

### **BIRTH TO 8 YEARS OF AGE:**

- All children from birth to 8 years of age and 80 pounds must ride in a federally-approved child restraint system.
- A person who is less than 18 years of age but more than 8 years of age or who is less than 18 years of age and more than 4 feet 7 inches in height must be properly secured in a seat belt.
- A child who is less than 12 years of age and who weighs less than 100 pounds must be properly secured in the back seat of the vehicle, if possible.
- The child safety seat/restraint law is a primary law and is punishable by a \$60.00 fine plus court costs. The court shall waive the fine for a first violation if the parent or legal guardian provides the court with satisfactory evidence that the parent or legal guardian has acquired a child safety seat/restraint system for continuous use by the child within 30 days of the violation.

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### **FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY:**

- A child must ride rear-facing until 1 year of age AND weighs at least 20 pounds
- NEVER place a rear-facing child safety seat in front of an airbag

Maine has 55 Child Safety Seat Program sites located throughout the state to assist low-income families in acquiring the proper safety seat/restraint system.

- There are many different child safety seats to choose from. Choose the appropriate seat/restraint that will best fit the child and the vehicle.
- Refer to the vehicle owner's manual for further guidance on proper installation of the child safety seat/restraint system
- An approved safety seat/restraint system will be labeled: "The child restraint system conforms to applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards"
- Failure to follow proper installation instruction could result in equipment failure and/or injury.
- Always register your child safety seat with the manufacturer.

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### **ALL PERSONS 8 AND OLDER:**

- Maine law requires ALL vehicle occupants older than 8 years of age or more than 80 pounds to be secured in a federally-approved safety seat belt
- A child who is 12 years of age and weighs less than 100 pounds must be secured in the back seat, if possible

- Air bags are designed as a supplemental restraint and not a substitute for wearing a safety seat belt
- The following are exempt from wearing a safety seat belt:
  - Persons with a medical condition, certified in writing by a physician
  - Rural postal carriers in the process of delivering mail
- Vehicle for hire drivers are not responsible for securing a safety seat belt of their passengers

**The penalty for violation of this law is \$60.00 plus court costs.**

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Questions about Occupant Protection?

Department of Human Services 1-800-698-3624 TTY 1-800-332-1003

Department of Public Safety 207-624-8756 TTY 207-287-3659

Questions about child restraint recalls? Auto Safety Hotline: 1-800-424-9393