

!! NEW CHILD RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS !!

Notice: Effective January 1, 2015 the Child Restraint requirements were modified for children aged 4 through 5. The new law reads as follows:

s. 316.613, F.S. Child restraint requirements.—

(1)(a) Every operator of a motor vehicle as defined in this section, while transporting a child in a motor vehicle operated on the roadways, streets, or highways of this state, shall, if the child is 5 years of age or younger, provide for protection of the child by properly using a crash-tested, federally approved child restraint device.

1. For children aged through 3 years, such restraint device must be a separate carrier or a vehicle manufacturer's integrated child seat.

2. For children aged 4 through 5 years, a separate carrier, an integrated child seat, or a child booster seat may be used. However, the requirement to use a child restraint device under this subparagraph does not apply when a safety belt is used as required in s. 316.614(4)(a) and the child:

a. Is being transported gratuitously by an operator who is not a member of the child's immediate family;

b. Is being transported in a medical emergency situation involving the child; or

c. Has a medical condition that necessitates an exception as evidenced by appropriate documentation from a health care professional.

(b) The department shall provide notice of the requirement for child restraint devices, which notice shall accompany the delivery of each motor vehicle license tag.

These new requirements apply to all child care providers who offer transportation services to the children in care. Reminder- there is no exemption for child care programs that have purchased retired school buses. As previously determined; a "school bus" is no longer a "school bus" under section 1006.25, F.S., when it is no longer owned/operated by the school board/district.

****A booster seat should never be used with a lap belt only**.** To properly install a booster seat you need both a shoulder and a lap belt. For those child care programs utilizing vehicles that have lap belts only, please review the Child Passenger Safety website cpsafety.com for additional information.

Further information on the basics of booster seats can be found at:

<http://cpsafety.com/articles/boosterbasics.aspx>

If you need further technical assistance please contact your licensing counselor.