

Changes to the Georgia Booster Seat Law

Effective July 1, 2011

Children **under age 8** must be properly secured in an approved car seat or booster seat while riding in:

- Passenger automobiles, Vans, and Pickup trucks

The car seat and/or booster seat must:

- Be in the rear seat (some exceptions apply)
- Be appropriate for the child's weight & height
- Meet all federal standards
- Be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions

Exemptions:

- Children under age 8 whose height is over 4'9" or 57"
- Parent or Guardian has a written statement from a Physician that the child has a physical or medical condition that prevents placing or restraining them as required by law

Exceptions:

A child under age 8 and weighing at least 40 pounds **is not** exempt from the law. They may use a lap belt only instead of a car seat or booster seat when:

- The vehicle is not equipped with lap & shoulder belts; **or**
- Excluding the driver's seat, all seating positions with lap & shoulder belts are being used to restrain other children. In this case, the placement of car seats / boosters seats should be evaluated to determine if they can be repositioned to provide the best protection for all children being transported.

Fine:

1st conviction – not more than \$50

2nd & subsequent convictions – not more than \$100

Points assessed against violator's driver's license:

1st conviction – 1 point, 2nd & subsequent convictions – 2 points

Why are Booster Seats Needed?

- Seat belts are made for adults and do not fit young children correctly. Booster seats raise children up so the adult seat belt fits them.
- Booster seats position the shoulder belt across the shoulder and chest, not the neck.
- Booster seats also keep the lap belt low over the hip and thigh bones, not across the belly.
- Children using booster seats are 59 percent less likely to be injured in a crash than those using a seat belt alone

Booster Seat Tips

- Booster seats must never be used with only the lap belt. Do not allow a child to place the shoulder belt behind his back or under his arm
- Children should ride in the back seat until at least 13 years of age.

