

Child Restraint Law: [O.S. 47 §11-1112]



Applies to all children twelve (12) years of age and younger transported in a motor vehicle.



Regardless of a child's seating position in a vehicle, children under six (6) years of age shall be protected in a properly installed child passenger restraint system, and children six (6) through twelve (12) years of age must be protected by use of either a properly installed child passenger restraint system or a safety belt.



Children under six (6) years of age who weigh more than 40 pounds and are riding in a rear seating position may use only a lap belt if there are no lap/shoulder combination safety belts available.



It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that all children twelve (12) years of age and younger are properly restrained as required by the law.



Exemptions to the child restraint law include: vehicles that did not have seat belts as original equipment; motorcycles; emergency vehicles such as an ambulance, fire truck or police car; taxicabs; school buses; vehicles in which all the seat belts are in use; and children who for medical reasons cannot use the required restraint system (written verification from the physician is required).



Vehicles not originally equipped with safety belts are exempt from the law. A child medically unable to wear a safety belt because of a physical condition can also be exempt with a signed, written verification from a physician. The law also does not apply to the drivers of emergency vehicles, such as ambulances.

Safety Belt Law: [O.S. 47 §12-417]



Applies to all front seat occupants thirteen (13) years of age and older in a motor vehicle (children twelve years of age and younger must comply with the child restraint law).

All drivers and front seat passengers of cars, pickups, vans, and SUVs must be properly restrained by use of the vehicle seat belt.

Persons physically unable to wear a seat belt may request an exemption from the Department of Public Safety.

Law enforcement officers can stop and subsequently ticket a driver for violating either of these laws.