

VT CAR SEAT LAW- 2024

23 V.S.A. § 1258

CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

Every occupant under 18 years of age must be properly restrained in a federally approved child restraint system which is appropriate for the age, size of the individual or child including harnessed car seat, booster seat or adult seat belt.

Effective July 1, 2024, Vermont revised the law related to child passenger safety in motor vehicles.

Here are the highlights of the updated law:

- A child **under two years of age** must be properly secured in a federally approved **rear-facing child car seat** with a harness.
- A child in a **rear-facing car seat must never ride in front of an active airbag.**
- A child **under five years of age** must be properly secured in a federally approved rear-facing or forward-facing car seat with a harness.
- A child **under eight years of age** who is not properly secured in a harnessed car seat must be properly secured in a **booster seat.**
- A child **under 13 years of age** must, if practical, **ride in the back seat.**

Violations of the law are a civil offense and punishable by up to a \$100 fine.

Why is it important? Having children properly secured in a car seat or booster seat that is the right size for the child can reduce the safety risks by as much as 70%.

For more information about the related laws or to find your local car seat assistance station, visit [beseatsmart.org](https://www.beseatsmart.org).



BeSeatSmart.org
1-888-VMT-SEAT

