

North Carolina Laws:

NC has three occupant restraint laws. Their basic requirements are as follows:

- All drivers and passengers, regardless of age, must be properly buckled up in vehicles required to have seat belts.
- Children younger than age 8 and who weigh less than 80 pounds must be properly secured in a child restraint or booster seat.
- Children less than age 5 and less than 40 pounds must be in the rear seat if the vehicle has an active passenger-side front airbag and a rear seat.
- When a child reaches age 8 (regardless of weight) or 80 pounds (regardless of age), a correctly fitted seat belt may be used instead of a child restraint or booster seat. Placing the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back is both illegal and unsafe.
- Booster seats must not be used with just a lap belt, so lap-only seat belts can be used for children over 40 pounds if no lap and shoulder seat belt is available.
- Children less than age 16 are prohibited from riding in the open bed of a pickup truck or other open cargo area.
- Drivers are legally responsible for themselves and all children less than age 16 in the vehicle.
- The penalty for not complying with the Child Restraint/Booster Seat law is 2 driver license points, a \$25 fine and at least \$120 in court costs.



OR TICKET.



1 Rear-Facing Seat



2 Forward-Facing Seat with Harness



3 Booster Seat



4 Seat Belt

Recommendations:

Regardless of what the NC law allows, recommendations are that for best protection:

1. Use rear-facing child restraints as long as possible, but at least until over 1 year old and over 20 pounds. Most current convertible models can—and should—be used rear-facing up to at least 30 pounds.
2. Once a child is turned to face the front of the car, use a child restraint with a harness until the harness is outgrown, usually 40 pounds or more.
3. Once a child outgrows the harness, use a belt-positioning booster seat until the child is large enough for the seat belt to fit correctly.
4. Use seat belts for older children only when they are large enough for the lap and shoulder belts to fit correctly. Usually, this will be at least 8 years old and at least 80 pounds.
5. Whenever possible, keep children younger than age 13 buckled up in a rear seat of the vehicle.

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Drawings courtesy of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Center For Injury Research and Prevention.

According to North Carolina Law, children must be properly restrained in an appropriate car seat or booster until they are 8 years old or 80 lbs., whichever comes first.

1-800-672-4527

www.buckleupnc.org

Children 12 and Under Should Ride in the Back Seat!



This information is provided strictly for informational purposes. Safety information is subject to change and should be verified by the user. Always follow manufacturer directions of the safety seat and the vehicle for proper installation. This information does not guarantee that a child will not suffer injury or death even if all guidelines are followed. 100,000 copies of this document were printed at a cost of \$6,589. Revised October 2007.

WHICH SEAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

WEIGHT	TYPE OF CAR SEAT	CAR SEAT POSITION	IMPORTANT
Birth to 20+ lbs. and at least 1 year	Infant Seat or Rear-Facing Convertible	Rear-Facing Only	Harness straps at or below shoulder level. Never put a rear-facing safety seat in the front seat with an airbag. Check weight limits on the infant seats.
Older than 1 year, more than 20 lbs. and up to 40+ lbs.	Convertible or Combination (Forward-Facing with Harness)	Forward-Facing or Rear-Facing	Harness straps should be routed through the top slots or as indicated in the manufacturer's instructions.
More than 40 lbs. and up to 80+ lbs.	Highback or Backless Booster	Forward-Facing	Booster seats must be used with both lap and shoulder belts. Make sure lap belt fits low on the hips or upper thighs. Use shoulder belt-positioning clip to properly fit the shoulder belt, if needed. Never use a booster seat with only a lap belt.
More than 80 lbs. and at least 4'9" tall	Lap/Shoulder Safety Belt		For a proper fit: Child sits all the way back against vehicle seat. Knees bend comfortably at top edge of the seat. Belt crosses shoulder between neck and arm. Lap belt is low, touching hips or upper thighs.

Retainer clip should be threaded properly and placed at armpit level