

What Do I Need to Know About California's New Car Seat Law? A new law, [AB53](#), designed to make our youngest kids safer in cars goes into effect on January 1, 2017, AB53. A first offense carries a fine of at least \$475 and one point. We hope this will help parents ensure that they are in compliance with the new law. They are our most precious cargo.

Ultimate Car Seat Guide: Safe Kids, with the support of GM, created an interactive tool to help parents know all they need to know about keeping their kids safe in a car seat, newborn to eight-years-old.



www.ultimatecarseatguide.org

What Does the New Law Say? Children under 2-years-old must be buckled up in a rear-facing car seat unless they weigh at least 40 pounds or are at least 40 inches tall. This new protection for younger children is an addition to current law requiring children under age 8 to be buckled up in a car or booster seat in a car's back seat. The bill was championed by Assembly Member Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens).

When Does the Law Go into Effect? The law will go into effect January 1, 2017. But you can start protecting your kids under age 2 in a rear-facing car seat today.

What If I Get Pulled Over and My Infant or Toddler is Not Properly Restrained? In California, for each child under 16 who is not properly secured, parents (if in the car) or drivers can receive a minimum fine of \$475 and get a point on their driving records. Fines double for repeat offenses.

Why is it Important for My Child to Be Rear-facing? This best practice was adopted by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2011, and is also recommended by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). It is based on medical fact. A young child's head is disproportionately heavy compared to their total body weight and so they require the extra support that a rear-facing seat provides. Rear-facing car seats distribute the impact of a crash more equally, which better protects kids. Children younger than age 2 are five times more likely to be killed or seriously injured in a car crash if they are in a front-facing car seat, rather than rear-facing.

Who Can Assist Me with Installing My Child's Car Seat? A car seat is a sophisticated product and it has been estimated that up to 75 percent are installed incorrectly. Safe Kids Worldwide is the organization that educates and certifies technicians on how to fit your child in car seat. There are more than 39,000 of them, and over 2,000 in California. NHTSA's "Parents Central" can help you find a child car seat inspection station near where you live. All you need is your state and zip code. It is a free service.

Where Can I Find the Height and Weight Limitations On My Child's Car Seat? It is easy to find the height and weight limitations right on your child's car seat in order to keep your child safe and comply with the new law. There's a label with the height and weight limits on your child's car seat (at right).



Where can I get more help on car seats?

- [Ultimate Car Seat Guide](#)
- [NHTSA "Parents Central"](#)
- [Sign up for Safe Kids twice monthly recall to learn about car seat recalls](#)
- [Register your car seat](#)
- [Safe Kids Worldwide](#)
- [California Office of Traffic Safety, Child Passenger Safety](#)

CA Parents Tweet This:
We're keeping our 14-month-old rear-facing in car seat. It's safer and it's the law. #CACarSeatSafe