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Be A Buckle Buddy! Description



What Be A Buckle Buddy! is:

Be A Buckle Buddy! is a public service program, featuring a toll free, non-punitive hotline that any concerned individual in Illinois may call to anonymously report unbuckled children. Reported drivers will receive an informative packet filled with child passenger safety information, including a copy of current child passenger safety laws.

Program History:

Be A Buckle Buddy! launched in May of 2004 as a partnership between Children's Hospital of Illinois, the Tazewell County Sheriff's Department, and the Peoria Area Safe Kids Coalition. Since its inception, Be A Buckle Buddy! has educated more than **900 families** across more than **40 counties** in Illinois on child passenger safety practices and laws. In May of 2006, the Adams County Sheriffs Department joined the partnership to expanding Be A Buckle Buddy! into the west central portion of Illinois. The Illinois Department of Transportation awarded Children's Hospital of Illinois a grant in September 2006 to fund the program's expansion to 8 sites.

Program Purpose:

The purpose of the Be A Buckle Buddy Program is aid in the reductions and prevention of unrestrained child passenger injuries and fatalities from motor vehicle crashes in Illinois.

How Be A Buckle Buddy! Works



How the Be A Buckle Buddy! Hotline Works:

- A concerned individual sees an unbuckled child in a vehicle.
- The individual calls 1-888-800-2642 and leaves a message providing license plate number, vehicle description, date, city, and county.
- A [Children's Hospital of Illinois](#) representative listens to the message, records **only** pertinent information to fax to a local law enforcement partner.
- The law enforcement partner retrieves the vehicle owner's information.
- The law enforcement partner sends the registered vehicle owner:
 1. Safe Kids child passenger safety information, and
 2. A copy of the current Illinois state child passenger safety law.

How to Become a Be A Buckle Buddy! Partner



Law Enforcement Partners:

- Fill out a request form, and fax or mail it to Children's Hospital of Illinois, ATTENTION: Chris Franciskovich (*For contact information see page 5*)
- You will be contacted within 2 days of request receipt, and a meeting will be setup with all interested parties able to attend.
- After a 30 day trial period, to ensure the program is a positive fit for all parties, a press conference will be set up with you by Children's Hospital of Illinois, in your hometown, to announce the new Be A Buckle Buddy! partnership to your local media, and service area.

Child Advocate Partners:

- Identify a law enforcement partner in your local area. The program cannot function without local law enforcement support.
- Fill out a request form, and fax or mail it to Children's Hospital of Illinois, ATTENTION: Chris Franciskovich (*For contact information see page 5*)
- You will be contacted within 2 days of request receipt, and a meeting will be setup with all interested parties able to attend.

Be a Buckle Buddy! Frequently Asked Questions



Who can call the Be A Buckle Buddy! hotline?

Any concerned individual witnessing an unbuckled child in a vehicle in Illinois can use the hotline. Drivers electing to call the Be a Buckle Buddy! hotline are encouraged to pull over to a safe location before calling the hotline.

Is the Be A Buckle Buddy! hotline punitive?

The hotline is strictly a public service meant to put useful information in the hands of those who may not know the current Illinois child passenger safety laws.

Most parents want to do right by their children. This allows parents to know the right way to buckle their children, and offers several resources for assistance.

What information does the driver receive?

The driver will receive a letter explaining the program, and supplemental information highlighting proper child passenger safety practices.

There will also be a copy of the current Illinois child passenger safety laws. These change frequently, so some parents may just not be aware of recent changes.

What if someone without a child is reported?

Since the hotline is not punitive, all information that is mailed is strictly for educational purposes. If someone receives the literature in error, we ask that they pass it along to family or friends who may find it useful.

Does this violate individual privacy?

Only law enforcement has access to the address and identity of the individuals receiving the literature. The information will be accessed through the same computer system used in police vehicles, and will not violate an individual's right to privacy. All identities will be kept strictly confidential by law enforcement.

How far does the Be A Buckle Buddy! hotline reach?

The entire state of Illinois can access the hotline through the toll-free 888 number.

What if someone gets reported many times? Will they keep receiving packets?

If the unfortunate case arises where an individual receives repeated the information, they will **not** be sent additional literature. Law enforcement will implement a computer "flag" which will prevent addresses from receiving multiple packets of information.

Be A Buckle Buddy! Contact Information



Contact Name: Chris Franciskovich
Office: (309)674-4829
Cell: (309)253-3085
Fax: (309)671-4832
Email: chris.m.franciskovich@osfhealthcare.org

If mailing communications, please fill out address as follows:

Chris Franciskovich
Regional Communications Coordinator
[Children's Hospital of Illinois](#)
530 NE Glen Oak Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61637





Partnership and Information Request Form

Attention: Chris Franciskovich

Phone Number (309)671-4829

Fax Number (309)671-4832

Email Address chris.m.franciskovich@osfhealthcare.org

Requestor's Information

Name	Position	Organization

Phone Number	Fax Number	Email

Mailing Address	City	State/Zip Code

Request Information

Type or Request	Check One	Date of Preferred Meeting or Information Needed by
More Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments

(Please add comments or details regarding request)

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____