

Michigan's Safety Belt and Child Restraint Law Enforcement Guide

MCL 257.710d and 710e ■ 0 Point Civil Infraction

FOR OFFICIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT REFERENCE ONLY

RESTRAINT USE REQUIREMENTS

| AGE | RESTRAINT | SECTION |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| 0-3 | All passengers shall be properly secured in an approved Child Restraint System* | 257.710d Driver responsible |
| 4-7 & under 4'9" | All passengers shall be properly secured in an approved child restraint system** | 257.710e Driver responsible |
| 4-7 & 4'9" or over | All passengers shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt | 257.710e Driver responsible |
| 8-15 | All passengers shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt** | 257.710e Driver responsible |
| 16 years and older | Driver and front seat passengers shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt** | 257.710e Violating occupant responsible |

*In compliance with CFR 49 section 571.213

**In compliance with CFR 49 section 571.208 and 571.209

†Restraint systems for older children are commonly referred to as booster seats

Properly secured and properly adjusted and fastened mean as specified by the vehicle or child restraint/booster seat manufacturer. Shoulder belts, if available, are required to be used. Refer to owner's manual for specific requirements.



This guide is to assist law enforcement officers with identifying restraint law violations for the purpose of making a primary traffic stop.

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CHILD RESTRAINT EXEMPTIONS (less than 4 years)

- 710d
- Passenger in a bus, school bus, taxicab, moped, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle not required to be equipped with safety belts
 - Child being nursed
 - Child qualifying for a Secretary of State rule exemption due to size, medical problem, or physical unfitnes

SAFETY BELT & CHILD RESTRAINT EXEMPTIONS

- 710e
- Driver or passenger:**
- In a motor vehicle manufactured before January 1, 1965
 - In a bus, motorcycle, moped
 - Who has a written verification from a physician for physical or medical reasons
 - Motor vehicle not required to be equipped with safety belts under federal law (some older vehicles)
 - Commercial or US postal service vehicle that makes frequent stops
 - Rural postal carrier while serving route
- Passengers only:**
- School bus passengers (driver must be belted)
 - Children 8-15 years old in rear seats if all available safety belts are used and driver and all front seat passengers are properly belted
 - Children 8-15 years old in front seat of a pickup without an extended cab or jump seats, if all available safety belts are used



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