, the primary law will be re-evaluated to determine if the law goes into effect permanently. The three-year warning period will be used as a public information & education campaign on the life-saving benefits of seat belts and is critical to the success of this primary law.

What can law enforcement do to help ensure the primary law remains a primary law?

Educate non-users on the benefits of wearing a seat belt. Issue written warnings on the first offense, provide educational hand-out to violators.

UTAH SEAT BELT LAW

Effective May 12, 2015	First Offense	Second Offense (Primary)
Car Seat/Booster	Written warning until 7/1/2018	Under age 8
Seat Belt	Written warning until 7/1/2018	Ages 8 and up
Citation to Driver	Written warning until 7/1/2018	After 1 st offense
Citation to Passenger	Written warning until 7/1/2018	After 1 st offense, unbuckled passengers 16 and older can receive their own citation
Penalty	Written warning until 7/1/2018	Maximum fine: \$45. Non-moving violation, no points assessed. Fine is waived upon completion of 30 minute online course.
Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre July, 1966 vehicles without seat belts. • Written verification from a licensed physician. • All other seat belt positions are occupied. • Only applies to seating positions required to have seat belts. • Children under 8 who are 57 inches tall or taller are exempt from the requirement to be in a child restraint. 	

*Efforts are being made to make a child restraint offense (under age 8) citable for the first offense.