

Pennsylvania Enacts Exemptions to the Child Passenger Safety Law for Young Children

Core Message:

Children under 4 years of age should be securely fastened in a safety seat belt system and a child passenger restraint system appropriate for their height and weight in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer. Children 4 years of age but younger than 8 years of age should be securely fastened in a safety seat belt system and appropriately fitting child booster seat in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.

Talking Points:

- Effective November 29, 2006, the following exemptions to the Child Passenger Safety Law were approved.
- The exemptions are based on a child's weight or height, or on vehicle characteristics. The new exemptions under this regulation are:
 - ❖ All children who are 4 years of age but younger than 8 years of age and weigh less than 40 pounds, may remain securely fastened in a child restraint system with a full harness appropriate for their height and weight in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer, instead of being securely fastened in a booster seat.
 - ❖ All children who are 4 years of age but younger than 8 years of age who weigh more than 80 pounds or who are 4 feet 9 inches or taller may be fastened in the safety seat belt system without using a child booster seat.
 - ❖ All children who are 4 years of age but younger than 8 years of age riding in a passenger position in the vehicle which was not originally equipped with a shoulder safety seat belt shall be fastened in the safety seat belt system without the use of a child booster seat or may be fastened in a child passenger restraint system with a full harness appropriate for their height and weight in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.
 - ❖ All children who are 4 years of age but younger than 8 years of age may satisfy the requirements of the child passenger safety law when they are secured in an integrated child restraint system or booster seat in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer, or in a child restraint system or vehicle seat designed to accommodate children under 80 pounds, which is integrated into the design of the vehicle by the manufacturer.

For more information, please call 1-800-CAR BELT



Core Message

Medical exemption from use of child passenger restraint system for medical reasons may be obtained upon written certification by a physician that use of a child passenger restraint system is impractical. The certification must be made on a form developed by the Department which shall require the following information:

- The physician's name and practice address
- The date the form was completed
- The name, age, weight of the child
- The medical or physical reasons that the use of a particular child passenger restraint system or systems is impractical.
 - ❖ A recommendation of the type of passenger restraint system the child should be secured or that no child restraint system is known.
 - ❖ A recommendation regarding the length of time the exemption is in place or a statement of the conditions under which the exemption should be lifted.
 - ❖ Other information deemed relevant by the physician, such as the child can be fastened into the child restraint system but for only limited periods of time.
 - ❖ The completed form must be in the vehicle with the child whenever the child is transported.

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