



Virginia's New Car Seat Law: What You Need to Know

LAW: This spring, Virginia's legislature passed a [new, stronger law](#) on child passenger safety. It makes Virginia children safer by requiring them to remain rear-facing in their car seats until they reach age 2 or the maximum weight or height limit called for by the car seat manufacturer. All children in a car seat must ride in the rear seat, unless the vehicle does not have one. This law goes into effect on July 1, 2019, but you can make it the law in your car [TODAY](#).



FINE: The fine for a first offense is \$50, and a subsequent offense can bring a fine of up to \$500.

WHEN: Virginia's new car seat law goes into effect July 1, 2019. Keep your small child safer in a rear-facing position and your older children in forward facing car seats or booster seats. You can make it the law in your car today.

WHY: The law is based on current recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Infants and toddlers are "head heavy," and the rear-facing car seat does a better job of supporting the developing head, neck and spine of smaller children in the event of a crash.

OLDER KIDS: The new law requires all children in any type of car seat must ride in the vehicle's rear seat. All children under age 8 must still ride in an appropriate car seat or booster seat. Children 8-17 must wear an adult seat belt.

GUIDE: Safe Kids created [The Ultimate Car Seat Guide](#), a go-to resource for personalized car seat safety tips based on your child's age, height and weight. Check it out and learn what type of car seat is best for your child and tips on how to properly install and fit the car seat. The Guide is also available en [Español!](#)

CHECK IT OUT: Contact your local Virginia [Safe Kids Coalition](#) to learn how to get your child's car seat inspected by a certified technician. The federal government also has a [feature](#) to find CPS technicians.

RESOURCES:

- [Safe Kids' Car Seat Safety Information Page](#)
- [Safe Kids Virginia based at Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU](#)
- [Safe Kids DC at Children's National Health System](#)
- [AAP Guidelines on Car Seat Safety](#)
- [Virginia Department of Health on Child Passenger Safety](#)
- [National Highway Transportation Safety Administration on Car and Booster Seats](#)
- [New Virginia Car Seat Law](#)

THANKS: Virginia Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax) championed the bill with support from Safe Kids Virginia, Children's National Health System and AAA Mid-Atlantic. The bill was signed into law by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam in a [public ceremony](#) on May 28, 2018.

Safe Kids work on child passenger safety and the Ultimate Car Seat Guide are made possible by [General Motors](#).