

# California Laws – Keep Your Child Safe in the Car



More than 1,000 children are killed in motor vehicle crashes in the U.S. every year. To prevent these tragedies, select a car seat based on your child's size, then choose a seat that fits your vehicle, and use it every time.

## California Law

BIRTH TO 16 YEARS

**Children under 2 years old must be rear facing in a car seat** unless they weigh 40 pounds or more, or are 40 inches tall or more.

**Children under age 8** must be properly buckled into a car seat or a booster in the back seat.

**Children age 8 or older**, or who are 4'9" or taller, may use the vehicle seat belt if it fits properly with the lap belt low on the hips, touching the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt crossing the center of the chest. If children are not tall enough for proper belt fit, they must ride in a booster or car seat.

**Exemptions:** A child under age 8 may ride in an appropriate restraint system in the front seat if:

- There is no rear seat.
- The rear seats are side-facing jump seats.
- The rear seats are rear-facing seats.
- The car seat or booster cannot be installed properly in the rear seat.
- All rear seats are already occupied by children seven years of age or under.
- Medical reasons require that a child cannot ride in the rear seat. Proof of the child's medical condition may be required.
- However, a child cannot be transported in a rear-facing car seat in the front seat that is equipped with an active frontal passenger airbag.

## Protect your child – It is the Law!

**FINES & PENALTIES**

In California, for each child under 16 who is not properly buckled, parents (if in the car) or drivers can be fined more than **\$500** and get a point on their driving records.

## Rear-Facing Car Seats

Children under the age of 2 are required to ride in a **REAR-FACING** car seat in the back seat; as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Car seat manufacturers recommend that children remain in a rear-facing



car seat until they reach the top height or weight limit allowed. Rear-facing is the safest way to ride. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.

**CAR SEAT INSTALLATION TIPS** – Once a child is placed in the car seat, be sure that the harness straps are snug and can not be pinched between your thumb and forefinger, that the chest clip is at armpit level, and that the car seat is tightly secured and does not move more than an inch from side to side. For rear-facing car seats, the harness straps are even with or below the shoulder and when the car seat is forward facing, the harness straps are even with or above the shoulders.



## Forward-Facing Car Seats

Keep your child in a **FORWARD-FACING** car seat with a harness until your child reaches the top height or weight limit allowed

by the car seat manufacturer. Forward-facing seats must be used with a top tether strap.

A car seat converts from a 5-point harness into a booster seat when your child is ready. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it is time to travel in a **BOOSTER SEAT**, and still in the back seat.

## Boosters & Beyond

**BOOSTER SEATS** elevate your child so that the shoulder strap fits comfortably across the chest, the lap belt stays low over the hips, and the knees bend over the seat edge. Keep your children in a **BOOSTER SEAT** until they are big enough to fit in a seat belt properly.



Older kids are ready to move out of their booster seat **only** when they pass the **5 STEP TEST**.

## 5 Step Test

If you answer "no" to any of these questions, then the child needs to continue to ride in a booster seat.



1. Is the child sitting tall so his/her whole back is touching the seatback?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt touching the tops of the legs?
5. Can the child sit like this for the whole trip?

All children are safest, properly restrained and in the **back seat until age 13**.

**NEVER** place the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back.

## Car Seat Questions

To find an inspection station near you, go to [www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats#installation-help-inspection](http://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats#installation-help-inspection).



California law **PROHIBITS** smoking and electronic use of tobacco and marijuana in a motor vehicle when a minor (17 years old and under) is present. A violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$100.

## Dangers In & Around Cars & Kaitlyn's Law

It is against California law to leave a child who is 6 years of age or younger alone in the car without the supervision of a person at least 12 years old if:

1. The keys are in the ignition or the car is running, or
2. There is a significant risk to the child.

**Children are most at risk of being injured** when vehicles are moving forward or backing out of a driveway. Know the blind zones of your vehicle.

**Look Before You Lock** to be sure you have not left a child in the back seat. **HEATSTROKE** as a result of a child being left in a vehicle is a terrible tragedy.

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# California Cov Cai Lij Choj – Saib Xyuas Koj Tus Me Nyuam Kom Nyab Xeeb hauv Lub Tsheb



Mauj ntau tshaj 1,000 tus me nyuam yaus uas tau tag sim neej los ntawm lub tsheb sib tsoo hauv Teb Chaws Mes Kas txhua xyoo. Txhawm rau tiv thaiv cov xwm txheej no, xaiv lub rooj zaum tsheb raws li qhov loj me ntawm koj tus me nyuam, tom qab ntawd xaiv lub rooj zaum uas haum rau koj lub tsheb, thiab siv nws txhua lub sij hawm.

## California Txoj Cai Lij Choj TXIJ THAUM YUG TXOG 16 XYOO

**Cov me nyuam yaus hnuv nyooq qis dua 2 xyoo** yuav tsum tau **tig ntsej muag mus rau sab tom qab ntawm lub rooj zaum hauv lub tsheb** tshwj tsis yog tias lawv hnyav li 40 phaus nce mus, los sis siab dua 40 ntv tes nce mus.

**Cov me nyuam yaus hnuv nyooq qis dua 8 xyoo** yuav tsum tau muab khi kom zoo nrog txoj siv sia nyob hauv lub rooj zaum hauv tsheb los sis lub rooj ntxiv hauv lub rooj zaum tom nraub qaum kom tsim nyog.

**Cov me nyuam yaus hnuv nyooq 8 xyoo nce mus**, los sis tus neeg uas siab 4 fij 9 ntv tes nce mus, yuav tsum siv txoj siv sia hauv lub tsheb haum zoo nrog txoj siv sai hauv lub duav uas hla saum txhais ncej puab, thiab sia txoj siv hla lub xub pwg nraub nrab ntawm lub hauv siab. Yog tias cov me nyuam yaus tsis siab txaus rau txoj siv sia kom haum, lawv yuav tsum zaum ntawm lub rooj zaum ntxiv los sis lub rooj zaum hauv tsheb.

**Cov kev zam:** Tus me nyuam yaus hnuv nyooq qis dua 8 xyoo tuaj yeem zaum nrog lub lab npauv kev tswj kom tsim nyog hauv lub rooj zaum pem hauv ntej tau yog tias:

- Tsis muaj lub rooj zaum nram qab.
- Cov rooj zaum nram qab yog lub rooj zaum dhia uas tig mus sab tom qab.
- Cov rooj zaum nram qab yog cov rooj zaum ti mus rau sab tom qab.
- Tsis tuaj yeem teeb lub rooj zaum hauv lub tsheb los sis lub rooj zaum ntxiv tau kom raug hauv lub rooj zaum tom qab.
- Tag nrho cov rooj zaum tom qab twb muaj cov me nyuam yaus hnuv nyooq xya xyoo nqis mus zaum lawm.
- Cov laj thawj fab kev kho mob xav kom tus me nyuam tsis tuaj yeem zaum lub rooj zaum tom qab tau. Tej zaum yuav tsum muaj pov thawj ntawm tus me nyuam tus mob.
- Txawm li cas los xij, tsis tuaj yeem thauj tus me nyuam mus los rau hauv lub tsheb uas siv lub rooj zaum hauv lub tsheb uas tig rov qab rau lub rooj zaum pem hauv ntej uas tau nraub nrog lub zais cua thaiv kev ruaj ntseg uas npaj txhij siv txhua lub sij hawm.

## Tiv thaiv koj tus me nyuam – Nws yog Txoj Cai Lij Choj! KEV NPLUA THIAB KEV RAU TXIM

Hauv California, rau txhua tus me nyuam yaus hnuv nyooq qis dua 16 xyoo uas tsis tau zoj txoj hlua kom zoo, cov niam txiv (yog tias nyob hauv lub tsheb) los sis cov neeg tsav tsheb tuaj yeem raug nplua ntau dua **\$500** thiab tau txais ib qhab nia ntawm lawv cov ntaub ntawv tsav tsheb.

## Cov Rooj Zaum Hauv Tsheb Uas Tig Ntsej Muag Rov Rau Tom Qab

Cov me nyuam yaus hnuv nyooq qis dua 2 xyoo yuav tsum tau zaum lub rooj zaum hauv tsheb **TIG NTSEJ MUAG ROV TOM QAB** lub rooj zaum tom qab; raws li kev pom zoo los ntawm As Mes Kas Lub Koom Kawm Paub Txog Me Nyuam Mos. Cov neeg tsim lub rooj zaum hauv lub tsheb tau pom zoo tias cov me nyuam yaus zaum lub rooj zaum hauv lub tsheb tig ntsej muag mus rau tom qab kom txog thaum kom txog qhov siab tshaj plaws los sis qhov txwv ntawm qhov hnyav uas tau tso cai. Kev tig ntsej muag mus rau tom qab yog txoj hauv kev caj tsheb uas muaj kev nyab xeeb tshaj plaws. Thaum koj tus me nyuam loj hlob dua li lub rooj zaum hauv lub tsheb tig mus rau tom qab, koj tus me nyuam kuj yuav npaj txhij mus rau hauv lub rooj zaum uas tig mus rau pem hauv ntej nrog lub hlua zoj thiab hlua khi.



**COV LUS QHIA KEV TEEB TSA LUB ROJ ZAUM HAUV LUB TSHEB** – Thaum tso ib tus me nyuam rau hauv lub rooj zaum hauv lub tsheb lawm, xyuas kom ntseeg tau tias cov hlua zoj khi tau zoo tsis tuaj yeem zaum ntawm koj tus ntv tes xoo thiab ntv tes taw tau, tus tais ntawm lub hauv siab yog nyob hauv qab lub qhov tsos, thiab lub tsheb lub rooj yuav tsum nruj ruaj khov thiab tsis txav ntau tshaj ib nti ntawm ib sab mus rau sab. Rau lub rooj zaum hauv tsheb uas tig ntsej muag mus rau tom qab, cov hlua zoj yuav tsum sib txig nrog los sis sab hauv qab lub xub pwg nyom thiab thaum lub rooj zaum hauv lub tsheb tig mus rau pem hauv ntej, cov hlua zoj yuav tsim nyog sib txig nrog los sis sab saum lub xub pwg nyom.



### Cov Rooj Zaum Hauv Tsheb Uas Tig Ntsej Muag Rov Rau Pem Hauv Ntej

Cia koj tus me nyuam zaum hauv lub rooj zaum hauv tsheb **TIG NTSEJ MUAG MUS PEM HAUV NTEJ** nrog txoj hlua zoj kom txog thaum koj tus me nyuam muaj qhov siab tshaj plaws los sis qhov hnyav uas tau teev tseg los ntawm tus neeg tsim khoom. Yuav tsum siv lub rooj zaum tig ntsej muag mus pem hauv ntej nrog txoj hlua zoj nyob sab saum toj.

Lub rooj zaum hauv lub tsheb yuav hloov txoj hlua zoj 5 qhov chaw ua lub rooj zaum ntxiv thaum koj tus me nyuam npaj txhij. Thaum koj tus me nyuam loj hlob dua li lub rooj zaum hauv lub tsheb uas zaum tig ntsej muag mus pem hauv ntej nrog txoj hlua zoj, nws yog lub sij hawm taug kev hauv **LUB ROJ ZAUM NTXIV**, thiab tseem nyob hauv lub rooj zaum tom qab.

## Cov Rooj Zaum Ntxiv thiab Ntau Yam Ntxiv

**COV ROJ ZAUM NTXIV** nqa koj tus me nyuam kom siab txhawm rau kom txoj hlua zoj lub xub pwg haum nrog lub hauv siab, txoj hlua zoj lub duav yuav nyob qis dua lub duav, thiab lub hauv caug khoov ntawm tus ntug lub rooj zaum. Cia koj cov me nyuam yaus nyob hauv **LUB ROJ NTXIV** kom txog thaum lawv loj txaus kom haum rau txoj hlua zoj kom zoo li tsim nyog.



**Cov me nyuam uas loj dua tau npaj txav tawm ntawm lawv lub rooj ntxiv tsuas yog thaum lawv dhau KEV KUAJ XYUAS 5 KAUJ RUAM.**

## Kev Kuaj Xyuas 5 Kauj Ruam

Yog tias koj teb "tsis yog" rau ib qho ntawm cov lus nug no, tus me nyuam yuav tsum tau zaum lub rooj zaum ntxiv txuas mus ntxiv.

1. Puas yog tus me nyuam zaum siab kom nws lub nraub qaum ib rau lub rooj zaum?
2. Puas yog tus me nyuam lub hauv caug khoov tau yooj yim ntawm tus ntug ntawm lub rooj zaum?
3. Puas yog txoj siv sia hla lub xub pwg ntawm caj dab thiab caj npab?
4. Puas yog txoj siv sia hla chwv rau sab saum toj ntawm ob txhais ceg?
5. Tus me nyuam puas tuaj yeem zaum zoo li no rau txua qhov kev mus ncig?

Txhua tus me nyuam yaus muaj kev nyab xeeb tshaj plaws, kev tswj kom tsim nyog thiab hauv **lub rooj zaum tom qab kom txog thaum 13 xyoo**. **TSIS TXHOB** tso txoj hlua zoj lub xub pwg hauv qab txhais caj npab los sis tom nraub qaum.

## Cov Lus Nug Txog Lub Roj Zaum Hauv Lub Tsheb

Yog xav nrhiav qhov chaw kuaj xyuas nyob ze koj, mus rau [www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats#installation-help-inspection](http://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats#installation-help-inspection).



California txoj cai lij choj **COV KEV TXWV** kev haus luam yeeb thiab kev siv luam yeeb thiab tshuaj maj hluav taws xob hauv lub tsheb thaum muaj me nyuam yaus (17 xyoo nqis mus) nyob hauv. Kev ua txhaum cai raug nplua nyiaj txog \$100.

## Kev Phom Sij Sab Hauv thiab Ib Ncig Cov Tsheb thiab Kaitlyn Txoj Cai Lij Choj

**Nws xam tias yog kev ua txhaum txoj cai lij choj ntawm California** uas tso tus me nyuam hnuv nyooq 6 xyoo los sis qis dua nyob ib leeg hauv lub tsheb yam tsis muaj kev saib xyuas ntawm tus neeg tsawg kawg 12 xyoo yog tias:

1. Cov yuam sij yog nyob rau hauv qhov chaw ntxig tus yuam sij los sis lub tsheb tab tom khiav, los sis
2. Muaj kev pheej hmoo loj rau tus me nyuam.

**Cov me nyuam yaus feem ntau muaj kev pheej hmoo rau kev raug mob** thaum tsheb khiav mus tom hauv ntej los sis rov qab tawm ntawm txoj kev tsheb. Paub thaj chaw dig muag ntawm koj lub tsheb.

**Saib Ua Ntej Koj Xauv** txhawm kom ntseeg tau tias koj tsis tau tso ib tus me nyuam rau hauv lub rooj zaum tom qab. **TUS KAB MOB THAUM RAUG TSHAV KUB** los ntawm kev muab ib tus me nyuam tso rau hauv lub tsheb yog ib qhov xwm txheej txaus ntshai.

*Cov nyiaj pab rau kev tshaj tawm no yog tau muab los ntawm California Lub Tsev Hauj Lwm Saib Xyuas txog Kev Noj Qab Haus Huv Rau Pej Xeem (thiab daim duab qhia) thiab nyiaj pab los ntawm California Lub Chaw Hauj Lwm txog Kev Nyab Xeeb Ntawm Kev Tsav Tsheb Mus Los, los ntawm Lub Koom Haum Tswj Hwm Kev Nyab Xeeb Txog Kev Tsav Tsheb Mus Los Saum Txoj Kev Loj Hauv Teb Chaws (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA).*

