MINNESOTA TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Welcome to the 2025 Minnesota TZD Traffic Safety Hotdish

Every Ride Counts—The Lifesaving Power of Proper Car Seat, Booster Seat, and Seat Belt Use

Wednesday, April 16, 2025
minnesotatzd.org

Today's Moderator & Speaker

Tara Helm

Minnesota Safety Council

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NHTSA

www.nhtsa.gov

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

For Your Information…

- Webinar is being recorded and will be posted
- All attendees are muted
- PDH (Professional Development Hours) form

These forms can be found on the
TZD Traffic Safety Hotdish webpage

Minnesotatzd.org/events/hotdish/2025/april

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- Share ideas with all participants
- Let the panelists know you need technical assistance

- Ask the speakers a question

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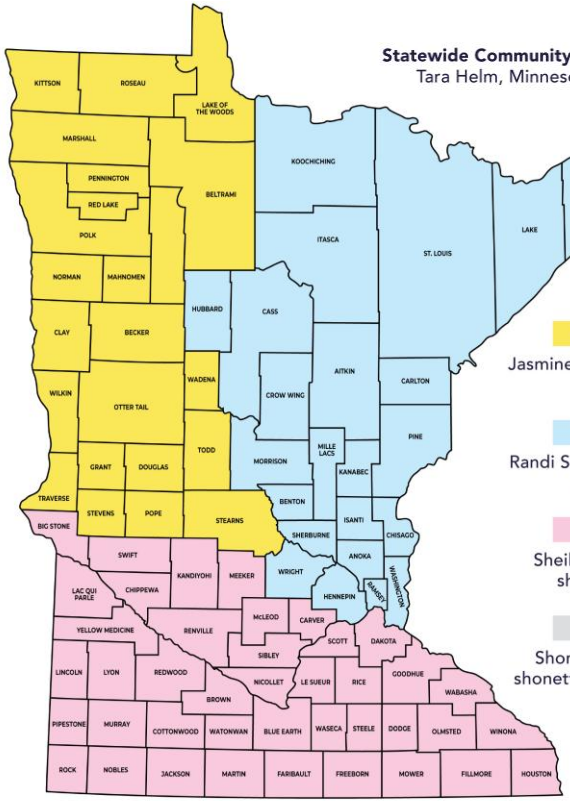
Minnesota Occupant Protection Program



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2025 Minnesota TZD Program Welcomes

Jennifer Starkson

Marissa Wahl

Sanford Health

Remembering Morgan

A loving mom who always put her girls' safety first

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

The Crash that Changed Everything—But Saved Three Lives

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Morgan’s Legacy of Safety: Buckled Up, Every Ride

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Morgan’s Children

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Minnesota Occupant Protection Program

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Seat belts save lives

Year	Unbelted Motorists Fatalities
2021	110
2022	87
2023	81
2024*	108

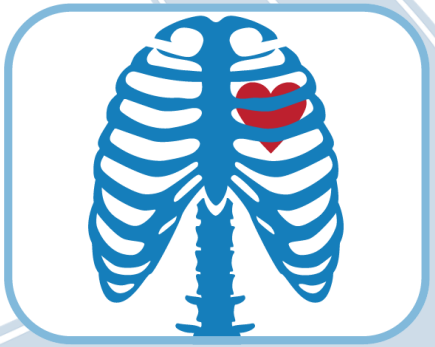
*preliminary

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS), Office of Traffic Safety (OTS)

Stages of a Crash

THE VEHICLE CRASH

THE HUMAN CRASH



THE INTERNAL CRASH

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Source: CPST Certification Training

Managing Crash Forces

Keep occupants in vehicle

Direct crash forces

Spread crash forces

Protect brain, spinal cord

Ride down crash

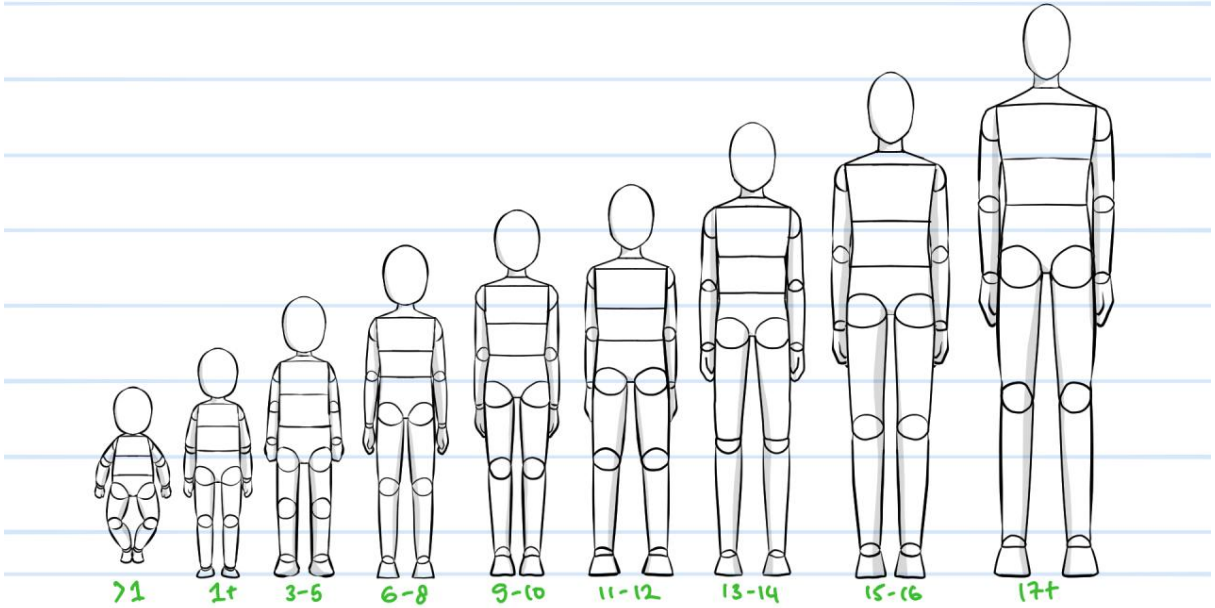
Source: CPST Certification Training

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Seat Belts: Protecting Adults

Source: NHTSA Image Library

Children are not Small Adults



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Car Seats:
Designed to Protect Young Children

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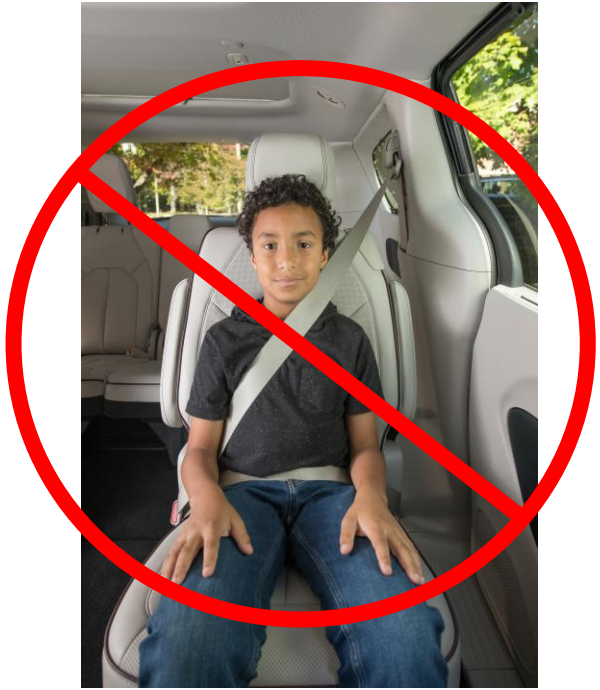
Source: NHTSA Image Library

Ready for the Seat Belt?



Source: NHTSA Image Library

Booster Seats: Bridging the Gap

Source: NHTSA Image Library

What the Experts Recommend

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

Volume 142, Issue 5
November 2018

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Article Contents

Competing Interests
References
Lead Authors
Council on Injury, Violence and Poison Prevention, 2018–2019
Contributor
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FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS | POLICY STATEMENT | NOVEMBER 01 2018

Child Passenger Safety FREE

Dennis R. Durbin, MD; Benjamin D. Hoffman, MD ✉; COUNCIL ON INJURY, VIOLENCE, AND POISON PREVENTION; Phyllis F. Agran, MD; Sarah A. Denny, MD; Michael Hirsh, MD; Brian Johnston, MD; Lois K. Lee, MD; Kathy Monroe, MD; Judy Schaechter, MD; Milton Tenenbein, MD; Mark R. Zonfrillo, MD; Kyran Quinlan, MD

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Pediatrics (2018) 142 (5): e20182460.
https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-2460

Split-Screen Views PDF Share Tools

Child passenger safety has dramatically evolved over the past decade; however, motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for children 4 years and older. This policy statement provides 4 evidence-based recommendations for best practices in the choice of a child restraint system to optimize safety in passenger vehicles for children from birth through adolescence: (1) rear-facing car safety seats as long as possible; (2) forward-facing car safety seats from the time they outgrow rear-facing seats for most children through at least 4 years of age; (3) belt-positioning booster seats from the time they outgrow forward-facing seats for most children through at least 8 years of age; and (4) lap and shoulder seat belts for all who have outgrown booster seats. In addition, a fifth evidence-based recommendation is for all children younger than 13 years to ride in the rear seats of vehicles. It is important to note that every transition is associated with some decrease in protection; therefore, parents should be encouraged to delay these transitions for as long as possible. These recommendations are presented in the form of an algorithm that is intended to facilitate implementation of the recommendations by pediatricians to their patients and families and should cover most situations that pediatricians will encounter in practice. The American Academy of Pediatrics urges all pediatricians to know and promote these recommendations as part of child passenger safety anticipatory guidance at every health supervision visit.

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

From Best Practice to Policy

Director Mike Hanson, Office of Traffic Safety, testifying before MN Senate Committee on Transportation, March 2024

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Minnesota's Child Passenger Safety Law

RESTRAINT USE	AGE / SIZE
Rear-facing in an infant or convertible car seat	Birth to at least 2 years old
Forward-facing car seat with an internal harness	At least 2 years old AND has outgrown the rear-facing car seat by height or weight
Booster seat using the vehicle lap belt and shoulder belt	At least 4 years old AND has outgrown the forward-facing car seat by height or weight
Vehicle seat using the vehicle lap belt and shoulder belt	At least 9 years old or has outgrown the booster seat, AND the child can pass the 5-Step Test

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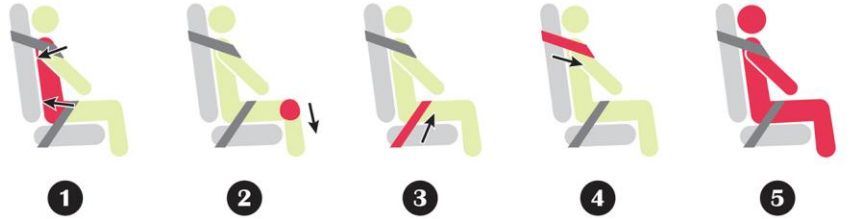
THE 5-STEP TEST

The 5-Step Test is a way to know when a child can ride without a booster seat. A child can safely ride on the vehicle seat with the lap and shoulder belt when the child can do ALL 5 steps.



1. The child sits all the way back against the vehicle seat
2. Their knees bend over the edge of the vehicle seat
3. The lap belt fits snugly across the hips near the top of the thighs, *NOT THE ABDOMEN*
4. The shoulder belt snugly crosses the center of the chest & shoulder, *NOT THE NECK*
5. The child sits correctly, without slouching, for the entire ride

Headlines

New child safety seat law goes into effect Thursday. Here's what you need to know.

Age is now a criteria for using a rear-facing or forward-facing car or booster seats.

By Tim Harlow
The Minnesota Star Tribune

JULY 29, 2024 AT 2:04PM

KSTP.COM News Weather Watch Live Traffic Sports

Watch Now: Twin Cities Live

New car seat law goes into effect Aug. 1

Ellen Gallas KSTP
Updated: August 2, 2024 - 6:09 AM
Published: July 31, 2024 - 6:26 PM

Two children are strapped into car seats Monday, July 29, 2024. (KSTP)

A new child safety seat law goes into effect in Minnesota on Thursday and age is now a criteria for using car and booster seats.

These are the new requirements which up until now were simply recommendations:

FOX 9 KMSP Live News Weather Sports Things to Do Contests More

New Minnesota child car safety seats law explained

By Corin Hoggard | Published August 1, 2024 8:19pm CDT | Politics | FOX 9

New Minnesota booster seat laws explained

New booster seat laws have gone into effect Thursday, but they may be confusing. FOX 9's Corin Hoggard explains the new laws.

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (FOX 9) - One of the new laws taking effect Aug. 1 in Minnesota changes the guidelines for putting kids in cars.

For one, booster seats are now required until the age of 9. And the way a child sits is determined by height, weight, and age.

Latest News View More

- Intruder in custody after he made 'threat of violence' at UnitedHealthcare in Minnetonka
- Minneapolis woman charged in fatal high-speed crash faces additional charges
- Avett Brothers playing State Fair Grandstand this summer
- School volunteer sexually assaulted 4 children: Charges
- 5 injured, including small child, in Princeton head-on crash: State Patrol
- Cannabis in MN: State can move forward with issuing licenses
- Emily Koski drops out of Minneapolis mayoral race

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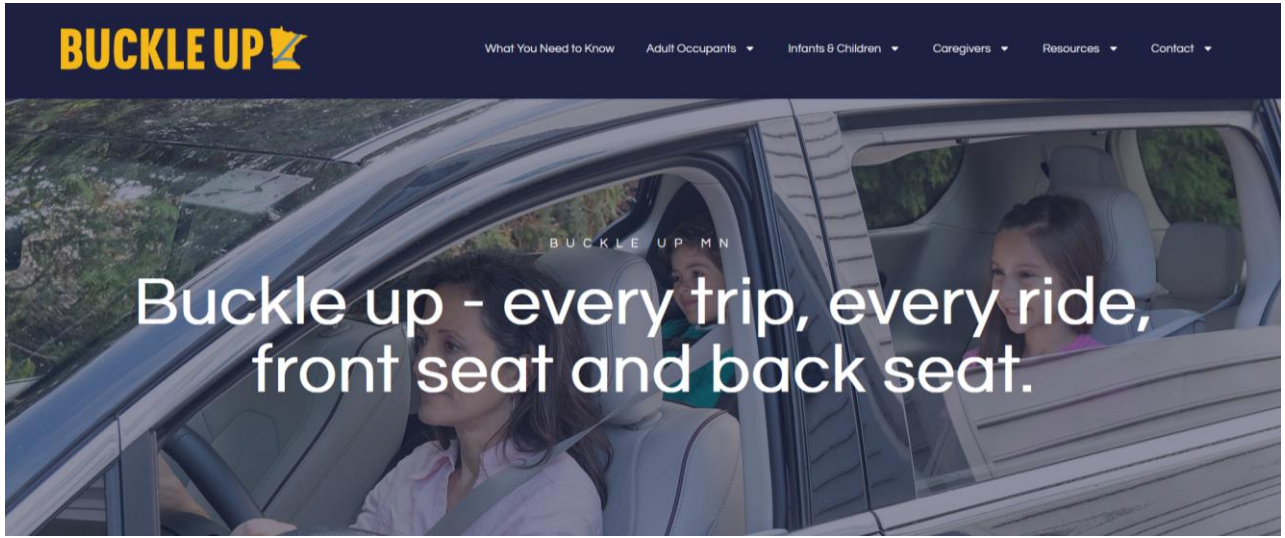
Click. Learn. Buckle Up.



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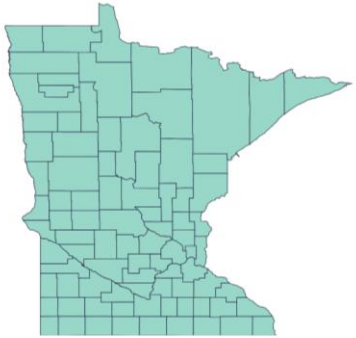
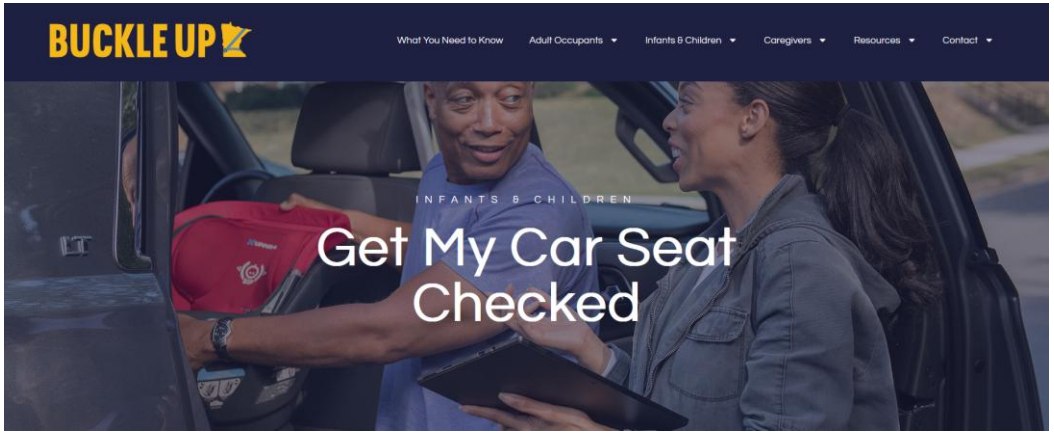
Get My Car Seat Checked





Child Passenger Safety Technicians

Find nationally certified child passenger safety technicians or attend a car seat safety clinic near you.

LOCATE A CPST

LOCAL CAR SEAT CHECKUP EVENTS

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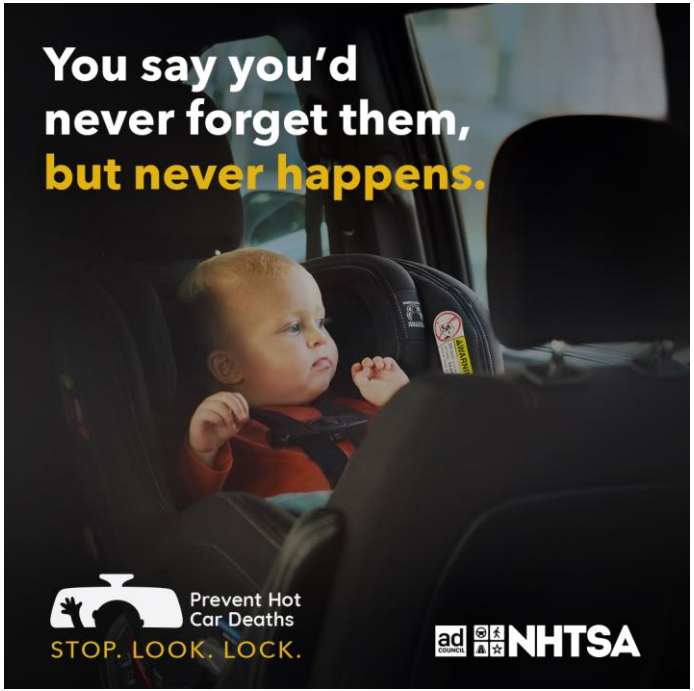
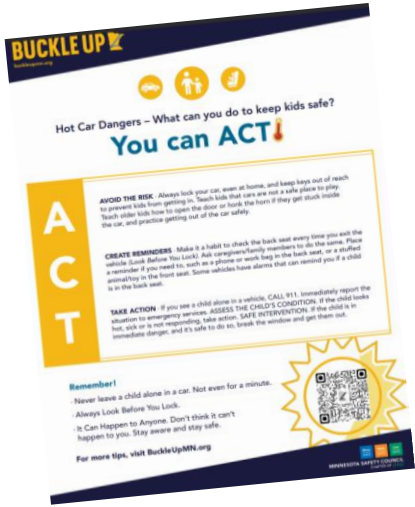
Heatstroke Prevention





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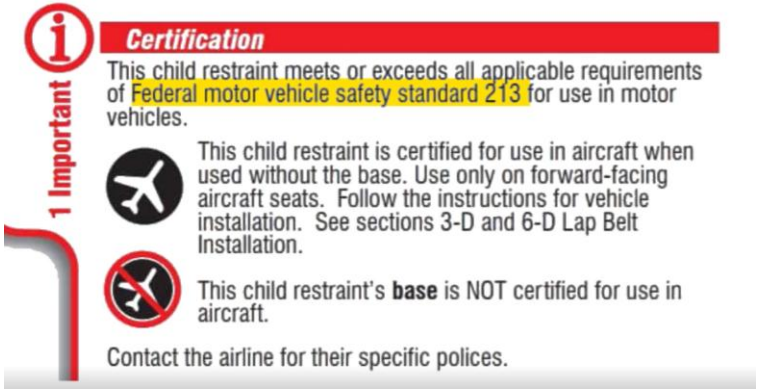
Counterfeit Car Seats

- Counterfeit Car Seats = Real Danger
  - Not crash tested
  - Missing safety labels
  - Sold at unusually low prices
- 🔍 What to Check
  - FMVSS 213 compliance label
  - Manufacturer's info & chest clip
  - Spelling or grammar errors
- ✅ Buy Smart
  - Use authorized retailers
  - Register your seat for safety updates
  - Get help from a CPST



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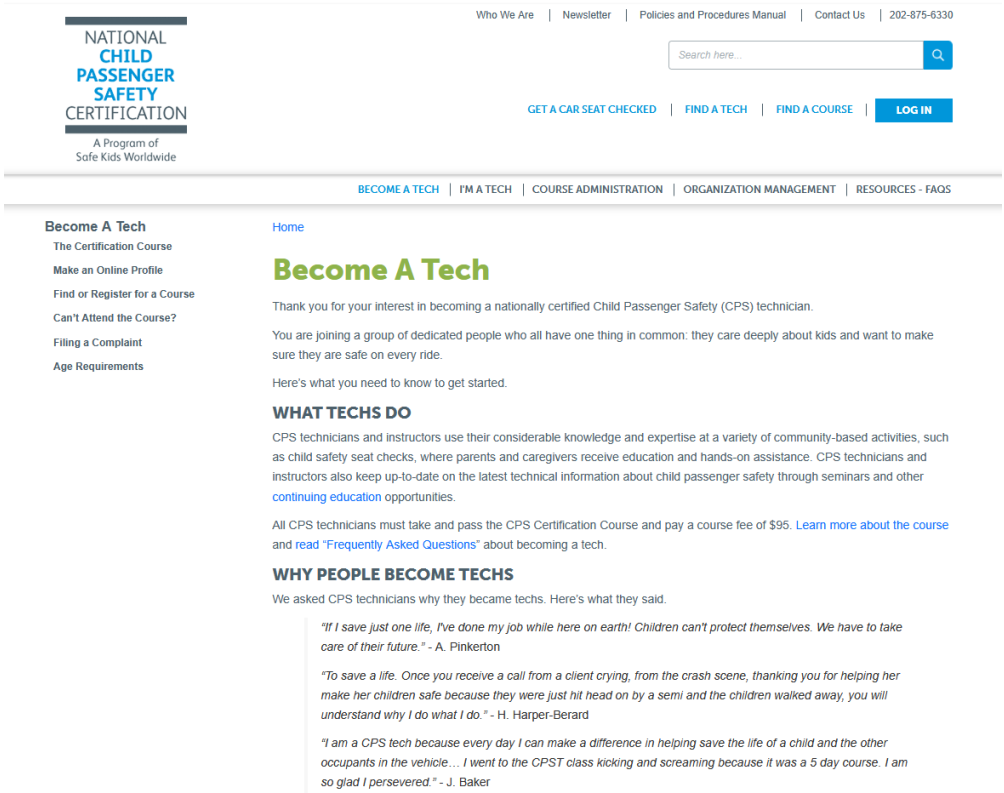
Become A Tech



NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY CERTIFICATION
A Program of Safe Kids Worldwide

Who We Are | Newsletter | Policies and Procedures Manual | Contact Us | 202-875-6330

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Become A Tech
- The Certification Course
- Make an Online Profile
- Find or Register for a Course
- Can't Attend the Course?
- Filing a Complaint
- Age Requirements

Home

Become A Tech

Thank you for your interest in becoming a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technician.

You are joining a group of dedicated people who all have one thing in common: they care deeply about kids and want to make sure they are safe on every ride.

Here's what you need to know to get started.

WHAT TECHS DO

CPS technicians and instructors use their considerable knowledge and expertise at a variety of community-based activities, such as child safety seat checks, where parents and caregivers receive education and hands-on assistance. CPS technicians and instructors also keep up-to-date on the latest technical information about child passenger safety through seminars and other continuing education opportunities.

All CPS technicians must take and pass the CPS Certification Course and pay a course fee of $95. Learn more about the course and read "Frequently Asked Questions" about becoming a tech.

WHY PEOPLE BECOME TECHS

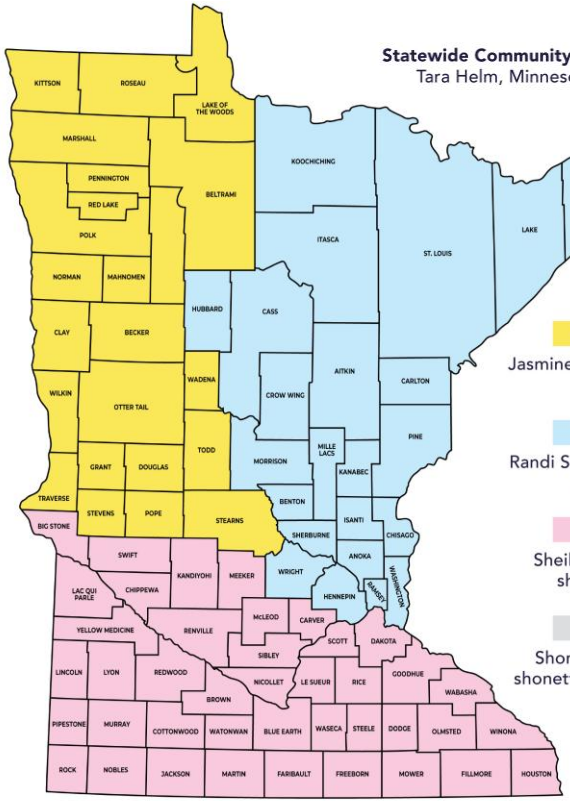
We asked CPS technicians why they became techs. Here's what they said.

> *"If I save just one life, I've done my job while here on earth! Children can't protect themselves. We have to take care of their future."* - A. Pinkerton
>
> *"To save a life. Once you receive a call from a client crying, from the crash scene, thanking you for helping her make her children safe because they were just hit head on by a semi and the children walked away, you will understand why I do what I do."* - H. Harper-Berard
>
> *"I am a CPS tech because every day I can make a difference in helping save the life of a child and the other occupants in the vehicle… I went to the CPST class kicking and screaming because it was a 5 day course. I am so glad I persevered."* - J. Baker

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

cert.safekids.org

Thank you!



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Questions & Answers

Please complete the evaluation survey.

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