



## Child Passenger Safety Week – September 14-20

### Norwalk Police Department Urges Parents to Properly Secure All Children

The Norwalk Police Department, in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and a grant from the Iowa Governor’s Traffic Safety Bureau, will be participating in the Child Passenger Safety Week Campaign. The effort is designed to help ensure that our children ride as safely as possible every trip, every time.

Every 34 seconds a child under the age of 13 is involved in a crash. Car seats, booster seats and seat belts can make all the difference. Each year, hundreds of children’s lives are saved because they were in car seats. Car seats matter, and having the right car seat installed and used the right way is crucial.

One of the biggest mistakes that parents can make is to move a child prematurely from a booster seat to regular seat belts. The safest place for a child under the age of 13 is in the rear seat of the car. The information in the following charts will provide guidance when making decisions about how and where to restrain your child while riding in the car.

The Norwalk Police Department is proud to do its part in keeping our children safe and healthy. We have a certified car seat technician that can inspect your car seat for proper installation. If you would like to schedule an appointment to have your child safety seat inspected, please call Norwalk Public Safety at 515.981.0666.

#### A GUIDE TO THE IOWA CHILD RESTRAINT LAW

*Iowa Code 321.446, Data Code 198a – as of July 2010*

##### Key Points:

- A child under 1 year old and weighing less than 20 Lbs. must be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system
- A child age 1 up to 6 years old must be secured in a Child restraint system (a safety seat or booster seat – NOT a seat belt)
- A child from age 6 up to age 11 must be secured in a Child restraint system or by a safety belt
- Rear seat occupants up to age 18 must be secured by A safety belt

A “child restraint system” is a specifically designed seating System, including a belt positioning seat or a booster seat

that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards.

## **A GUIDE TO SAFELY TRANSPORTING CHILDREN IN A MOVING VEHICLE**

### **COMMON CHILD SAFETY SEAT MISUSES**

- Seat installed too loose
- Improper seating position (in front of an air bag)
- Not buckling child into restraint
- Not securely anchoring the child restraint to the vehicle
- Improper seat for child's age and size
- Infant riding forward facing
- Harness retainer clip not at armpit level
- Loose harness straps

**To graduate to an adult belt – a child must be able to sit with their back/buttocks against the seat and with their knees bent at the edge of the seat. The belt system must be snug across the center of the child's chest and across their lap at the hips.**