Illinois Child Passenger Protection Act

625 ILCs 25/4: Children under the age of eight years must be secured in an approved child restraint system, more commonly called a car seat. Car seats include infant seats, convertible seats (rear-facing and forward-facing) and booster seats that are used with the vehicle lap and shoulder belt system. *Exception* Children weighing more than 40 pounds, may be transported in the back seat of a motor vehicle while wearing only a lap belt if the back seat is not equipped with a lap and shoulder belt system.

625 ILCs 25/4a: Children and young people age 8 and up to 16 years of age must be properly secured in a seat belt.

625 ILCs 25/4b: Each driver under age 18, and each of the driver’s passengers under age 19 must be properly secured in a seat belt, car seat or booster seat.

Penalty 625 ILCs 25/6: A violation of this act is a petty offense punishable by a fine of $75. A person charged with a violation of Section 4 of this act shall not be convicted if the person produces in court satisfactory evidence of possession of an approved child restraint system and proof of completion of an instructional course on the installation of a car seat. A second or subsequent violation of this Act is a petty offense punishable by a fine of $200 and cannot be waived.

Please visit: www.BUCKLEUPILLINOIS.org to find a CPS Technician in your area and to find information about best practice for Child Passenger Safety.

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This card is intended only as a quick reference. The pertinent ILCs section should be read in detail.
Description of Seats

**STEP 1:** A rear-facing car seat is the best seat for a young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with the child to reduce the stress to the child’s fragile neck and spinal cord. Infant carriers can only be used rear-facing and convertible seats can be used rear-facing and forward-facing.

**STEP 2:** A forward-facing car seat has a harness and tether that limits the child’s forward movement during a crash.

**STEP 3:** A Booster seat positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of the child’s body.

**STEP 4:** A Belt should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

Gross Misuse

Look for GROSS MISUSE or Non-Use

- **Non-use of car seats is the worst type of misuse. Gross misuse may include:**
  - No seat belt or LATCH attachments anchoring the car seat to the vehicle.
  - No harness straps securing the child in the car seat.
  - A rear-facing child in the front seat with an active air bag.
  - An infant or toddler less than 1 year-old and 20 pounds facing forward.
  - A child using a booster seat with a lap-only seat belt.

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