

# Transportation Laws

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## Seat Belt Laws

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### Seat Belt Law

MN. Stat. 169.686

- ❖ Applies to all front-seat occupants and all children under the age of 11 years regardless of position.
- ❖ Children over three and under 11 must be in a safety seat or seat belt (driver is responsible)
- ❖ Belts must be used properly (lap belt snug over lap, not abdomen; strap across shoulder, not under arm)
- ❖ Belts must be present as produced by manufacturer.
- ❖ Driver or passengers 15 years or older are subject to a \$25 fine and may be cited separately
- ❖ Driver must be stopped or detained for a moving violation before a citation can be issued.
- ❖ Driver may not be ticketed for a violation by a front-seat passenger over 11 and under 15 if the passenger is not the driver's child.

## Child Restraint Laws

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### Child Passenger Restraint Law

MN Stat. 169-685

- ❖ Children under eight and shorter than 4 feet 9 inches must be secured in a safety seat that meets federal safety standards
- ❖ Safety seats must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions
- ❖ Child must be secured in the safety seat
- ❖ Seat must be secured to the vehicle
- ❖ Infants (under 20 pounds and one year of age) must be in a rear-facing safety seat
- ❖ Law applies to all motor vehicles originally equipped with factory-installed seat belts
- ❖ Law applies to all seating positions
- ❖ Driver is responsible
- ❖ Petty misdemeanor fine for violations is \$50 (may be waived if violator show proof of obtaining a safety seat within 14 days)
- ❖ Applies to both residents and nonresidents of Minnesota
- ❖ Suspected non-use is a valid basis to stop a motor vehicle

**These laws are minimum safety standards and do not reflect best practices for properly securing children within vehicles. All vehicle occupants should buckle up regardless of seating position. For children under 80 pounds to properly be secured in a vehicle, they should sit in an appropriate child safety seat (or booster seat).**