

Virginia's Child Safety Seat Law

(Code of Virginia Article 13 - Section 46.2)

The major requirements of Virginia's Child Safety Seat Law:

- Safety seats are required for children through the age of five. Safety seats must be properly used and approved by Department of Transportation standards.
- The law applies to anyone (i.e. parents, grandparents, babysitters, friends) who provides transportation for a child in any vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968.
- Public transportation (taxis, buses), regulation school buses, and farm vehicles are exempted.
- The safety seat law is primary enforcement -- no other violation need be committed prior to ticketing for failure to have a child in an approved seat.
- A \$50 civil penalty fine is imposed for failure to have a child in a safety seat. A \$20 civil penalty fine is assessed when persons transporting a child exempted from this law due to medical reasons do not carry a written statement of the exemption. All fines collected go into a special fund to purchase safety seats for low-income families.
- There are assistance programs for low-income residents who cannot afford a safety seat. Contact Virginia Department of Health, Center for Injury and Violence Prevention at 1-800-732-8333 for more information.

Virginia's Passenger Safety Belt Law

(Code of Virginia Article 12 - Section 46-2)

The major requirements of Virginia's Child Safety Belt Law:

- Children between 6 and 16 years of age must be belted correctly in vehicle safety belts, in vehicles manufactured after January 1, 1968. Exemptions are taxicabs, school buses, executive sedans and limousines.
- This safety belt law is primary enforcement -- no other violation need be committed prior to ticketing for failure to have a child correctly buckled up.
- A \$50 civil penalty fine will be imposed. All fines collected go into a special fund to purchase safety seats for low-income families.

Virginia's Pickup Truck Law

(Code of Virginia Section 46.2 - 1094)

- No person under age 16 shall be transported in the rear cargo area of a pickup truck. There are exemptions for certain parades and farming operations.

For more information, contact:
Center for Injury and Violence Prevention
Virginia Department of Health
1-800-732-8333

