



## San Joaquin County Public Health Services

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES TAKES ACTION TO IMPROVE CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

*CALIFORNIA CAR SEAT LAW CHANGES - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017*

STOCKTON, CA (November 7, 2016) - San Joaquin County Public Health Services has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long project to increase public awareness around new child passenger safety laws in California and to expand child safety seat education, services and training within the county. From 2011-2014, 80% of child fatalities (ages 0-7) from car crashes were linked to being unrestrained or improperly restrained in San Joaquin County. Public Health Services will use the funding to enhance its continuing efforts to keep children safe in and around cars and decrease motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries among children.

Effective January 1, 2017, California child passenger safety laws will require all children under the age of 2 to ride in a rear-facing car seat unless the child weighs 40 pounds or more or is 40 or more inches tall. "Not all parents and caregivers know about this change or understand how much safer it is for young children to ride rear-facing, so we really need to get the word out," explains San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, Dr. Alvaro Garza. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, children in the second year of life are five times less likely to die or be seriously injured in a crash if restrained rear-facing compared to forward facing.

Although child passenger restraint systems cannot protect all children from death and injury while riding in cars, car seats can reduce the risk of serious injury by 67% and reduce the risk of death by 70% in comparison to children in seat belts alone. While San Joaquin County has made progress in recent years in reducing motor vehicle injuries and fatalities, it still ranks in the top third of California counties for traffic collision injuries and deaths, highlighting the need for proper use of child restraint systems.

Funds from this grant will be used to expand the reach of car seat education classes and car seat check-ups to assist parents and caregivers with appropriate car seat usage. Project activities will also include partnering with San Joaquin General Hospital, County Clinics, and Community Partnership for Families of San Joaquin to train staff as certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. In addition, the program will work with the Stockton Police Department to provide support for continued enforcement of child passenger safety laws, with the goal of expanding to other parts of the county to incorporate lessons learned from this pilot program.

"Years of research tell us that education and enforcement work best jointly to combat crash-related injuries and deaths in children," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "This grant brings both tactics together, with the Office of Traffic Safety and San Joaquin County Public Health Services working in concert to help keep children safe across the county and state." Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information on car seat education classes and car seat check-ups available through San Joaquin County Public Health Services [Child Passenger Safety Program](#), please call 209-468-8914.

Attachments: New CA Child Passenger Safety Law flyer (English and Spanish)

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*new!*

# California Car Seat Law Changes

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017



## NEW ADDITION

Starting January 1, 2017, children under 2-years old must be rear-facing unless they weigh 40 pounds or more, or are 40 inches tall or more.

Children must be properly buckled in a car seat which is rear-facing until age 2

## CURRENT LAW

Children under age 8 must be buckled into a car seat or booster in the back seat.

Children age 8 or older, or who are 4'9" or taller, may use the vehicle seat belt if it fits properly with the lap belt low on the hips, touching the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt crossing the center of the chest. If children are not tall enough for proper belt fit, they must ride in a booster or car seat.

Everyone in the car must be properly buckled up.

Most children will outgrow an infant seat before age 1

- The next step is a convertible car seat.
- Rear-facing is 5 times safer than forward-facing.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children ride rear-facing to the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat manufacturer.

## Kaitlyn's Law

It's against California law to leave a child under the age of seven alone in the car without the supervision of a person at least 12 years old if:

1. The keys are in the ignition or the car is running, or
2. There is a significant risk to the child.

## FINES & PENALTIES

For each child under 16 who is not properly secured, parents (if in the car) or drivers can be fined more than \$500 and get a point on their driving records.

Keep your children safe. It's the law!



For answers to your child safety seat questions, contact your local health department or visit [cdph.ca.gov/vosp](http://cdph.ca.gov/vosp).

*nuevo!*

# Cambios a la Ley de Asientos de Seguridad de California

EFFECTIVO EL 1 DE ENERO DE 2017



## ¡NUEVA ADICIÓN!

A partir del 1 de enero de 2017, los niños menores de 2 años de edad deberán orientarse hacia atrás a menos que pesen 40 libras o más, o midan 40 pulgadas de estatura o más.

Los niños deben estar apropiadamente asegurados en un asiento de seguridad **orientado hacia atrás hasta que cumplan los 2 años de edad**

## LEY ACTUAL

Los niños menores de 8 años de edad deben estar asegurados en un asiento de seguridad o asiento elevado en el asiento de atrás.

Los niños de 8 años de edad o más, o que miden 4 pies 9 pulgadas o más, **pueden usar el cinturón de seguridad del vehículo si encaja bien, con el cinturón de las faldas en el nivel más bajo de la cadera, tocando el nivel más alto de los muslos, y el cinturón del hombro cruzando por el centro del pecho. Si los niños no son lo suficientemente altos como para que el cinturón los proteja bien, deberán usar un asiento elevado o asiento de seguridad.**

Todos los pasajeros del vehículo deben usar el cinturón de seguridad apropiadamente.

La mayoría de niños ya no entrarán en un asiento de bebés antes de cumplir un año de edad

- El siguiente paso es un asiento de seguridad convertible.
- La orientación hacia atrás es 5 veces más segura que la orientación hacia adelante.
- La Academia Americana de Pediatría recomienda que los niños usen asientos de seguridad orientados hacia atrás hasta que lleguen al peso o estatura máximos permitidos según las indicaciones del fabricante.

## Ley de Kaitlyn

En California es ilegal dejar a niños menores de siete años de edad solos en el automóvil sin la supervisión de una persona de por lo menos 12 años de edad si:

1. las llaves están en el contacto de arranque o el automóvil está encendido, o
2. existe un riesgo significativo para el menor de edad.

## MULTAS Y PENALIDADES

En California, **por cada niño menor de 16 años** que no esté apropiadamente asegurado, los padres (si están en el vehículo) o conductores recibirán una multa de más de **\$500** y un punto en su registro de conductor.

Mantenga la seguridad de sus hijos. ¡Es la ley!



Si tiene preguntas sobre el asiento de seguridad de su hijo, contacte a su Departamento de Salud local o visite el sitio web [cdph.ca.gov/vosp](http://cdph.ca.gov/vosp).

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
**Public Health Services**  
Healthy Future