

DID YOU KNOW?

You can prevent injuries and deaths from motor vehicle crashes, a leading cause of death for children.

Child seats protect against death, injury and even hospital stays. Car seats are the simplest way to keep your kids safe on our roads and highways.

MICHIGAN'S CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW

Children younger than four must ride in a car seat in the rear seat of the vehicle. If all available rear seats are occupied by children under four, then a child under four may only ride in a car seat in the front seat. **(Only if air bag is off may a child ride in front.)**

Children must be properly buckled in a car seat or booster seat until they are eight years old or 4 ft. 9 in. tall, whichever comes first.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information on child seat recalls, child seat inspection locations, ways to keep kids safe in and around cars, buying tips for safe cars, car seat details and ease of use ratings, check the following resources.

www.nhtsa.gov

www.safekids.org

www.safercar.gov/parents

www.facebook.com/safekidsflint

www.twitter.com/childseatsafety

USDOT Vehicle Safety Hotline:

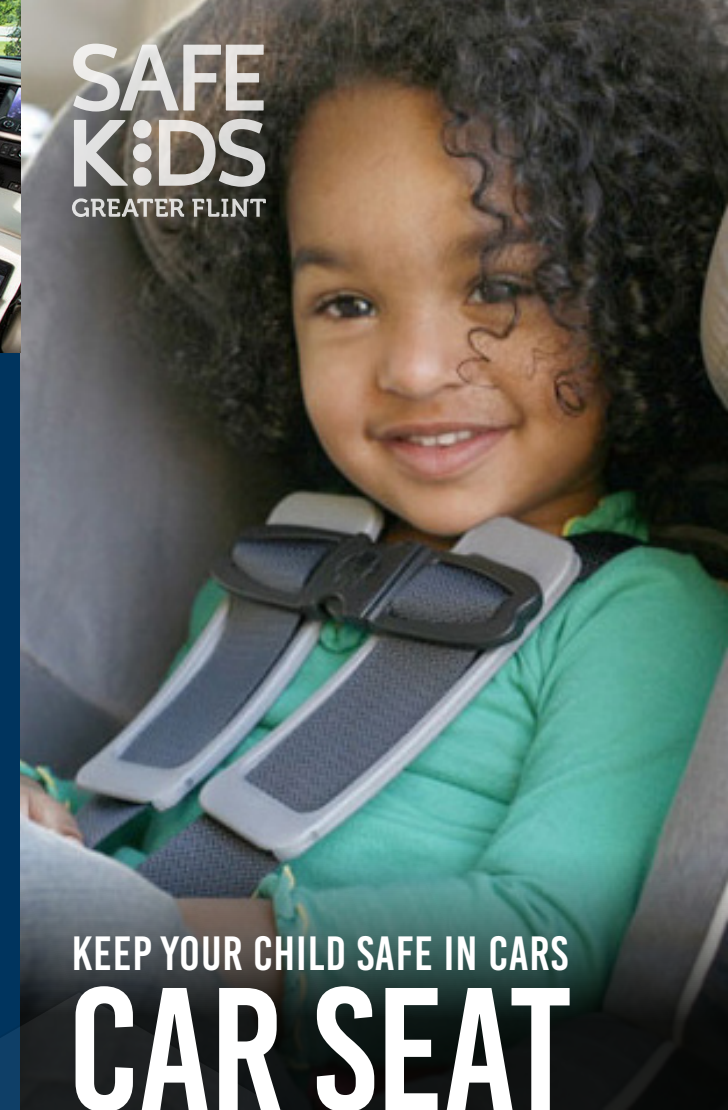
888.327.4236

HURLEY
MEDICAL CENTER

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**SAFE
KIDS**
GREATER FLINT



KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE IN CARS

CAR SEAT SAFETY

HURLEY TRAUMA CENTER
INJURY PREVENTION DEPARTMENT



HURLEY
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BE PREPARED!

Pick the right seat and install it three weeks before your due date, proper use is critical.

Make sure you:

- Choose a seat based on the size of your car and your child's age and size.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions and check your vehicle's owner manual for proper use and installation.
- Install using the seat belt **or** the LATCH system (detailed in vehicle owner's manual) **Never both.**
- Make sure the safety seat's harness fits snugly over child's shoulders.

Rear Facing Seats:

Shoulder harnesses should be at-or-just-BELOW the shoulder.

Forward Facing Seats:

Shoulder harnesses should be at-or-just-ABOVE the shoulder.

- Tether straps reduce head injury. If your seat is equipped with a tether, use owner's manual to install.
- Speak to your car insurance provider if your safety seat has been in a car crash, they should not be re-used.



AGE-RELATED GUIDELINES

Birth to 12 months

Babies are so vulnerable at this age, your baby's head and neck is not strong enough to hold their head up. To protect baby's airway, the car seat needs to be placed at the right angle when they are in it. **KEEP THE CHEST CLIP HIGH ON THE CHEST** at least up to the armpit level this secures baby into the seat.

Keep your child rear facing as long as possible. Rear facing is most safe.

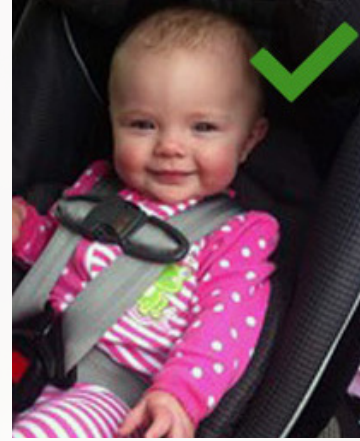
- The chest clip should be high up on the hard chest bone
- The harness "scoops" around the shoulders in the rear-facing seat.
- Car seat straps should be at or below the shoulders of the baby.

1-3 Years: Keep your child rear facing as long as possible, at least to the car seat limit. Rear-facing seats protect baby's head, neck and spine.

4-7 Years: It's safest to stay in a car seat restraint, with a back. Keeping kids in a forward facing car seat until their ears are taller than the seat, or the shoulder harness is lower than the shoulders is key to prevent injuries.

8-12 Years: Keep your child in a booster seat until a seat belt fits them safely. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer.

**SAFE
KIDS
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BUCKLE UP! IT'S THE LAW

- Car seats are the law and vital to preventing injury.
- Height and weight requirements are on the car seat, and use the manual too!
- Make sure your kiddo rides in the back seat until 12 years old.
- If you are pregnant be sure to wear your seatbelt low on your hips to protect you and your unborn child.
- To protect your upper body, use the upper, shoulder strap of your seatbelt.
- Use of the lower belt only can cause dire injuries if you or a loved one is in a crash.

For more information, contact Hurley Injury Prevention at 810.262.9643